

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SUPERVISORS MINUTES
June 25, 2009

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors met in quorum, Thursday, June 25, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. at the courthouse for their regular meeting. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bryant Amos. There was a roll call of members with Supervisors Amos, Glen Benskin, Karen Blue, Steve Ratcliff, and Donna Robinson present.

Motion to approve the agenda by Ratcliff, second by Benskin. Roll call: Yes: Amos, Benskin, Blue, Ratcliff, Robinson. No: None. Motion carried.

Minutes of the June 18, 2009 regular meeting were read and stand approved as read.

The Chairman called for public comments. There were no audience comments.

During the Supervisor Update, Ratcliff stated he had attended the Tuesday Jail Committee meeting as an observer. Blue had attended meetings with the Red Oak Chamber and Industry Task Force, Western Iowa Tourism, Industrial Foundation, and Enterprise Zone Commission.

Treasurer Carol Strovers updated the Board on the Iowa Taxes and Tags (ITAT) program and said that it is likely that Montgomery County will be paying fees to Polk County for the use of the ITAT online program due to decreasing interest rates. Interest on the revenues collected from online payments have been used to cover the fees in the past years, but Strovers didn't believe enough interest would be generated this year.

The Chairman opened bids submitted for the Sheriff's vehicle. Hawkeye Ford submitted a bid for a 2009 Ford Expedition with an out-right cost of \$32,177.00. No trade-in was specified for the Sheriff's 2006 Chevrolet Silverado. Red Oak Chrysler submitted a bid for a 2009 Dodge Durango at \$30,423.00 with a trade-in allowance of \$12,000. Belt GM submitted a bid for a 2009 Chevrolet Tahoe at \$23,458.15 with the trade-in. Motion by Blue, second by Benskin to award the bid to Red Oak Chrysler with the trade-in or outright purchase to be determined at a later date. Discussion followed with Robinson stating that with upcoming projects, everyone will need to cut back on expenditures. Ratcliff agreed, but stated the Board knew that before giving the Sheriff permission to seek bids. Amos stated we can't allow the departments to get behind on vehicles. Roll call: Yes: Amos, Benskin, Blue, Ratcliff. No: Robinson. Motion carried.

Motion by Ratcliff to approve the transfer of position of Marlin Peterson from patrol operator to equipment operator I, from \$17.70 to \$17.13 per hour. Roll call: Yes: Benskin, Blue, Ratcliff, Robinson, Amos. No: None.

Motion to approve the promotion of Scott Keith from truck driver/laborer to equipment operator I, from \$16.25 to \$16.95 per hour by Blue, second by Robinson. Roll call: Yes: Blue, Ratcliff, Robinson, Amos, Benskin. No: None. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the promotion of Dennis Gresham from equipment operator II to crew foreman, from \$17.59 to \$19.28 per hour by Benskin, second by Ratcliff. In discussion, Ratcliff stated that if there should be a request to replace the vacant position on the crew, he would not be in favor. Blue stated that Gresham would be a working crew foreman, so hopefully there would not be a request to hire an additional person. Roll call: Yes: Ratcliff, Robinson, Amos, Benskin, Blue. No: None. Motion carried.

Robinson provided an overview of the Jail Committee meetings. She stated that there had been two interviews on Monday and two interviews on Tuesday, with each firm receiving approximately 45 minutes of presentation time. Durrant and Prochaska and Associates were the top two firms, and she said that the committee was recommending Durrant as the firm for the jail study. The fee proposed by Durrant is hourly-not-to-exceed \$10,000 for the study and \$5,000 for referendum assistance with the \$10,000 to become a credit towards the actual design and construction project if it reaches that point and Durrant is selected for those services.

Motion by Robinson, second by Benskin to approve the recommendation of Durrant as the firm for the Montgomery County Jail Study. Roll call: Yes: Robinson, Amos, Benskin, Blue, Ratcliff. No: None. Motion carried.

The funding of the jail study was discussed and Auditor Joni Ernst advised the Board that there is Public Safety LOSST money that could be used for the study. Robinson believed it would be a good option for the payment of part of the study, and the Board has \$5,000 budgeted in fiscal year 2010.

Blue discussed the West Central Community Action leases for WIC and Head Start. They renewed the leases at the Highland Annex, but WCCA is terminating the lease for Head Start effective August 31st. Blue will inquire about other entities that may want to occupy the space.

Treasurer Strovers presented a list of abandoned/junked mobile homes and buildings on leased land that had several years of taxes owed. She was asking that the taxes be abated for the properties. The Board asked if they could pursue the property owners through the court system to collect the taxes that were due. Strovers said the court costs would probably be more than the taxes that were owed. The Board asked if Attorney Bruce Swanson could join the meeting to answer a few questions about the abatements.

Ernst asked the Board to approve the LOSST designations for fiscal year 2010. Motion by Robinson, second by Benskin to designate the carryover for LOSST for fiscal year 2010 \$54,686.68 for Public Safety and \$49,585.74 for Courthouse Repairs. Roll call: Yes: Blue, Ratcliff, Robinson, Amos, Benskin. No: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Robinson, second by Ratcliff to approve fireworks permit applications for Heather Zeigler, Eugene Gray, Effie Martinez, Ben and Mary Rolf. Roll call: Yes: Ratcliff, Robinson, Amos, Benskin, Blue. No: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Blue, second by Robinson to approve claims payable June 26, 2009 in the amount of \$232,716.29, handwritten \$1,331.10 for a total of \$234,047.39. Roll call: Yes: Robinson, Amos, Benskin, Blue, Ratcliff. No: None. Motion carried.

Attorney Bruce Swanson met with the Board to answer questions regarding abatement of taxes for the abandoned mobile homes and buildings on leased land. The Board asked if they could pursue the collection of taxes through the court system. Swanson stated he did not believe they could, as the Code's answer for collection of taxes is through the tax sale. If the tax certificates are not sold at the tax sale, there is no other alternative. He recommended that the Board abate the properties and be done with them. The Board expressed their disapproval for the system. Motion by Blue, second by Benskin to abate the taxes owed for the parcels as listed: 160062120107300, 160062120106700, 160062120102200, 160062120106500, 160062120103400 and VIN numbers 48A14010, NEB20A29244S, 67A5534, SK432A, 47A4172, GB080799, GS14160, AFHMO3413, 024512F, TWITXIS3325, 037692F, 16008, FJ221040, MC4000F. Roll call: Yes: Amos, Benskin, Blue, Ratcliff, Robinson. No: None. Motion carried.

Agenda items discussed for the next regular board meeting are payroll, fireworks permit applications, and SWIPCO Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Motion by Benskin, second by Ratcliff to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

BRYANT AMOS, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: JONI K. ERNST, AUDITOR