

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, September 15, 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.

Greg Lindle, 1705 Lindle Avenue, reported that the unknown owner parcel acquisition is moving forward, but due to requirements for a survey, will probably not happen until the beginning of the year. Lindle stated the drainage problem on Saulsbury Road was caused by the County and the County needs to take care of it. Lindle suggested the County spend approximately \$10,000 to dig out the ditches and install a culvert. Lindle also asked the County to send a letter to the Iowa DOT asking them to remove the rip rap. Kelly asked if Lindle has looked at developing a drainage district. Lindle stated he does not feel a drainage district is needed if the County would just fix the problem it caused.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, claims dated September 15, 2014 were approved in the amount of \$1,608,983.17. Ayes: All.

Bi-State representative Gena McCullough presented a brief overview of the Muscatine County Comprehensive Plan Update. McCullough stated two public meetings were held with about 40 people in attendance and 77 responses were received to an online survey. McCullough presented a draft of the Muscatine County Comprehensive Plan to the Board stating that the Zoning Commission will make recommendation for approval by the end of October. McCullough stated they would look for approval towards the end of November in order to allow time for public input. Howard stated he was concerned with the low attendance at the public meeting in West Liberty. McCullough stated there was better attendance at the Muscatine meeting and the online survey had good response. Furlong asked if there were any significant changes from the last plan. McCullough stated most of the changes were refinements in areas of drainage issues, stormwater, revisiting zoning ordinances and other ordinances. McCullough stated changes were made in environmental health adding quite a few items regarding partnering with other organizations and looking at the potential for green building conditions and energy conservation measures within building codes and County facilities. Furlong stated the Board has discussed not allowing subdivisions on roads that are not hard surface and asked where that would fit into the Comprehensive Plan. McCullough stated that would be part of the next step when ordinances are reviewed as to whether or not they meet the needs of the County.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, the Board approved an Amendment to the Muscatine County Comprehensive Plan Update Agreement for Services Between Bi-State Regional Commission and Muscatine County. Ayes: All.

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met as a Board of Canvassers for the Louisa-Muscatine Community School District Physical Plant and Equipment Levy Special Election held on Tuesday, September 9, 2014. The Board certified the following results to be a true and correct abstract of the votes cast in the election: Yes Votes: 182; No Votes: 187; Total Votes: 369. The measure was not adopted.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, the Board approved a renewal application for a Class C Native Wine (WCN), Sunday Sales and Outdoor Service Area Permit for Ardon Creek Vineyard & Winery, LLC, 2391 Independence Avenue, Letts, IA 52754. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, minutes of the Monday, September 8, 2014 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Howard and Furlong reported contacts regarding road issues.

Howard reported a contact from a property owner concerned about property taxes.

Howard reported a contact from a citizen regarding vacancies on the Veterans Affairs Commission.

Kelly, Sauer and Howard reported a contact from a Veterans Affairs Commission member discussing their recommendation for filling vacancies on the Commission.

Committee Reports:

Kelly attended a Seventh Judicial District meeting September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Furlong and Howard attended a Muscatine County Landfill Finance Management Committee meeting September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Kelly, Sauer, Howard and Sorensen attended the Farm Bureau Annual Meeting September 11<sup>th</sup>. Howard attended a Fruitland City Council meeting September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Information Services Director Bill Riley updated the Board on website redesign reporting that CivicPlus is offering another training session on September 18<sup>th</sup> from 1PM - 5 PM to help users. Riley stated that CivicPlus is making recommended changes, but that for now Muscatine County Conservation is going to stay on their own website.

County Engineer Keith White reported that FEMA came last Wednesday for the kick off meeting and will be back this week to work on the 2014 event.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Furlong, the Board approved Resolution #09-15-14-01 Authorizing and Approving a Loan Agreement with Central State Bank and Providing for the Issuance of a \$1,500,000 General Obligation County Purpose Note, Series 2014, and Providing for the Levy of Taxes to Pay the Same. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

Discussion was held regarding applications received from Brandy Wedekind, Allen Kilberger, Pamela Snider, Tamara Wagner, Paul Williamson and Kimberly Dickens for

three vacant positions on the Veterans Affairs Commission. Paul Wedel, Commissioner, stated that these appointments are important because they are possibly replacing three of the five commission members. Wedel stated they had the Veteran Affairs Director Jennifer Watkins-Schoenig participate in the interview process of the candidates. Wedel stated he, George Alt, Veterans Affairs Commission Chairperson, and Jennifer Watkins-Schoenig, Director, recommend Brandy Wedekind, Allen Kilberger and Paula Williamson for the positions. Furlong stated he has an issue with appointing members that do not live in Muscatine County as they do not vote or pay taxes here and historically, most organizations appoint members that live within the County. Wedel stated he understands the issue, but they want members that support the Veterans and are interested in serving. Furlong stated he still disagrees. Howard stated he wants members that will be best suited for the Commission. Sorensen stated he would love to see a Muscatine County representative, but he is interested in supporting the Commission if the Commission feels these are the best candidates for the position. Sauer stated anyone in the State of Iowa can apply, the Commission interviewed every single applicant and selected the applicants they thought were best and although he would like to see Muscatine County residents, he will support what the Commission has recommended. Kelly stated she would like them to all be Muscatine County residents, but that one is just across the street from Muscatine County and she could support the one that is in Muscatine County and the one across the street from the County. George Alt, stated the third candidate that also lives just outside the County is the Adjutant to the VFW here in Muscatine and is also an American Legion member. Furlong stated that the Muscatine County candidates are also well qualified. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, Allen Kilberger, Brandy Wedekind and Paula Williamson were appointed to the Veterans Affairs Commission for a 3-year term ending June 30, 2017. Ayes: Kelly, Sauer, Howard and Sorensen. Nay: Furlong.

The Board reviewed the health/dental fund balance as of August 31, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 A.M.

ATTEST:

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Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

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Robert E. Howard, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors