

Scott County Board of Supervisors  
September 4, 2018 8:00 a.m.

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

Laura Morris, staff member of River Action, discussed the Explore the River Series and thanked the Board for funding. She also updated the Board on River Action activities. She said that this summer the Channel Cat River Tours have seen the most attendance ever.

Anthony Heddlesten, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, discussed the upcoming Quad City Flood Resiliency Alliance Workshop. He said objectives of the alliance include getting cities and counties to join the Community Rating System which is part of the National Flood Insurance Program. He said fully meeting all requirements could result in lowering flood insurance costs by up to 45 percent. He said other objectives include getting a certified flood manager on staff in every community, getting communities to participate in floodplain managers associations and getting communities to improve regulatory standards.

Supervisor Holst asked if Heddlesten represented the Corps of Engineers or just works for the Corps, and if the Corps a partner in the Alliance.

Heddlesten said the Corps of Engineers is working to document the program and spread it across the nation. He said this alliance is being organized by River Action.

Tim Huey, Planning and Development Director, reviewed the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation on the application of Christopher and Marla Brown to rezone a 3.56-acre tract, more or less, from "Agricultural-Preservation (A-P)" to "Single-Family Residential (R-1)" at the property located at 25600 195th Street, legally described as Part of the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 5 in LeClaire Township. He said the minor plat proposes to subdivide the property into three lots and that no one from the public had attended the recent public hearing.

Sheriff Tim Lane discussed an organizational change request in the Sheriff's Office by adding a Sex Offender Registry Specialist. He said that for the last four years this work has been done by a volunteer nearly fulltime who retired in June. He said the Sheriff's Office is responsible for registering 421 sex offenders annually, bi-annually or quarterly and when status changes occur. He said currently the Office is using investigators for this work. He said around 400 offenders were registered when he was sworn into office in January 2017. He said when the Office started registering offenders the number was approximately 150. He said there are 123 additional sex offenders from Scott County waiting to come out of the Iowa prison system. Scott County has the second most sex offenders per county in the State of Iowa. He said the position pays \$17.75 per hour to start, \$36,920 annually and with full benefits the cost is \$60,088.

Supervisor Earnhardt asked how many hours per week did the previous volunteer work.

Sheriff Lane said the volunteer did not work fulltime every week but did stay longer during the compliance checks.

Supervisor Beck said he thought the volunteer worked 30 hours per week.

Sheriff said he wants the person to be fulltime and with their down time they would do compliance checks, do research to verify information provided by the offenders, and go out with the deputies for at home compliance checks.

Holst asked what other work the compliance person does.

Sheriff Lane said the compliance deputy does investigations that involve violations of the sex offender registry and investigates new charges.

Holst asked what the annual number of violations was.

Sheriff Lane said he could not give an exact number of charges. He said he has had to move some of the investigations to another deputy.

Earnhardt asked if the Sheriff had money in his budget for the position.

Sheriff Lane said the line item for deputy salaries probably do not have all of the money and is down deputy sheriffs and said he gave back about \$300,000 in salaries due to not being able to hire people quick enough.

Earnhardt asked if the Sheriff was down three deputies.

Lane said by the end of the month he will be down three deputies.

Supervisor Beck said he thought the volunteer worked 30 hours per week so this position would be adding 10 hours to that. He also asked if the major duties include collecting buccal swab DNA and escorting new sex offenders to jail. He questioned if these duties should be performed by clerical staff.

Sheriff Lane said that the volunteer would typically escort individuals with outstanding warrants to the jail, but that a deputy would serve the warrant and make the arrest.

Supervisor Kinzer asked if the Sheriff would hire the position from inside.

Sheriff Lane said he would post the opening and possibly fill internally.

Knobbe asked when the volunteer gave notice, what process was used to determine who would cover this work.

Sheriff Lane said the school resource officers did the work over the summer and that now that school has resumed, investigators are doing the work.

Earnhardt asked if there are grants available to fund this position.

Lane said he was not aware of any grant funding for the position.

Beck asked if the Sheriff could combine any existing part time positions.

Sheriff said they could take someone who wants to be fulltime and works in two different classifications. He said this is fulltime work due to the growth in the number of sex offenders in Scott County.

