

Scott County Board of Supervisors  
October 29, 2019 8:00 a.m.

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

Mahesh Sharma, County Administrator, reviewed a memo sent to the Supervisors regarding the upcoming retirement of Jon Burgstrum, County Engineer.

Burgstrum said he will retire at the end of the year and that he has been with Scott County for 23 years and spent 10 years working for Clinton County.

The various members of the Board thanked him for his years of service.

Lori Elam, CEO of the Eastern Iowa MHDS Region, updated the Board on the Region's services. She said the Region has three drop-in centers, one each in DeWitt, Muscatine and Davenport, and they are doing very well.

Elam said the Region has mobile crisis teams in all five counties. She said the number of referrals for Scott County are growing quickly, including 41 calls in August, 52 calls in September, and as of October 20th, there were 44 calls. She said referrals are made after people call the crisis hot line, and their situations cannot be resolved by talking to somebody on the phone. She said each crisis team includes two mental health professionals that visit the person. The team performs an assessment to make sure the person is not suicidal, or has not taken medication or done some type of self-harm. If needed the team call 911 for assistance or provide transport if that person needs to go someplace other than home. She said this service is provided by Foundation 2 Crisis Services and there are three teams.

Supervisor Kinzer asked if team members are peers.

Elam said some members are peers but most are mental health professionals.

Supervisor Croken asked for whom do the teams work and who pays for them.

Elam said that the Region contracts with Robert Young Center who in turn contracts with Foundation 2 Crisis. She said that the service is part of the \$4.7 million contract with Robert Young.

Elam reviewed crisis stabilization services, residential beds operated through Vera French as part of the contract with Robert Young. She said they have a nice five bedroom home just off of Lincoln Avenue in Davenport for people in crisis to stay one to five days. She said since opening in July there have been three weeks where all five beds were full, but average three beds full most of the time.

Elam said the Regional crisis line will be rolled into the statewide crisis line which will be managed by DHS and the Iowa Department of Public Health.

She said crisis evaluations continue to occur in emergency rooms, with anywhere from 197 up to 405 in any given month. She said 4,700 people presented in emergency rooms for all seven hospitals since January.

Elam said the Region has telehealth in all seven hospitals that speed up access to a psychiatrist or mental health professional. She said the year to date number for telehealth consultations is 761.

Knobbe asked what outcomes could happen with a telehealth consultation.

Elam said outcomes include admission to the hospital, prescribing medication and connecting to a care coordinator, or referral to crisis stabilization or a respite home.

Elam said Vera French opened a peer drop-in center at 808 North Harrison Street in Davenport in July. She said 44 people attended the center in July and 78 people attended in August. She said these are people that have never before received services from the Vera French Mental Health Center.

Elam said that the Region's Governing Board had to make some very difficult decisions regarding service cuts and funding. She said the service budget is \$12.3 million with revenue of \$9.2 million and the Region has been using fund balance to cover the difference. She said the Region has met or come close to meeting goals much faster than anticipated. She said the crisis contract is spending a lot faster than in the past because all positions are filled, all services up and running and have been expanded. She said the Board realizes the need to slow spending, and monitor spending month by month and by County much closer. She said the Board had to make cuts which included funding for all five sheltered workshops in the Region's counties. She said the Region was the last region to eliminate this funding. She said the Board also put on hold some trainings by Robert Young and capped the medication management service that Vera French provides. She said two agencies that had one time grants, which did not use all the money, returned the unused portions. She said the Region started a waiting list for community support and transportation. She said that a revenue neutral budget will result in cuts to primarily crisis services.

Elam also reviewed the children's behavioral health legislation for services to serve seriously emotionally disturbed children. She said the governing board structure will change to include a child services provider as well as an adult family member who is actively involved in their child's services. She said the 28E Agreement will be changed to reflect the new language from the legislation, with the Board taking action at a later date. She said the legislation requires the Region employ someone who specializes in children services to help families connect with services, fill out applications, make sure that the service providers are following through and that the child is doing better.

Supervisor Knobbe asked if that was one person for the Region or one per county.

Elam said the law requires at least one, so the Region plans on one person for the more than 150 schools with 77,000 children in the five county region.

Liz Tallman, Chief Economic Development Officer for the Quad Cities First, updated the Board on her organization's activities under the revised service agreement. She said the first year goals were to attract new businesses and to help existing businesses grow in a six county region, three in Iowa and three in Illinois. She said they put together a good team including a new business analytics position. She said they market to the world, including through the redesigned website and tracking visitors to the website.

She said they completed 145 business connection calls to help businesses with specific problem solving. She said the group enhanced partnership with the economic development practitioners and partners through quarterly meetings. She said they also meet monthly with the economic development teams of the five cities as well as Tim Huey and Mahesh Sharma. She also said they had 462 technical assists and business assistance referrals and, as a result of those meetings, they had 11 projects.

She said from those meetings they learned that regional businesses saw their market share, sales, product services and new products increase reflecting a strong economy. She said while worker productivity is high, there is growing and unmet needs for more workers. She said the concerns of businesses include the increasing Illinois minimum wage, tariffs and legalization of marijuana.

She said that one of the emphases of the effort to attract new businesses is helping existing businesses fill their supply needs. She said they meet with site consultants, including a two day consultation with four site consultants to identify area strengths. She said they facilitated nine site visits and responded to 25 out of 29 requests for proposals.

She said that this activity resulted in 27 projects for the organization, of which 12 were successful with nine in Iowa and three in Illinois. She said this translates into 1,200 jobs with a payroll of \$85 million, and multiplied into the broader area economy with 3,300 jobs and a payroll of \$183 million. She said direct capital investment was \$85.6 million and the overall economic impact was \$998 million.

Tallman reviewed the goal for next year of using the new business analytics position to help targeted industries, such as advanced manufacturing and robotics, to identify emerging trends.

Knobbe asked about redevelopment of old industrial sites to reduce the use of prime farm land for industrial uses.

Tallman said that opportunity zones are a new tool to incentivize redevelopment. She said the future land use plan is an important tool to plan for infrastructure development such as roads and rail services.

Tim Huey, Planning and Development Director, reviewed approval of the Final Plat of a two-lot subdivision known as A Lot of Storage Subdivision, being a part of the E½ of the NW¼ of Section 25, Blue Grass Township and currently zoned C-2 Commercial-Light Industrial. He said the existing brick house on the property predates the commercial zoning and therefore is legally grandfathered. He said the property owner owns the storage buildings to the south and wants to be able to sell off the house separately.

Huey said the Planning Commission recommends approval of the Final Plat A Lot of Storage Subdivision with the following conditions: 1. The plat be amended so that the proposed lot for the residence meet minimum lot size and that the septic system be located on that same lot in compliance with Health Department regulations; 2. The City of Davenport approve the Final Plat; and 3. Documentation of a recorded and legally binding shared access agreement be submitted prior to final plat approval. He said that all of these conditions have been met.

Supervisor Kinzer asked if the whole premise of the plat is to separate the house lot.

Huey said correct.

Supervisor Croken asked if the commercial viability of the larger area would be enhanced without the house.

Huey said that is up to some capitalist to determine if the value of the house is less than the value of the land.

Huey also reviewed a notice of the opportunity to consult with the City of Eldridge on their Unified Urban Renewal Plan. He reviewed the areas involved and the previous amendments and said this proposal is to build a new Y in partnership with the North Scott School District and is a \$14 million project. He said the City is proposing to sell \$10 million of bonds to allow for future unspecified undetermined economic development projects, which he thought might be for general infrastructure improvements which the County has opposed in the past. He said he would draft a letter for the Board to approve and send to Eldridge.

Matt Hirst, IT Director, updated the Board on the scanning project to digitize microfilm in the Recorder's Office and reviewed a request for a further project. He said phase one is complete and that US Images has been on-site scanning land records from April 1971 to December 1988. He said phase two is about to initiate, which is reviewing and indexing the records. He said that the Board approved an original cost of not to exceed \$240,000, that phase one cost \$62,000 and that phase two is estimated to cost \$110,000 with a savings of approximately \$70,000.

Stephanie Macuga, IT Senior Programmer/Analyst, said that phase one grouped the images by book and page but there was not a lot of paying attention to deeds recorded on more than one page. She said phase two will ensure the right pages for a specific book and page for a document and will also check for images that may need to be rescanned.

Hirst said when this phase is done the images and indexes will be available for use internally in the Recorder's Office. He said a potential phase three would be importing the documents into the COTT system or the On-Base enterprise content management system for access outside of the Recorder's Office.

Maxwell asked why 1971 was the beginning date for the scanned documents and if there were plans to go back further than 1971.

Rita Vargas, County Recorder, said that was the beginning date for when documents were imaged to microfilm.

Hirst said that scanning documents before 1971 would involve a different process by scanning books instead of microfilm.

Maxwell asked if there is a demand for document dated earlier than 1971.

Vargas said that her department gets requests for documents based on book and page that she tries to accommodate, depending on the size.

Croken asked since these records will be searchable within the Recorder's Office could the public have the same function.

Hirst said there would be costs to providing that service.

Vargas said her office has a contract with COTT Systems renegotiated every five years based on how many documents are accessible through the COTT system, and adding documents from the past will increase that cost.

