

Scott County Board of Supervisors
July 9, 2019 8:00 a.m.

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

Angela Kersten, Assistant County Engineer, reviewed three bridge replacement projects that were combined for bidding. She said the low bid came from Jim Schroeder Construction of Bellevue, Iowa in the amount of \$1,327,899.41. She also noted that Schroeder Construction has built several bridges for the County in the past and that they do a great job.

Supervisor Kinzer asked if the firm brings its own crew.

Kersten answered yes.

Kersten also reviewed two resurfacing projects that were combined for bidding. She said the low bid came from McCarthy Improvement Company of Davenport, Iowa in the amount of \$2,194,762.75. She noted that the County currently works with McCarthy on the HMA patching project and that they are a great contractor to work with.

Barb Pardie, Fleet Manager, reviewed purchasing one used unmarked vehicle for the Sheriff's Office in preparation for overfilling a deputy position for investigations. She said a vehicle was found that met the criteria at Strieter Motor Company costing \$18,590.00.

Tammy Speidel, Facility and Support Services Director, reported on the Administrative Building cladding and window project, and said that due to the bids being above budget she would not have a resolution awarding the bid for Thursday's meeting. She said the bids, due on July 1st, were all very far over budget. Speidel introduced Wold Architect Kirsta Ehmke to explain why the bids were outside of the budget and any other information she discovered.

Kirsta Ehmke, Wold Architects and Engineers, said the bids came in over the estimate because Wold submitted an unrealistic estimate of the amount of work that needed to be done. She said upon review she found that Wold put together a budget estimate before much of the EFIS had been removed, and that the square footage did not include the columns discovered after removal of EFIS. She said there was a miscommunication in her office and the additional square footage for the columns was never added in to the budget estimate to reflect what that cost actually would be.

She also said the bids for the metal panel was substantially over on price and over on the number of panels that would be needed.

Also, she said that the contractors expressed concern that the timeframe was a little tight regarding the subcontractors bidding process which could push them into winter. She said winter conditions could be an issue.

Speidel said another thing driving up the price was the panels having mitered edges.

Ehmke said two items that can bring the cost down were changing the edges of the panels to not be mitered and not requesting the ribbed accent panels that were in the original design recommendation.

Kinzer asked if the bidders were provided a specified panel.

Ehmke said yes.

Speidel said they have not gotten that far into specific items because they realized that the bids were so far over budget that they needed to stop and figure out what was going on. She said typically contractors submit product samples, which gives the architect time to review and approve or reject it. She said that they knew that they had a concern after they did a walk-through from the window contractor about how long the lead times were for windows and whether they could make the deadline or would the time push it into winter conditions. She said there is also a completion timeframe concern from one of the panel representatives which could be pushing the cost as well.

Supervisor Beck asked what percentage overrun was due to the oversight of the square footage of the panels versus the timing to get the project done before November.

Ehmke said she thinks the majority is the square footage overrun by missing the columns on the project.

Beck asked if they still believe they can make the November deadline.

Speidel said no and that they are recommending to rebid the project.

Ehmke said a new preliminary timeframe would have the documents go to bid in October, due back in November. She said usually submittals will take a couple of months of back and forth review between Wold and contractors. She said that will push the project into January with a March or April start time and with a ten week install time. She said she plans to put together an update for the Board that includes the additional square footage, which is almost 5,000 square feet versus the original estimate of 14,000 square feet.

Croken asked if they could separate the window replacement from the cladding and replace the windows now.

Ehmke said they recommended doing the whole project at once, because when the EFIS was installed it was put on with the original windows and flashing. She said if only

the windows were done now there is the potential to not provide a proper flashing over the exterior cladding, and the flashing and cladding need to be completely integral to provide a weather tight seal to the building. She said doing so would save money in the long-run, as a better install occurs with the windows and cladding designed to be flashed together and avoids backtracking to make repairs.

Supervisor Maxwell asked if the windows are leaking right now.

Speidel said some of them leak and some people are very cold in the winter, so they put plastic up, and since removing the EFIS, some windows leak when it rains. She said in order to get the seal between the windows and the building cladding it needs to be done as one project.

Kinzer asked if it would be helpful to do some outside caulking in the interim.

Speidel said that could be done on the inside by facilities staff as needed.

Croken asked if there was something that could be done to make conditions more tolerable for staff this winter.

Speidel said that there is a current project installing HVAC controls which may help. She said that the recommended temperature is 75 degrees and that her staff tries to maintain that temperature building wide.

Mary Thee, Human Resources Director, reviewed the hiring of Jessie McCord and Diana Hallstrom for the positions of part-time Custodial Workers in the Facility & Support Services Department at the entry level rate.

Roland Caldwell, Auditor's Office Operations Manager, reviewed the purchase of precinct election equipment transport cages from Election Source in the amount of \$115,244.00 including shipping.

Maxwell asked if the County currently has some of the cages.

Caldwell said the Auditor's Office has one as a prototype.

Maxwell asked if the cage will be loaded and locked from the Tremont storage facility.

Richard Bauer, Elections Supervisor, said yes and that the transfer company will load them and deliver them to the poll sites locked and secured.

Supervisor Knobbe asked if the election equipment inside the cages would be the same for all of the sites.

Bauer said yes.

Knobbe asked, if over time, if the amount of supplies needed will grow or shrink.

Bauer said if it does grow, they should be able to accommodate more supplies.

Knobbe asked if there were multiple vendors.

Caldwell said they looked at two and that there were only two nationally.

Croken asked if bids were still open.

Caldwell said they did not go out for bidding because there were only two manufacturers and they both had standard pricing.

Beck asked how many cages are typically put into a vehicle at a time.

Bauer said the transfer company would be able to move, strap and secure up to 12 cages in one trip. He also said they would like to be able to deploy the cages in the upcoming fall elections.

David Farmer, Budget and Administrative Services Director, reviewed the timeline and steps for the sale of General Obligation Communications and Refunding Bonds, Series 2019 and authorizing the delivery of an optional redemption notice.

Croken asked if Farmer thought the market conditions were favorable.

Farmer said yes, he thought current market conditions are favorable, although there may be a rate cut in July and the County may not get that benefit. He said that overall the County will get a great rate due to the AA1 rating the County recently received.

Captain Joseph Caffery, Sheriff's Office, reviewed the annual renewal of a service support contract with RACOM for \$19,989.00. He said it covers the suitcase linker, stations and BDA's, squad equipment coverage for build and removals, as well as 51 jail portable radios and control stations. He noted that last year's contract was \$19,371.00.

Croken asked Knobbe how this connects to the other communications system (SECC).

Knobbe said this is part of the whole system but is not a part that is changed.

Mahesh Sharma said that at some time in the future, three to five years from now, they will try to consolidate all of the services and agencies into one contract.

Matt Hirst, IT Director, reviewed quotes for equipment necessary to add Mobile Data Computers (MDC's), communication gateways and camera technology in the new Sheriff's Office public safety vehicles to support the addition of new deputies. He noted that Keltek, the same vendor that was competitively sourced six months ago when they

upgraded the MDC's, honored the initial bid for the current purchases. Hirst said the quote from Keltek is for \$30,342.10 and a quote from Watch Guard for in-vehicle and deputy video, a proprietary solution, is for \$25,820.00 for a total cost of \$56,162.10.

Sergeant Tom Leonard, Sheriff's Office, said funding for one of the in-car packet solutions from Watch Guard will come from an Iowa Governor Traffic Safety Bureau.

Under other items of interest was a discussion regarding future ways to reduce average populations of the JDC and Jail.

Croken said he requested the item be added to the discussion agenda in response to the Scott County JDC/Jail Assessment Study received by the Supervisors on June 27th. He said since the Study was authorized by the previous Board, he was unaware of the whole scope of that project. He said he was troubled by the recommendations to spend up to \$38 million to increase capacity to detain more people.

He said that the Iowa rate of incarceration exceeds that of more than 150 other countries. He said that African Americans, Latinos and Native Americans represent about ten percent of the Iowa population they represent about 90 percent of those incarcerated. He said Black Iowans are incarcerated at a rate ten times greater than White Iowans. He said that the Board has been told that up to one third of the Scott County Jail population suffers from mental illness and would be better served by treatment than by confinement. He said that there are inmates who have not been convicted of crimes and will not be convicted but remain incarcerated due to the pretrial release system relying on cash bonds people are unable to pay.

He said the Board must consider other approaches to ensure public safety and reduce crime by rehabilitating criminals. He said that Scott County's population growth is about five percent, the lowest of the four major Iowa counties, and it is difficult to understand the need to increase the capacities of the Jail by 25 percent and the JDC by 250 percent. He said there must be more effective and less expensive alternatives. He proposed the Board direct staff to identify consultants to undertake a formal study of restorative justice programs that will slow or eliminate the growth of the Scott County JDC and Jail populations.

Maxwell said Croken made it sound as if the County is not doing a lot or enough at the Jail or at JDC. He said Jeremy Kaiser from JDC talked about the things that are being done to reduce the population. He said this is not a new idea, but an ongoing idea and that all of the system and staff are doing all that they can to try to reduce the population. He said that he agreed that the County needs to do everything that it can, but he did not think there was anything that the Board can do to stop the population from growing.

Croken said other jurisdictions are more aggressive in regards to restorative justice and said he thinks the County could slow the growth of the Jail population and possibly could eliminate the growth. He said the mental health court program is inadequate as it is a volunteer program funded with charitable dollars which are running out, and the

County could dramatically increase the number of people receiving treatment rather than confinement.

Beck said he wants to hear from the professionals that are working in the Courthouse and JDC.

District Court Judge Mark Fowler, said he has experience in both Juvenile and District Court. He said he echoes some of the sentiments that we need to do more to reduce the jail population and he also echoes the sentiment that they are trying to make some differences and there are some things we can do, some scheduling issues that might help us get more people out of jail quicker. He said the bail bond system is meant to help protect the public, but it also has further impoverished the poor.

He said the great disparity in the number for minorities compared to Whites in jail is an enormous, statewide problem. He noted Chief Justice Cady implemented implicit bias training for everyone within the judicial system within the past year. He said the training is important and has been beneficial. He said there are many incremental things to do to reduce jail population. He cited a pre-trial release program for people arrested at night, which authorized release for those with no previous arrests, rather than remain in jail to see a judge in the morning. He said that program no longer exists.

He said that mental health is an enormous issue and that our jails have become our mental health facilities in some regards. He also noted that drugs are 80 to 90 percent of the problems with people in jail. He said we do have a drug court, but just like the mental health court, it is a small program and we need to expand that program which of course takes dollars. He said using more ankle monitors would allow the release of more people from jail, who would be able to keep their jobs rather than sit in jail.

Regarding the JDC, he said there was a record number of car thefts last year, the court has a backlog of cases for trial, and consequently every Wednesday one judge hears those cases outside of the judge's normal job.

Croken noted that incarceration can lead to loss of Medicaid benefits so those needing drug treatment at the end of incarceration can no longer receive it.

Maxwell asked if Fowler thought a study was needed. He also asked if more funding for existing programs would lead to reduced populations.

Fowler said resources are dwindling, and cited the reduced placement options for Scott County at the State Training School and the loss of other placement options such as the Hillcrest Center in Dubuque. He said the loss of these options help cause the increase in JDC population.

Beck said that there is an immediate capacity problem in needing to detain up to 40 juveniles when the JDC will hold 18 juveniles. He said that he doubted a study would tell the Board anything more than is currently known. He said that he hopes current and

new programs will help to reduce placements. He said that increasing funding for those programs should be part of the strategic planning process.

Fowler said that the discussion has focused on reactionary funding, reacting to kids who have committed crimes. He said there is not enough money going to engaging kids early, when they are eight to ten years old, so they avoid committing crimes. He said there was too much difference between the haves and the have nots. He said families that struggle to afford food and housing do not have the resources to engage their children in sports, arts and other life and character building activities.

Kinzer said that the discussion was not a reflection on law enforcement. He agreed on the need to be proactive and cited the need to involve children in school programs of many different kinds. He said the point of the discussion is to encourage stepping up the current programs.

Croken asked Judge Fowler if we know everything that is innovative and effective in other jurisdictions, and if Scott County could benefit from the advice of a consultant who tracks such programs nationwide.

Fowler said that statewide various court and prosecutor staff travel all over the country to examine alternatives and best practices. He said it would be hard to determine if a consultant would offer a benefit.

Croken said that the discussion is not a criticism of current programs but shows that there is a need to do more. He said the Seventh Judicial District Correctional Services does not have nearly the staff needed to supervise people who could be released under supervision. He said the cost of incarceration both financially and socially is staggering and going in the wrong direction.

Jeremy Kaiser, JDC Director, said the capacity study identified that beginning in 2021 juveniles waived to adult court cannot be held in the County Jail unless a judge finds that they cannot safely be held at the JDC regardless of other circumstances. He said Scott County currently holds an average of 13 juveniles per day in adult jail, and in Fiscal Year 19 the average was 20 juveniles per day in detention. He said that as of 2021 the County will need 33 beds, on average, unless there is a more than a 50 percent reduction. He said this will cause a crisis if the County does not do something to expand capacity.

Kaiser said that everyone is frustrated with the amount of crime and the amount of car thefts including the community, law enforcement and corrections. He said the juvenile assessment center group, which includes Davenport Police Chief Sikorsky, Shawn Roth from the Sheriff's Department, the chief juvenile court officer, the County Attorney's Office, DHS and himself, has been meeting regularly for over a year and discussing options for reducing crime and detention on an ongoing basis. He said JDC has been averaging over capacity for more than two years, requiring sending juveniles many hours away from their families and homes at great expense to Scott County.

