

Scott County Board of Supervisors  
May 14, 2019 8:00 a.m.

The Board of Supervisors met as a committee of the whole and pursuant to adjournment with Beck, Knobbe, Croken, Kinzer and Maxwell present.

Tim Huey, Planning and Development Director introduced Dave Herrell, the President and CEO of Visit Quad Cities.

Herrell thanked the Board and County Administrator Sharma for the opportunity to give a presentation to the Board. He said that Visit Quad Cities is a destination management marketing organization and in the quality of life business. He said the organization has ten staff members and a sixteen member board. He said the organization is accredited by Destinations International. He also said they recently made changes to their mission and vision and promise statement and that there is commonality in these and a lot of that is driven by experience and also the riverfront. He said that the Mississippi River is an asset that we can elevate and shed more light on.

He noted that everyday there are about 3,200 visitors to the Quad Cities, or 1,600,000 annually, employing 8,140 hospitality jobs with an \$880,000,000 economic impact. He said those visitors annually generate \$6,300,000 in hotel motel tax, and Visit Quad Cities goal is to increase that number to \$10,000,000. He said the occupancy rate is 53.6 percent and the group's goal is to increase that rate to 65 percent. He said Chicago is the number one feeder market for the area and the goal is to increase the number of visitors from other markets. He said the staff works an average of 350 qualified leads.

He said the organization will have a new website and digital platform in six months, has no long term debt and has a new operating guide called River Pilot. He said his group must embrace innovation and technology, and that video is the most important media to brand development. He also said they hired Resonance, a global leader in destination visioning, tourism master planning, strategy, economic development, real estate and that they are the foremost leaders on futurism.

Supervisor Croken said that a staggering number of people come here for healthcare due to a number of special services that are offered. He asked Herrell to consider that sector.

Herrell said medical tourism is a sector they need to look at and that currently there are 14 sectors.

Supervisor Beck asked what is one major thing that needs to be done to get more visitors.

Herrell said creating a national and international identity for the Quad Cities region is the most important thing that will attract more people.

Jon Burgstrum, County Engineer, reviewed a grant application to the Living Roadway Trust Fund for \$15,000. He said this is the third time the County has applied for a Grant. He said this time the money would be used for a new spray unit for road shoulders and ditch spray. He said right now they are using a homemade unit. He said manufactured units have different kinds of nozzles that apply the chemicals with less overspray and better accuracy as well as an agitator for the chemicals.

Barbara Pardie, Fleet Manager, reviewed bids to purchase one short cab motor grader with front wheel assist for the Secondary Roads Department. She said the original bid went out for an equivalent to a John Deere 770GP or 140M3. She said there were 12 vendors that downloaded the packet, but due to the horsepower package that they require, only two manufacturers bid. She said the specifications allow the County to decide on the controls since this motor grader can come in options of either a joystick or a steering wheel to operate. She said that in consulting with the operator they decided on a model that included the steering wheel and controls that are forward, and since he operates in a hilly area, front wheel assist was added to the specs. She said with those changes, only John Deere submitted a bid. She said the winning bid is for a John Deere 770G for a total price of \$177,000 with a trade-in of a 2011 Caterpillar. She said this price is \$98,000 less than the original budget of \$275,000 without the trade-in.

Croken asked if it was a good idea to buy equipment to match people rather than training people to use the equipment.

Burgstrum said they had met with all of the motor grader operators to ask them what they like and do not like about their equipment. He said some operators said using joysticks all day long in the same position becomes very uncomfortable. He also said that the front wheel assist is not so much for the operator, but for the territory he is in with all the hills and the kind of winter and spring and flooding that we have had.

Kinzer said he was glad to hear they were getting the front wheel assist and making it comfortable for the operator.

Beck asked about the change from joysticks.

Pardie said the original package was a 770GP and the only option for operator control for that unit is the joystick and that the operator talked with another operator and actually went out and used the 770GP and found it very uncomfortable for his posture.

Mahesh Sharma reviewed the final reading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 36 Tax Sale Certificate of the Scott County Iowa Code by amending numerous sections.

Sharma reviewed two staff appointments, the hiring of Trameka Woods for the position of part-time Detention Youth Counselor in the Juvenile Detention Center at the entry level rate and the hiring of Marshano Richardson for the position of part-time Detention Youth Counselor in the Juvenile Detention Center at the entry level rate.

Edward Rivers, Health Department Director, reviewed the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) FY2020 County Substance Abuse Prevention Services Grant application. He said this is an augmentation to the main contract for substance abuse treatment offered by (IDPH) for prevention, education, referral and post-treatment services. He said it is a three to one match with the State offering \$10,000 and the County putting in \$30,000 and that the money will go to the Center for Alcohol and Drugs Services (CADS) for salaries and equipment.

Croken asked about the equipment.

Rivers answered it would be used for supplies.

Matt Hirst, IT Director, reviewed a tax software contract amendment with Tyler for Incode tax software, the line of business application used in the Treasurer's Office to manage property taxes for the County. He said this is a five year amendment extension and that the price will increase from \$66,720 to \$70,056 which is less than a percent increase over the 10 years.

Kinzer asked what caused the extension.

Hirst said the contract expired and that the original term of the contract was five years.

Croken asked for a ballpark figure of what the County spends per year in license renewal fees.

Hirst said the IT operational budget is about \$700,000 for software maintenance and most software that the County licenses runs through the IT operational budget. He also said he would not be surprised if there are a few applications that do not go through IT.

Sharma reviewed a FY19 Budget Amendment and said it was discussed in detail at the last Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Sharma also reviewed a Board appointment to the Quad Cities First Board.

Moved by Kinzer, seconded by Beck at 9:00 a.m. a motion to adjourn. All Ayes.

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Tony Knobbe, Chair of the Board  
Scott County Board of Supervisors

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ATTEST: Roxanna Moritz  
Scott County Auditor