

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, January 23, 2023

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. with Chick, Kirchner, Mather, Sauer and Sorensen present. Chairperson Sauer presiding.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the agenda was approved as presented. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, claims dated January 23, 2023, were approved in the amount of \$294,372.12. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with the Board regarding the 245th Street bridge, with Dusty Buffington, 2484 Edgewater Road, Conesville, Iowa and other area residents regarding the road and bridge conditions on 245th Street, Conesville, Iowa. Buffington and several other area residents stated their concern with poor bridge maintenance, missing handrails, poor structure and questionable weight limits. Buffington presented information on bridge replacements in Washington and Buchanan Counties built with double wide railroad flat cars using the existing abutments. The Board concerns regarding this type of bridge replacement included bridge construction techniques, pilings, water levels under the bridge, potential flooding, full cost for materials/construction and the process/cost for filing with the Iowa Department of Natural Resource and the Corps of Engineers for permits. Several residents stated an area road was vacated in 1995 making the only passageway to Edgewater Road is by using 245th Street for every day traffic, delivery trucks and emergency vehicles. Discussion was also held with residents stating the 1995 Board assured the landowners the bridge would be maintained and replaced if necessary. County Engineer Brian Horesowsky stated the first step in the process of replacing a bridge is to list the bridge on the Muscatine County Department of Transportation (DOT) FY24 Five Year Program, which is scheduled for review in late February or early March 2023. Consensus with the Board was to continue discussions and review if there are options for replacing the bridge.

On a motion by Sorensen. second by Chick, the Board approved the contracts, bonds, and certificate of insurance for culvert replacement project, L-(FU-8)—73-70, a twin 12' x 12' x 60' RCB Culvert on 135th Street. Ayes: All.

The Board reviewed a variance with Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas granted by the Muscatine County Board of Adjustment on January 6, 2023. Case #23-01-01 is an application filed by Travis and Sarah Cutler, Record Owners, 3184 New Era Road, who requested a Variance to be allowed to place a detached accessory structure in the front yard space of the single-family dwelling, but that would still be over 50' from the front property line. The Cutlers argued that the hardship was created by the topography of the lot, which required them to place their single-family dwelling nearly to the rear of the property, leaving little to no room in the rear or side yards for a detached accessory structure. The Cutlers explained that there were several pre-existing agricultural structures that were in the front yard space of the dwelling already, but they were dilapidated and they have removed one already with plans to remove another one in the general location of where they desired to place the new outbuilding.

Furnas reviewed a variance for Case #23-01-02, an application from Eric and Jennifer Irwin, Record Owners, 1083 Evans Avenue, West Liberty, who requested a Variance to be allowed to place a two-story addition onto their existing single-family dwelling that would encroach within 18' of the front lot line. The Irvin's argued that their existing home was constructed prior to the current zoning setback standards were in place, the location of other outbuildings and septic fields and the layout of the house itself made the observance of the current setback requirements a hardship. Discussion was held, pointing out that due to the proximity of the property, nearby properties in the City limits of West Liberty that observe significantly less setbacks, allowing the Variance would not alter the general characteristics of the neighborhood and noted that Evans Avenue was already paved in that area and the road right-of-way was already widened to modern standards.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board accepted the Variances. Ayes: All.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas stated his department will be testing private wells for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). Furnas stated he has received permission to use private well testing grant funds to test approximately 20 wells. Furnas stated he has met with City of Muscatine and Muscatine Power and Water to discuss PFAS informational resources and website information to educate the public.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sorensen, the minutes of the January 16, 2023 regular meeting and the January 17, 2023 special meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

All Supervisors received several emails from a resident regarding the bridge conditions on 245th Street, Conesville, Iowa.

All Supervisors received an email regarding the Historic Preservation Commission candidates and their qualifications.

Chick had discussions with Dusty Buffington regarding the bridge conditions on 245th Street, Conesville, Iowa.

Kirchner received a call regarding questions on solar farms.

Committee & Meeting Reports:

Sorensen attended the Muscatine County Emergency Management Board meeting on January 18, 2023.

Sorensen attended the Muscatine County 911 Service Board meeting on January 18, 2023.

Sorensen attended the State Mental Health and Disability Services Board meeting on January 19, 2023.

Sauer attended the Muscatine County Conservation Board meeting on January 16, 2023.

Sauer attended the River Bend Transit Board meeting on January 18, 2023.

Chick attended the Mississippi Valley Workforce Area Board meeting electronically by Zoom on January 20, 2023.

Kurt Kirchner attended the Muscatine County Fair Board on January 19, 2023.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board appointed Ken Snyder to the Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission to fill a vacancy for a term ending January 1, 2026.
Ayes: All.

The Board reviewed the health/dental fund balance as of December 31, 2022. Administrative Services Director Schreiber stated the fund balance shows the premiums are set correctly to cover the expenses.

County Attorney Jim Barry stated the County Attorney's office has received a letter from an attorney requesting information regarding the bridge on 245th Street, Conesville, Iowa and advised the Board to make a coordinated effort with County Engineer Brian Horesowsky to outline the options.

The Board recessed at 10:12 A.M. and reconvened at 10:28 A.M.

The Board held on-going discussion of the proposed FY23/24 Muscatine County Budget.

Mather left the meeting at 10:38 A.M.

The Board discussion continued with on-going FY23/24 budget deliberations.

Mather rejoined the meeting at 11:22 A.M.

The Board reviewed the proposed Capital Projects outlined in the FY23/24 Muscatine County Budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 P.M.

ATTEST:

Tibe Vander Linden
County Auditor

Scott Sauer, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors