

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, February 10, 2014

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

On a motion by Kelly, second by Furlong, the agenda was approved as written. Ayes: All.

A Public Hearing was called to order at 9:02 A.M. by Chairperson Howard on proposed amendment to the Muscatine County Zoning Ordinance to add youth and religious camps and retreat facilities as a permitted special use in the A-1 Agricultural District. Zoning Administrator Jodee Stepleton explained the recommended amendment. No one spoke for against the amendment. On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, the public hearing was closed at 9:04 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, an ordinance amending the Muscatine County Zoning Ordinance to add youth and religious camps and retreat facilities as a permitted special use in the A-1 Agricultural District was approved on the first of three readings. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

Discussion was held regarding commercial and industrial permitting and inspections in Muscatine County. Zoning Administrator Jodee Stepleton stated that the County took on responsibility for commercial and industrial inspections when the International Building Code was adopted. Stepleton stated she has been accepting documentation from certified engineers that projects are built to their specifications. Stepleton asked for direction from the Board on whether she should continue in this manner or allow either third party inspectors or ask for assistance with inspections from the City of Muscatine. Sorensen stated that there is probably not enough activity in the County to justify the training involved to become certified. Furlong asked about the credentials of the City of Muscatine inspectors. Stepleton stated they are all certified, but she does not know if they would be willing to go 20 miles out into the County for inspections. Furlong suggested we might be able to contract with Scott and Johnson Counties as well as the City of Muscatine. Stepleton asked about a specific project at HON Geneva that needs to get done right away stating that the City of Muscatine is willing to inspect that project. Board consensus was to proceed with the City of Muscatine on inspecting the HON Geneva project and return to the Board with more information on how to handle other future inspections in the County through possible 28E agreements with the City of Muscatine, Scott County or Johnson County.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Sorensen, the following utility permits were approved: CenturyLink – bore across 155th Street at 2225 155th Street for service to a residence; Eastern Iowa Light and Power – replace overhead poles and conductors along 180th Street from east of Taylor Avenue to west of Hwy 38. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with County Engineer Keith White regarding estimated revenue to Muscatine County from a 10-cent Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF) increase. White stated that an increase should generate more than a half million dollars of additional funding annually. Furlong stated if gas tax is not increased, then eventually the County will have to raise property taxes to maintain its roads. Furlong feels this is more of a use tax and the fairest way to raise money to maintain County roads. Howard stated he does not feel that this is the only revenue source for raising money to maintain County roads and that the State should look at other options than raising taxes. Kelly stated if there was a better solution she would agree with Howard, but at this moment, this appears to be the only solution. Sauer stated he is more in favor of funding the roads through a user tax, rather than through property tax.

Kelly asked County Engineer Keith White about snowmobiling on right-of-way and private property. White stated he does not think snowmobiles can go on private property without permission, but he knows they do not need permission to travel on the right of way.

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met as a Board of Canvassers for the Wilton School Special Election held Tuesday, February 4, 2014. The Board certified the following results to be a true and correct abstract of the votes cast in the election: Public Measure A: Yes Votes: 521; No Votes: 202; Total Votes: 723. Public Measure A was adopted. Public Measure B: Yes Votes: 507; No Votes: 216; Total Votes: 723. Public Measure B was adopted.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Furlong, minutes of the Monday, February 3, 2014 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Howard reported a couple of contacts regarding the taser incident.

Howard reported a contact regarding the County budget process.

Howard reported a complaint with the City of Muscatine regarding increase in user fees.

Howard reported a contact regarding a newspaper article about replacing County elected officials with hired employees.

Committee Reports:

Sorensen attended a Website Redesign Committee meeting February 4th.

Sorensen attended a Muscatine County Safety Committee meeting February 5th.

Kelly attended a Muscatine Health Association meeting February 5th.

Howard and Sauer attended the Muscatine County Conservation Board Game Feed February 3rd. Howard and Kelly attended a Muscatine Urban Renewal Plan Amendment meeting February 6th.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Kelly, the Board approved the hiring of Paula Passe as Social Worker – Trust Program at \$49,028 (Grade 11, Step 20) for Community Services. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, the Board approved the hiring of Brian Baars as Corrections Lieutenant at \$44,294 (Grade 12, Step 8) for the Jail. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Furlong, the Board approved Resolution #02-10-14-01 to Fix a Date for a Public Hearing on a General Obligation Loan Agreement. Roll call vote: Ayes: All. The Public Hearing was set for Monday, February 24, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved the proposed FY14/15 budget for publication. Ayes: All.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 A.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Robert E. Howard, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors