

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Tuesday, January 17, 2023

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in special session at 9:00 A.M. with Kirchner, Chick, Mather, Sauer and Sorensen present. Chairperson Sauer presiding.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the agenda was approved as presented. Ayes: All.

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commissioners Lynn Pruitt and William Koellner presented the FY23/24 budget requests. Pruitt stated the County has funded the Commission with \$5,000 each year however the request for FY23/24 is for \$10,000. Pruitt stated the Country Schools and Churches project is in the process of installing 2' x 2' signs at the historic locations with the assistance of REC and deputies. Pruitt stated the Historic Country Schools and Churches books are available for purchase at \$25 each with a \$9.00 per book profit and presented a \$600.00 check to the county as the profit of the book sales, with the total profit in the past year of \$1,000.00. Pruitt reported Historic Preservation month will be held in May 2023 with a one-day symposium with workshops and fundraising. Pruitt stated the Commission was recently awarded a CLG Grant in the amount of \$21,000 with a cash match of \$3,000. Pruitt stated the budget request is for the CLG cash match, a county-wide historic transportation study to determine train tracks, depos, prairie crossings and stage coach routes, establish historic neighborhoods in West Liberty and Wilton, fruit and vegetable industry study and commemorate small towns that no longer exist with signage. Pruitt announced the statewide historic summit will be held in Muscatine in May 2025, as Muscatine is noted as a key area of the state for accomplishing historic projects. Sorensen asked if City of West Liberty is engaged with historic projects. Koellner stated he recently met with the West Liberty City Council and they are budgeting funds for 2024 historic projects, West Liberty Heritage Depot Museum was placed on the state historic register and the county fairgrounds have had improvements funded by industry and private donations. Koellner stated the Commission will be attending the Eagle and Ivories Ragtime Weekend events from January 19-22, 2023. Koellner thanked Bill Riley, Director of Information Services Department for the department's work to place the commission's work on-line which has assisted researchers worldwide to explore family ancestry.

Muscatine County Public Health Director Christy Roby reviewed the FY23/24 budget request. Roby reviewed a presentation showing the services and snapshot of the essential public health service details and presented the output of services in the past year. Roby stated the essential health services are at \$6.56 cost per citizen in Muscatine County.

In discussion with the Board, County Assessor Randy Spies reported why the evaluation report grew more than the allowable growth formula of 3%. He explained that the valuation report is based on our abstract and reconciliation values that are with the state and are accumulated at an aggregate value that totals all the jurisdiction of the state together to come up with the assessment limitation number (as known as roll-back). Spies reported the new state manual was issued in 2020 to implement new valuations in each jurisdiction by 2022. Spies stated the 2020 manual is a 40% increase from the prior manual in 2010, however adjustments are set in each jurisdiction

based on the local cost to build. Spies stated the multi-residential class has ended and is now R3 class which is the same as the current residential class.

Information Services (IS) Director Bill Riley reviewed the FY23/24 budget request. Riley stated the salaries budget shows an increase for an additional staff member as the workload with 190 work stations, copier, printer and phone set up/maintenance has increased significantly over the past several years. Riley stated an increase for Microsoft Agreements is due to a significant increase as there is required licensing for all individuals in the system (111) compare to current two required licenses. Riley stated service agreements are increased due to adding the County Attorney's office new software with a \$20,000 service agreement and cloud management with an estimated increase of \$10,000. Riley stated website maintenance budget increase is due to rising costs.

The Board recessed at 10:24 A.M. and reconvened at 10:32 A.M.

County Auditor Tibe Vander Linden reviewed the FY23/24 budget request stating there is an increase for official publications, IVOTERS processing, equipment maintenance due to two additional tabulators and Express Vote machines, ISAC dues increase and a new budget item to track elections set up expenses with the IS Department and General Services delivering election equipment. Vander Linden stated the increase for salaries is to request an additional staff person as a clerk position to assist with the front counter, filing, elections and assist other employees with overflow work. Vander Linden stated if the staff member is approved, the 2nd Deputy position would assist with more real estate work, tax process and valuation reports.

Conservation Director Curt Weiss reviewed the FY23/24 budget request stating there is an increase in general operations, part-time salaries and equipment funding. Weiss presented an employee retirement list stating the Director, Park Officer/Naturalist and Office Manager are scheduled to retire between May to July 2023. Weiss stated a new Park Officer has been hired for Deep Lakes Park. Discussion was held with the Board regarding a storage building with a small office/restroom at Deep Lakes Park and also an electrical upgrade project at Salisbury Park to 50-amp service. Discussion was to review the projects and if Capital Improvement funds can be budgeted for.

County Sheriff Quinn Riess reviewed the FY23/24 budget requests for Sheriff and Jail. Riess stated the patrol budget has an increase for fuel, education and training, dues and membership, motor vehicle set up expense and ammunition. Riess stated the budget has a decrease for telephone service as budget will be part of IS Department budget within the next year. Riess stated education and training classes has been increased to include on-line training and mandatory trainings. Riess stated other increases are due to inflation. Riess stated the revenue for weapons permits is a decrease due to legislation with less renewals done in the Sheriff's department. Riess reported the service of civil papers is estimated to decrease due to other counties serving papers in Muscatine. Riess stated the state association is working to change legislation. Riess reviewed the jail budget and stated the SIMPLEX budget shows a decrease as the Johnson Controls contract will be eliminated over the next year and the new contract with Accurate Controls, Inc. is lower in cost. Riess stated the for jail medical services and medical supplies are increased for a mental health program for jail inmates with reimbursement from the

mental health region. Riess stated the food and dairy products has an increase due to inflation. Riess reviewed the federal inmate housing rate and stated a new contract for April 2024 will be reviewed in fall 2023. Riess reviewed the waste disposal increase is due to additional charges that occur with waste pick up with the Republic Services contract and another contract with a new vendor is being reviewed. Riess reviewed the Jail Commissary fund and Diversion program for the new Supervisors and explained the programs and the profits/success to the department.

The Board recessed at 12:57 A.M. and reconvened at 1:06 P.M.

The Board reviewed the FY23/24 budget requests for General Assistance, Mental Health and Veteran Affairs with Muscatine Community Services Director Felicia Toppert. Toppert stated the decrease for general assistance food, rent and utilities as federal programs are available prior to the county aiding. Toppert stated the decrease for MCSA Rent payment budget due to paying MCSA a base rate of \$30,000 annually and then payments are paid on a sliding scale based on an incentive performance base outcome contract directed by the MCSA Shelter Case Coordinator. Toppert stated the funeral services budget is increased to cover the \$1,000 per cremation agreement with funeral home for families without sufficient income to pay on their own. Toppert stated the Veteran's Affairs (VA) salary budget is increased as one-third of the administrative secretary's time has been assigned to assist the VA Director Eric Sanders. Felicia stated Sanders works with homeless veterans at MCSA to assist them with federal programs and the PACT Act has increased the VA Director's workload with back to back veteran's appointments. Felicia stated there is an increase for rent payments to assist veterans. Toppert stated the significant increase in the vets grave budget is because this budget line was moved from the outreach budget line to the vets grave (budget is for flags placed at the cemeteries to honor veterans). Toppert reviewed the Mental Health Administration budget and reported the budget is for salaries for the Director, 1/3 of administrative secretary and 15% of the office manager/bookkeeper and all expenses shown are all reimbursed by the Mental Health Region.

The Board reviewed the FY23/24 budget requests for Court Services, DHS and Non-Departmental with Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber and Budget Coordinator Kala Naber with no significant changes.

Discussion was held with Schreiber to set a budget review meeting for Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 9:00 A.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 P.M.

ATTEST:

Tibe Vander Linden
County Auditor

Scott Sauer, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors