

Scott County Board of Supervisors
August 6, 2019 8:00 a.m.

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

Jon Burgstrum, County Engineer, reviewed approval of the temporary road closure for road Y4E through Dixon. He said firefighters are planning a car show fundraiser on September 21, 2019.

Burgstrum also reviewed approval of revisions to the Scott County snowmobile route map. He said the map was last revised in 2010 and that the new map is going from 114 miles to 170 miles of trails. He said the County works with the local Snow Seekers Snowmobile Club to update the trails and to add signage. He said the group helps fire departments and the Sheriff's Office when there are extreme emergencies.

Supervisor Beck asked if the County is assuming no greater risk than if the riders went out on their own.

Burgstrum answered that the Iowa Code Section 321.G9 permits the County to have designated routes.

Mary Thee, Assistant County Administrator, said the State Code addresses immunity.

Supervisor Croken said he assumes this does no harm to roads.

Burgstrum said some farmers believe there is damage to fields, but that the trails in the County ditches have not been a problem.

Maxwell asked about landowners' immunity.

Thee said the law addresses public property, and that in a private field that would be a trespassing situation.

Burgstrum said the Snow Seekers have agreements with the landowners on some of the trails that are on private property.

Maxwell asked if the group still grooms the trails.

Burgstrum said they groom the trails.

Supervisor Kinzer commented how good and responsible the group is to work with.

Supervisor Knobbe asked if the map indicates what changes are being made in the routes and to whom complaints about snowmobilers would be made.

Burgstrum said the map does not indicate the changes. He said complaints could be directed to him and he would pass on the complaints to the Snow Seekers.

John Behrens, 710 N Utah Avenue, Davenport, and member of the Snow Seekers Group, addressed the Board in support of the revised map.

Captain Joseph Caffery, Sheriff's Office, said deputies have relied on Snow Seekers in the past during extreme weather conditions and that the Sheriff's Office is very appreciative of the group.

Burgstrum also reviewed the first reading of an ordinance establishing a 25 mph speed limit on 230th Avenue (called North Cody Road in McCausland) from the North city limit line to 300th Street.

Kinzer asked if the addition is supported by the City.

Burgstrum said yes and that he was contacted by a resident and then he contacted the City of McCausland.

Captain Joseph Caffery, Sheriff's Office, discussed the staffing study for the Sheriff's Office Operations Division. He said a request for proposals was sent out and five vendors responded. He said the Sheriff chose the Matrix Consulting Group out of California with a bid of \$62,000 and an estimated timeline of 16 weeks. He said Matrix is the same consultant that did a staffing study for the Davenport Police Department, and that Matrix has done over 400 staffing studies across the country.

Beck said that the low bid came from a firm which specializes in studies for fire departments and he supported the decision to go with the firm recommended by the Sheriff.

Kinzer said the request goes back to the discussion in February regarding overfilling deputy positions. He said his comment is still the same, that he does not believe the County needs a staffing study and that the Sheriff was elected based on his plans for law enforcement.

Croken asked what the Operations Division is.

Caffery said it would encompass the Investigations, Patrol, and Civil Divisions as well as Bailiffs in the Courthouse.

Croken commented that the Board is being asked to vote on the vendor selection and not the study itself and that he shares Kinzer's concern and that the Board has not had money for other things before but for this the Board has money.

David Farmer, Budget and Administrative Services Director, reviewed the public hearing scheduled for Thursday to adopt an amendment to the FY20 Budget to increase

debt service by \$6.3 million and the expenditure of \$11.8 million for capital projects to fund the SECC radio project.

Mahesh Sharma, County Administrator, reviewed the proposed Investigator position in the County Attorney's Office. He said the Attorney was detained on a conference call and could not attend the meeting. He explained the request was similar to the request the Board heard during budget time. He said at that time the Board approved an over-hire for the position and that findings from a staffing study showed the hiring is warranted.

Croken said this was discussed during the budget time and that he sees no issue here.

Maxwell asked if the action was to change the over-hire into a regular full time position.

Sharma said that an over-hire was not made and the action would be to change the table of organization to add the position.

Beck said that the study could justify hiring a second investigator but the County Attorney would need to make the request.

Under other items of interest, Kinzer said that Supervisor Beck did very well representing the Board of Supervisors at a recent Board visit to a Buffalo City Council meeting.

Moved by Maxwell, seconded by Beck at 8:34 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