

The Muscatine County Conference Board was called to order by Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson at 5:30 p.m., January 30, 2024.

Roll Call was taken with members present either in person or by utilizing GoToMeeting:

Mayors

Steve Owens (Pro-Tem)
Brad Bark

Board of Supervisors

Jeff Sorensen
Scott Sauer

School Board

Jacob Burroughs
Karen Cooney
Tara Lindsey (GoToMeeting)

Nathan Mathers, Supervisor arrived at 5:35 p.m.

Board Clerk, Randy Spies, Chief Deputy Nancy Y. Long and Office Manager Kelly Crull were present.

A motion was made by Brad Bark, Mayor and seconded by Scott Sauer, Supervisor to approve the February 28, 2023 minutes as mailed. Motion carried by unanimous vote from all voting units.

Randy Spies, Board Clerk informed the Board of the recent passing of Larry Hetzler. Larry was a longtime member of the Board of Review.

Jeff Sorensen opened the meeting with discussion of the Annual Report which was presented by Randy Spies, Board Clerk.

Agenda item #4: Randy gave a brief summary of the 2023 assessment year regarding the Muscatine County Assessor's Office as presented in the Annual Report.

Equalization: Due to the strength of the 2022 market. The Department of Revenue issued Muscatine County a 6% Equalization Order for Residential properties including Ag Dwellings and Residential 3+ for 2023. Sale prices continue to remain strong due to the limited inventory.

For 2023, the Cost Manual level was increased to 125% from 115% last year for Residential, Residential 3+ and Ag Dwelling properties.

The Board of Review met twice in 2023 with a Spring Session and a Fall Equalization Session. With everything being settled except a Cargill appeal to PAAB, which has a hearing in March.

The GIS and IT Departments continue to be instrumental in our day to day operation. There is a scheduled flyover to be conducted during the Spring 2024 to update aerial imagery.

The Beacon website continues to see significant traffic and is a valuable tool for the general public.

Budget: Increases in line items for postage, data processing, education and legal expenses. Decreases in software maintenance, appraisal projects and GIS. Overall office expenses are down 5.5%. The overall operating budget is up 5.52%.

Staff: Kelly Crull, Office Manager has taken all the required education and passed the Deputy exam. Proposed promotion of Kelly to Administrative Deputy.

With no further discussion, Jeff Sorensen, Chair moved to move on to next agenda item.

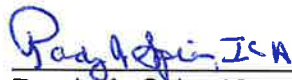
Agenda item #5: Discussion and possible action on the salary recommendations and adding a second Deputy as printed in the annual report. Supervisor, Scott Sauer and Chairperson Jeff Sorensen had some points and thoughts to share with the Conference Board members in regards to the presented salary recommendations and addition of a second Deputy. Schoolboard Representative Karen Cooney motioned to approve the Administrative Deputy position and proposed salaries. Motion seconded by Jacob Burroughs, School Board Representative. Scott Sauer and Jeff Sorensen voted nay. Motion carried by majority.

Agenda item #6: Discussion and possible action to approve the proposed 2024-2025 Budget including the Appraisal Expense, Board of Review and Examining Board budgets for publication. Chairperson, Jeff Sorensen discussed the need for a motion to amend the Budget by lowering the Cash Reserve by \$100,000. Nathan Mathers, Supervisor motioned to amend the Budget by lowering the Cash Reserve by \$100,000. Brad Bark, Mayor seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by all voting units.

Agenda item #7: Discussion and approval of the use of outside Council to represent Board of Review. Brad Bark, Mayor motioned to approve the use of outside Council. Motion was seconded by Scott Sauer, Supervisor. Motion carried unanimously by all voting units.

Agenda item #8: Chairperson, Jeff Sorensen proposed a date of February 27, 2024 at 5:00 PM for the public hearing for discussion and adoption of final 2024-2025 budgets. Motion carried unanimously by all voting units.

Having no other business, Chair Jeff Sorensen adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.


Randy A. Spies ICA, Assessor 1/31/2024
Date


Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson 2/5/2024
Date