Earnhardt said she is willing to compromise and hire someone part time now and come back for a fulltime person during budget review time.

Holst said she agreed, start part time and see what the numbers are.

Sheriff Lane said he would get numbers to the Board but the numbers don't really show the amount of time spent on cases. He said some cases take a year to put together. He said he is very short staffed in the Sheriff's Office and a part time hire would not work.

Earnhardt asked about the position being back up for a Clerk III position.

He said this was put in the description so there was no down time.

Beck said he wanted this to go through the regular budget cycle and asked if the Sheriff has checked on finding a retired deputy that would work on contract.

Sheriff said he does not have anyone available right now that is willing to do this. He said that recognizing offenders is an advantage of having one person in the position. He said the person would get training for the computer and on the Iowa Code.

Kinzer said that most retired law enforcement, after working 30 years, would not be interested. He said that public safety is number one and he is in support of the new position.

Sheriff Lane also discussed the annual Violence Against Women (VAW) Grant contract for fiscal year 2018. He said it started in 1996. This grant reimburses almost the entire salary for one deputy sheriff in the Criminal Investigations Division, who focuses his time on domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault cases and this year's grant award is \$59,848 with a match amount of \$19,950. He said this is the same amount as fiscal year 2018.

Sheriff Lane reviewed the renewal of the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau grant for the grant period of October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019 in the amount of \$52,000. He said this is an on-going program that provides funds for traffic enforcement efforts, training and equipment and the Sheriff's Office was awarded the \$52,000;

\$38,500 for directed overtime traffic enforcement, \$1,500 for training-related travel and \$12,000 for two radar units and two in-car video cameras.

Mary Thee, Human Resources Director, discussed the United Way committee request that the County provide an incentive to raffle 8 hours of floating holiday time to individuals who contribute a minimum of \$52 in the annual United Way pledge drive.

Thee also reviewed the hiring of Emily Lindbom for the position of Correction Officer in the Sheriff's Office at the entry level rate and the hiring of Brandi Williams for the position of part-time Custodial Worker in Facilities & Support Services at the entry level rate.

Mahesh Sharma, County Administrator, said the City of Buffalo tax abatement request and the beer/liquor license renewal for Mickey's Country Café are both routine Board items.

Lori Elam, Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region CEO, gave an update on Mental Health Region activities. She passed around a thank you card from a family who had a member that was helped by services and a brochure listing services. She said that the programs in place are saving lives and cited several instances of service provision which helped to save lives.

She reviewed year three of the Robert Young contract. She said mobile crisis teams will be expanded to Jackson, Clinton, Scott, Cedar and Muscatine. Peer support drop-in centers will be set up in Scott, Muscatine and Clinton counties. Crisis stabilization residential services will be expanded to Scott, Clinton and Muscatine counties.

She also gave numbers for the Vera French Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team. She said the team deals with individuals with chronic mental illness. She said since the team began last November, the 25 clients spent 33 days inpatient, but before the November start, client spent 167 days inpatient. She added that the ACT Team is keeping clients out of jail and out of homelessness. She said the ACT Team is a 24/7 program.

She also reported on crisis services, including tele-health and face to face evaluations in hospitals. She said that 2,100 evaluations were recorded in FY17 and almost 3,800 evaluations were recorded in FY18. She said these numbers include 773 tele-health evaluations in FY17 and 965 tele-health evaluations in FY18. She said that 55 percent of those seeking crisis services were connected to mental health and other services in the community, and that 13 percent re-presented themselves to emergency rooms.

Holst asked where the ACT program clients are housed at.

Elam said it depends. She said some have their own housing, some are in Vera French housing and that Community Services provides rent assistance for one month to others.

Earnhardt asked Elam if there were any Mental Health Court updates.

Elam said there would be updates in October.

Sharma thanked Elam and said the stories outweigh measurement numbers. He said he toured Vera French and that the staff are very dedicated. He also commended the Board and staff on the work they do and creating awareness of available help.

Knobbe thanked Elam and thanked Earnhardt for representing the Board of Supervisors and Scott County on the Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region Board. He said that the stories are all victories.

Kinzer also thanked Elam for her commitment and Earnhardt for her dedication and making mental health services a nonpartisan issue.

Moved by Kinzer, seconded by Beck at 9:10 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