He urged the Board to think about and learn more about current efforts before spending more money on another study about what else could be done. He said JDC has four community-based programs including in-home detention, GPS ankle monitors, YTDM transition program and the auto theft program. He also noted that juvenile court services has star foster care homes, intensive supervision tracking and monitoring, a placement diversion program, liaisons in every high school and in most junior highs, family functional therapy, a youth empowerment program, a diversion program for shoplifters, and the ACE program through the Y. He said regular referrals are made to the mental health center, substance abuse diversion and a young women's leadership program.

Mike Walton, County Attorney, said this is an extremely complex area that he has worked on for 30 years. He said he echoed everybody else's sentiment about what the County is doing and asked if the Board has researched what is being done. He also said that Supervisor Croken's prepared statement of statistics is absolutely a criticism of the system, of law enforcement and the judicial system and said he does not think it is warranted.

He also invited anybody to tell him who in the Jail should not be there. He said we can talk about statistics and national problems all day long, but he deals with people in Scott County and that is where he thinks we need to focus because these are much larger issues.

Walton noted that we are at the end of the problem and did not create these problems. He said that almost all of those individuals that are sitting in the jail or detention are sitting there because it started with a 911 call and when that 911 call came in, nobody knew the race or sex of that suspect.

He said that a very small percentage of people arrested are in jail and that most are released almost immediately. He said court review is available 365 days a year for the purpose of determining whether individuals in jail should stay in jail or be released immediately. He also said that individuals have an attorney appointed immediately and that individuals have a right to another hearing to see if their bond should be reduced or they should be released. He said that a majority of them are on pre-trial release or on their own recognizance.

Walton said he does not like the impression that we are just filling up beds because we want to fill up beds and that we are ignoring these people. He said we are not and that this is something that has been addressed as long as he has been in the County Attorney's Office. Walton noted that he has a full-time staff member whose sole job is to review who is in jail and whether they can be moved along quicker.

He said he wanted to respond to the Board that we are doing all we can to keep the jail population down. He also said there are people, unfortunately, that should be and need to be in jail for the safety of the rest of us.

Croken said that he has never suggested that car thieves or rapists should not be in jail or that plenty is not being done. He asked is there more that can be done.

Walton said there is always more to do and that he welcomes the Board anytime to meet with his office, juvenile detention or jail staff to talk about available programs. He said to remember that some of this is not a County function or money and that the County really has no control over what is going on at the Department of Corrections.

Kinzer thanked Walton for his comments and for what he does. He said he agrees regarding the need to look at the current programs and get educated on those first.

Croken asked if Walton thought the mental health court has been effective and if there was room for more participation in it as the Board heard from the mental health court that more could be done.

Walton said that the mental health court has been effective, but a small percent of the case load, and that he had not heard of a waiting list or restriction on people getting into mental health court.

Lori Elam, Community Services Director, said children's mental health system is now moving to the mental health regions and our Region of five counties will serve 70,000 kids from 144 schools. She said the region providers have workforce issues and struggle to find social workers and consequently it takes time to get in to see somebody for a mental health need.

She asked if hiring a consultant is the right idea. She said it is important for the Board to invite key departments that have contact with folks with mental health or other social needs so we can talk about this is what we do, this is what it costs, this is our wish list in a perfect world. She said we have some really talented and very smart people working at Scott County and if we put our heads together we can come up with some ways to enhance services or maybe start new ones.

Elam said one of the jobs of the Community Services is to serve as guardian and conservator and that she has 29 cases. She said the County Attorney's Office, the Courts and the Jail want to refer people to Community Services because they need guardianship and someone else in their lives to be a decision-maker. She said her department cannot take on any more cases and asked if that program should be expand.

She noted that the contract in the Jail to provide services has increased staff and is now able to see people faster and made significant gains with medication prescribers. She said the Region now has Care Coordinators that identify folks in the jail that are going to be coming out and who have mental health needs and work with them so when they come out they are wrapped around the services and they stay stable much longer.

Elam said her office works with the Jail and when they identify somebody, especially repeat offenders, will aid them in filling out Medicaid applications.

Elam also reviewed regional service programs for housing and mobile crisis.

Moved by Kinzer, seconded by Maxwell at 10:00 a.m. a motion to adjourn. All Ayes.

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

ATTEST: Roxanna Moritz
Scott County Auditor