Hirst said the records from phase two will not be in COTT but will be provided on hard drives with a search tool from US Imaging to access those images.

Knobbe asked what attributed to the \$67,000 savings.

Hirst said the counts were a little high.

Vargas said that the aperture cards can contain anywhere from one image to eight images and said they estimated how many images were on the rolls.

Hirst said the Recorder is seeking Board approval for another imaging project with US Imaging to digitize vital records. He said the equipment that is used to view these

records is aging and expensive to replace. He said the project is comprised of three phases, scan and digitize images, index and redact social security numbers, with a cost of \$41,707.

Croken asked if those documents could be available to the general public.

Vargas said that those documents are not available to the general public and that Iowa law restricts access to vital records. She said that there is an urgent need for this project due to problems with the aging equipment malfunctioning. She said that there is extra demand for vital records due to the requirements of the federal Real ID Act. She said the records involved would date from 1942 to 1977.

Mary Thee, Human Resources Director, reviewed insurance renewal recommendations. She said United Health Care provided a one year agreement for third party administrative services. She said the pharmaceutical rebate credits will result in \$18,000 of savings.

She said the County has a one year proposal for \$175,000 stop loss coverage with Highmark Insurance Group. She said the contract increases by 11.69 percent but is below the market trend.

She noted that the County is in the final year of a three year agreement with Delta Dental and in year two of a four year agreement with Avesis for Vision coverage.

She also reviewed the recommendations for health care rates, and noted that the recommendation from Silverstone is an overall increase of 4.6 percent.

She said her department is looking at changes to the Wellness program in 2020 to come up with a more positive spin by looking at reductions in premiums instead of making surcharges for those who do not participate in the Wellness program.

She said the annual renewal for the Flex Savings Plan with Wage Works has no changes.

Croken asked about looking toward long term care insurance options for employees.

Thee said she would look into that.

Thee reviewed a request from the United Way committee to raffle 8 hours of floating holiday to one employee who contributes a minimum of \$52 in the annual United Way pledge drive.

Thee reviewed the hiring of Danielle Freund for the position of part-time Correctional Health Nurse in the Health Department at the entry level rate, the hiring of Cody Parkhurst and Austin Sandlin for the positions of Corrections Officers in the

Sheriff's Office at the entry level rate and the hiring of James Carnegie for the position of Assistant Attorney in the Attorney's Office at the entry level rate.

David Farmer, Budget and Administrative Services Director, reviewed the authorization to release funding to component units and authorized agencies. He said the County normally pays the component units, the Scott Emergency Communication Center, Scott County EMA, the Scott County Library System through a monthly journal entry transfer. He said the resolution addresses that the County will have some unusual items in the coming year. He said that due to the SECC bond issue the County will be reimbursing SECC as they release funds. He also said that as the fiscal agent for the Eastern Iowa Mental Health Region, the County is to transfer \$1.25 million from the tax levy to the Mental Health Region to pay for crisis services.

Kinzer asked when the deadline for authorized agencies to submit a request is.

Farmer said the due date is December 2nd.

Farmer also noted that rollback equalization values from the State Department of Revenue shifted quite a bit for Ag land property. He said it went from about 54 percent of taxable value for Ag land and Ag structures up to about 81 percent. He said the Residential valuation dropped from 56.9 down to 55.01 percent, the lowest number in five years, which will result in the County not capturing as much of the increase in residential values. He said final valuations will be available on January 2nd, but based on current information valuations will likely increase two to three percent.

Sharma reviewed several routine items for a tax abatement, liquor license renewal and recognition of two people for their service to Scott County.

Croken said Genesis Health Systems will be celebrating 150 years of service to the community in November and he requested that a proclamation be added to the Board agenda for November 14th.

Croken updated the Board on the recent meeting with the Youth Advocate Program from Chicago with various law enforcement and juvenile justice personnel.

Croken reported that Oak Helm Partners, the owner of the tax certificates for Mt. Sinai Church, has agreed to surrender those certificates back to the County for the face value, forgoing the 24 percent interest. He said he will be back on Thursday asking the Board to authorize the redemption of those tax certificates with an eye to negotiate some sort of installment payment plan for the church to keep it operational.

Maxwell asked in other words we are becoming a bank.

Croken said no, and it would be like every other meeting when we suspend taxes for other individuals in the County. He said it would be deferring the taxes.

Kinzer asked if this idea has been vetted by legal and can the Supervisors have information prior to the Board meeting.

Croken said yes, that he has worked with Assistant County Rob Cusack, Oak Helm Partners staff and with the Church.

Maxwell said that he did not have enough information to make an informed decision by Thursday.

Knobbe said that he did not support the proposed action.

Moved by Kinzer, seconded by Beck at 10:23 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