

Scott County Board of Supervisors  
October 15, 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 professional structural design services and said the department has been very busy this summer getting bridges ready for letting with several contracts for consultants doing the design work and getting caught up to be prepared to use the collaborative bridge funding. He said there are two bridges that are at final stages of design.

Angela Kersten, Assistant County Engineer, reviewed the locations. She said the first, on Wells Ferry Road in Pleasant Valley Township, is a unique situation as it has very shallow bedrock. She said the replacement structure is a custom designed 120 foot precast, pre-stressed concrete beam bridge, which allows for no piers. She said the second bridge is on Y30, and is one of the collaborative federal funding projects, and is the standard 100 foot concrete slab bridge.

Supervisor Beck asked about the geo-tech work needing to be done.

Kersten answered that it already had been done for these two.

Supervisor Croken asked what the carrying capacity of these bridges will be, and does it allow for anticipated future increases in weight limits, recognizing the continuous pressure to increase weight limits.

Kersten said the bridges are designed under a HL93 type loading, which is an increase compared to previous design standards. She said it is not cost-effective to design a structure to the weight of special haul vehicles, and bridges should not be under repetitive stress from these heavier vehicles.

Burgstrum said the department cannot know if there will be further legislation to increase limits for other types of vehicles.

Burgstrum also reviewed a Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) Maintenance Patching Project. He said McCarthy Improvement had performed work earlier this summer and he asked if the firm would be able to come back and work on other needed areas at the prices for the work just completed. He said McCarthy honored all the prices, except that the quantities on each patch were smaller. He said the projects on Shawnee Circle and Blackhawk Drive at and near their intersection, on Hillandale Road south of Slopertown Road and on Chapel Hill Road west of Utah Avenue had a total quote of \$106,748.22.

Supervisor Maxwell asked about the project in Parkview.

Burgstrum said the department has been repairing and replacing curbs in Parkview, which required cutting into the pavement, and the cut pavement needed its own repair work. He also said some of the pavement is in poor shape and has been sinking, and those portions needed repair as well.

Barbara Pardie, Fleet Manager, reviewed the request to purchase two used vehicles for the County Attorney's Office. She said the vehicles are for a recently added fulltime investigator and Risk Management. She said she searched for used vehicles with the standard parameters; less than three years old, some manufacturer's warranty remains, and having less than 30,000 miles. She said there were several choices and that vehicles were identified based on which would accommodate best for the staff. She said she put down \$500 on each vehicles to hold them pending Board approval. She said the first was a 2018 Nissan Rogue with a total purchase price of \$20,291 and next was a 2018 Jeep Compass with a total purchase price of \$17,937.

Kinzer asked was there any reason for picking these two types of vehicles.

Pardie said it could have been any type and there were several that would meet staff needs, which included picking a SUV due to wintertime driving conditions.

Kinzer said it appears the Jeep Compass is made in Mexico and he is not sure if the Nissan Rogue is made in Tennessee. He said if we have the choice on used vehicles, maybe we could see if they are American made.

Pardie said she goes by the written policy when it comes to purchasing.

Maxwell asked if the vehicles were in the budget.

Pardie said the vehicle for the investigator was in her fleet budget for vehicle purchasing, but not for the Risk Manager, although there was enough money in the vehicle budget to fund the purchase.

Mike Walton, County Attorney, said Risk Management always had a vehicle up until about five years ago, and it was always contemplated that the investigator would need a vehicle as the investigator is knocking on doors and transporting people.

Maxwell asked if the second vehicle would be in the budget and not require a budget amendment.

Pardie said that was correct.

Croken asked if the Board could review the vehicle purchase policy at some point in the near future to add consideration of American made and fuel efficient vehicles.

Pardie said the County is piggybacking on the state policy.

Kinzer said the Risk Manager has needed a car for a long time and it should never have been taken away.

Knobbe asked for upfront information for these types of requests in the future. He said he would like to know the current total costs to providing transportation and the impact to the taxpayers and staff.

Pardie said she understands what Knobbe is saying, but said the Risk Manager may incur personal liability due to the County requiring her to use her personal vehicle.

Knobbe asked if either vehicle would be available for personal use.

Walton said that because the investigator is hourly he would use the vehicle during the work day and leave the vehicle here. He said he can envision where there are times where the investigator might have to go at 11:00 at night to find somebody.

Walton said that the Risk Manager is not reimbursed for personal mileage. He said he has grave concerns about her insurance coverage and personal liability when she uses her personal vehicle for County business. He said that she has experienced incidents where she had to clean blood out of her personal vehicle, and that she uses an ambulance to transport employees for worker comp injuries, where in the past she would have driven them. He said the County has a proactive risk management program because the Risk Manager takes specific action to lower the County's risks.

Beck asked about using a car from the County pool and how many times it was needed.

Pardie said when the vehicle was in the pool it was not available all the times the Risk Manager needed it, and that the Risk Manager needed accessibility to a vehicle at unpredictable times after normal business hours.

Sargent Shawn Roth reviewed a request to overfill a bailiff position. He said a bailiff is retiring in December and the Sheriff's Office is looking to hire and train the replacement around that time so there would be less down time during the changeover.

Maxwell asked about the process and how much training would take place.

Roth said if someone with law enforcement experience is hired, the training is much simpler because they would have had the same training as an officer. He said if the County is arming a bailiff the County has a legal responsibility to train the bailiff in the use of firearms. He said if someone without law enforcement experience is hired, training is going to take longer to get the new bailiff through the classes.

Mary Thee, Human Resources Director, suggested that setting a specific policy on over-hiring for a position set to be vacated.

Croken asked how quickly hiring a new bailiff would occur. He agreed that setting a policy on over-hiring made sense.

Thee said two bailiffs were hired in September and there may be a qualified applicant available from the process. She said otherwise posting and hiring could take a month and conducting a background check could take up to another month.

Beck asked if the over-hire was within the Sheriff's budget.

Roth said that he believed there was sufficient money in the budget to cover the over-hire cost.

Roth also reviewed a request to overfill a deputy position due to a disability retirement. He said the deputy has been on leave for a long time due to a work-related injury. He said the Sheriff's Office is waiting for the State to determine the injury qualifies as a disabling event. He said the Risk Manager believes the retirement is going to be the end of this year or early next year. Roth said there is a new civil service list with 10 qualifiers. He said that the department needs to fill the position to reserve a spot for the next training session at the Law Enforcement Academy in January.

Mary Thee reviewed the hiring of Caleb Widmer for the position of Assistant Attorney in the Attorney's Office at the entry level rate and the hiring of Jared Ater and Carson Lutterman for the positions of Corrections Officers in the Sheriff's Office at the entry level rate.

Ed Rivers, Health Department Director, reviewed the FY20 County Agreement with the Center for Alcohol & Drug Services, Inc. He said that the \$10,000 contract originates with the Iowa Department of Public Health each year and requires a three to one match. He said this contract provides funding for prevention services, which are in addition to treatment services provided under a separate contract.

Jeremy Kaiser, JDC Director, reviewed the auto theft accountability program and said that he believed the program would receive a more referrals. He said the program has the budget capacity to do more. He said the next step would be to expand to the eligible criteria to youth committing other types of property crimes. He said he met with Davenport Police Department staff and the County Attorney's Office. He said the County Attorney said it makes sense to expand the program to cover other property crimes, including criminal mischief and theft. He said the contract needs an addendum in order to be able to accept those types of referrals.

Croken and asked why the program is not getting the anticipated number of referrals.

Kaiser said he really does not know, but that the referrals come from juvenile court. He said that first time offenders qualify for the program and there are fewer first time offenders than in the recent past.

Croken asked if second time offenders had been considered for the program.

Kaiser said that repeat offenders had been considered, but that he wanted to collect data for analysis before expanding the categories of offenders. He added that second time offenders who reoffend within six months will be detained and do not qualify for the diversion program.

Kinzer asked if the limitation was victims who did not want to participate.

Kaiser said that lack of victim participation was not an obstacle. He said that seven juveniles had been referred to the program; three reoffend and no longer qualified; four have begun the program and had not reoffended, and of those four, two had completed the entire program.

Rob Cusack, Senior Assistant County Attorney, reviewed a memo regarding a tax abatement for Mt. Sinai Fellowship Church. He said the questions for tax years 2016 and 2017 were black-and-white because those had already been sold to Oak Helm, and that the question was for 2018. He said that Mt Sinai applied for the 2018 tax exemption in January 2019, that the 2018 tax year runs from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 and therefore the church timely filed for the second half of 2018 taxes because the request for exemption was filed before February 1st. He said technically this is not an abatement, rather a recognition of timely filing for the tax exemption.

Maxwell asked if it was correct that the Board cannot take any action on the taxes owed prior to the request for exemption.

Cusack said that was correct, and that abatement can be in order in certain cases but the facts in this situation do not meet any of those cases.

Beck asked if it was correct that the Board did not need to take action for tax exemptions.

Cusack said that was correct, but that in this situation the Treasurer needed specific direction to take action as those taxes are already accruing.

Croken said an ad-hoc group has been meeting to explore possible solutions and that he has informed the Chairperson about these discussions and he expected more to come.

David Farmer, Budget and Administrative Services Director, reviewed FY2021 Goals and future budget issues for FY2020 amendments. He said the County has an unassigned fund balance of \$11.3 million creating a 20 percent equity reserve.

He said regarding the assigned fund balance category of \$1.4 million, the County would set aside \$281,000 for liability claims, \$220,000 for strategic plan elements, \$100,000 for health insurance and \$860,000 for capital projects.

He reviewed some of the economic factors which could affect the budget process. He said the State will issue rollback numbers for residential and ag property later in the week, and that the State is predicting slow growth for sales tax and income tax.

He reviewed tax valuation comparisons between Scott County and the statewide average, the eight urban counties in Iowa and per capita spending for all Iowa counties.

He said that Moody's Investor Services evaluates Scott County highly with an Aa1 rating.

He said state law makers continue to stress that the commercial property tax backfill will eventually end. He said the County has budgeted to receive 75 percent of the backfill in FY2020 and plans to reduce that to 50 percent for FY2021.

He also gave a timeline for a FY21 budget orientation session and submissions for County departments and authorized agencies, deadlines and publications.

Pastor Frank Livingston of Mt. Sinai Fellowship Church thanked everyone for the efforts that have been put forth for the partial abatement. He also thanked Supervisor Croken for his efforts in working with the church members.

Moved by Beck, seconded by Croken at 9:45 a.m. a motion to close the meeting pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(j) to discuss the purchase of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property or reduce the price the governmental body would receive for that property. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Moved by Maxwell, seconded by Kinzer at 10:10 a.m. a motion to convene in open session. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Moved by Croken, seconded by Beck at 10:10 a.m. a motion to close the meeting pursuant to Iowa Code Section 20.17(3) which exempts meetings to discuss strategies in collective bargaining from the provisions of Iowa Code Chapter 21 (Open Meetings). Roll Call: All Ayes.

Moved by Beck, seconded by Croken at 11:07 a.m. a motion to convene in open session. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Moved by Beck, seconded by Maxwell at 11:07 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