

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, March 6, 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 Mather, the agenda was approved as presented. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, claims dated March 6, 2023, were approved in the amount of \$568,948.85. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sorensen, stamped warrants payable dated March 6, 2023, were approved in the amount of \$39,995.25. Ayes: All. County Attorney Jim Barry reported the total expenditures to date for the Drainage District #13 pump project is \$500,109.38.

A Public Hearing was called to order by Chairperson Sauer at 9:02 A.M. on Status of Funded Activities - CDBG-2019 Disaster Recovery Buyout Project. Ricky Newcomb, Bi-State Regional Commission, Senior Planner attended the public hearing. Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas reviewed the status of the CDBG-2019 funded activities, accomplishments, expenditures, general description of remaining work and the contract amendment to change one low-to moderate income buyout to an urgent need buyout. Furnas stated all expenditures for the work completed at 1995 Sweetland Road, Muscatine, Iowa, have been reimbursed by the grant to the total amount of \$30,909.00 and the amount of \$52.50 to be reimbursed for the appraisal of 1702 Highway 22, Nichols, Iowa has not yet been claimed. Furnas stated in total, \$30,909.00 or 56% has been paid out of the grant total of \$55,062.00.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather the Public Hearing was closed at 9:07 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick the Board authorized the Chair to sign Amendment 1 to the Memorandum of Agreement with B-State Regional Commission for grant administration services for the CDBG-2019 Disaster Recovery Buyout Project. Ayes: All.

The Board consensus was to permit the Lower Cedar River Watershed Authority update to be held later in today's meeting to allow Jen Fencil of East Central Iowa Council of Governments to arrive.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather the Board approved Ordinance #03-06-23-01 Repealing and Replacing the Provisions of Title II, Chapter II Private Sewage Disposal Systems of the Muscatine County Code of Ordinances on the third and final reading. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board approved the following utility permits: Muscatine Power and Water, Muscatine, Iowa – installation of 2-inch orange high-density polyethylene (HDPE) conduit fiber along Geneva Hills Road from New Era Road to Highway 22. Section 20 & 29, T77N, R1W. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Bryan Horesowsky stated he has not received the revenue from the Iowa DOT's All Systems Permit. The revenue was supposed to be issued at the end of January. Horesowsky stated once the county receives the funds he will discuss the permit more in depth with the Board.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board approved the minutes of the February 27, 2023, regular meeting. Ayes: All.

#### Correspondence.

All Supervisors received an email from Dusty Buffington regarding the recent discussions of the bridge condition on 245<sup>th</sup> Street, Conesville, Iowa.

All Supervisors received an email from James Buser regarding uncontrolled intersections. Mather received several emails from Seventh Judicial Department of Correctional Services Board.

Chick received a call from John Wagner, Washington County Maintenance Superintendent regarding railroad bridges.

Chick received an email from D.J. Chick, Bayer CropScience employee who expressed his concern regarding traffic safety issues on Pettibone Avenue, Muscatine, Iowa.

Kirchner received a call from a resident regarding road conditions.

#### Committee & Meeting Reports:

Sorensen, Sauer, Chick and Kirchner attended a Conference Board meeting on February 28, 2023.

Sorensen attended an Eastern Iowa Mental Health and Disability Services Region meeting on February 27, 2023.

Sorensen and Kirchner attended a Farm Bureau Local Leadership meeting on February 28, 2023.

Mather reported the American Legion Post 27 meeting scheduled for February 23, 2023 did not have a quorum present.

Mather attended Wilton Chamber and Development Alliance meeting on February 15, 2023.

Mather attended a Housing Task Group meeting on February 14, 2023.

Mather reported the Muscatine Community Health Association has not met recently due to various reasons with member absences.

Discussion was held regarding possible action to accept a quote for fire alarm replacement and monitoring, testing and inspections services at the Sheriff's Office and the Maintenance Building. The quotes presented were from Per Mar Security Services, Davenport, Iowa for Monitoring and Inspection \$1095.00 per building; Equipment and Labor \$6,925.00 for Maintenance Building and \$7,895.00 for Sheriff's Office and the quote from CertaSite, Franklin, Wisconsin for Equipment and Services \$14,720.00 for Maintenance Building and \$24,600.00 for Sheriff's Office. Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber recommended the Board approve the quote from Per Mar Security Services. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the Board approved the quote from Per Mar Security Services, Davenport, Iowa for fire alarm

replacement and monitoring, testing and inspections services at the Sheriff's Office and the Maintenance Building for Monitoring and Inspection services in the amount of \$1095.00 per building and Equipment and Labor to install in the amount of \$6,925.00 for the Maintenance Building and \$7,895.00 for the Sheriff's Office. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with the Board regarding Muscatine County serving as the local grant recipient for Iowa Workforce Development funding. County Attorney Jim Barry stated he has reviewed the contract and stated the County would be taking on the responsibility to the state for the administration of the funds which may require hiring additional staff and expands this exposure from an indemnification stand point. On a motion by Chick, second by Mather, the Board declined the local grant recipient agreement for Iowa Workforce Development funding. Ayes: All.

Jen Fencil of East Central Iowa Council of Governments and Emery Davis of Heartland Co-op updated the Board on the Lower Cedar River Watershed Management Authority activities with a Power Point presentation.

Discussion was held with Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber regarding the Muscatine County Compensation Board FY23/24 salary recommendations for elected officials. A letter from the Muscatine County Compensation Board recommended a 6% increase for the Board of Supervisors plus \$2,500 for Chair and \$1,500 for Vice-Chair; a 6% increase for the Attorney, Auditor, Recorder, and Treasurer; and an 8.0% increase for the Sheriff effective July 1, 2024. Sorensen recommended a reduction of 37.5% for all elected officials for the compensation increase, which adjusts the percentage amounts to 6% for Sheriff and 3.75% for all other elected officials. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board approved a 6% increase for the Sheriff and 3.75% increase for the Attorney, Auditor, Treasurer, Recorder and Supervisors. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

County Attorney Jim Barry stated the fine collection coordinator employee has been moved from the courthouse to the County Attorney's office. Barry stated the current fine collection assistant position duties will be blended with the coordinator position, creating one position with a new job description and salary to be determined. Barry updated the Board regarding the County Attorney renovation office furniture, stating the furniture quote is in the amount of approximately \$15,000 and Barry recommended to pay from the fine collection revenue.

County Engineer Bryan Horesowsky stated the Cedar River is currently at a minor flood stage level. Horesowsky stated 245<sup>th</sup> Street, Conesville, Iowa currently has water over the road.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas stated the next meeting for the Lower Cedar Watershed Management Authority is scheduled for March 7, 2023, 6:30 p.m. at the Old Town Hall in West Branch, Iowa.

James Buser, 2011 Elder Avenue, Nichols, Iowa addressed the Board regarding uncontrolled intersections on Level B secondary roads in the county. Buser stated he calculates there are 29

uncontrolled intersections at 4-way roads and 113 at 3-way roads. Sorensen stated the Board has discussed this issue and is reviewing the current policy. Buser stated his research of uncontrolled intersection in four other Iowa counties show those counties have zero uncontrolled intersections and asked the Board to consider the same. Barry stated uncontrolled intersections has a current law for vehicles to yield to the vehicle on the right. The Board consensus was to review the current county policy.

Schreiber held discussion regarding the FY23/24 budget to complete preparation for publication. Budget Coordinator Kala Naber reviewed the valuation/levy estimates and the debt issuance projects with the Board. The Board consensus was to proceed with the proposed FY23/24 budget for publication.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 A.M.

ATTEST:

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Tibe Vander Linden  
County Auditor

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Scott Sauer, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors