

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, December 5, 2016

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

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

On a motion by Howard, second by Sauer, claims dated December 5, 2016 were approved in the amount of \$449,641.24. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with County Engineer Keith White regarding damage to Iron City Avenue and adjacent water control structure. White stated the County's options range from doing nothing to constructing a levee although he does not think a levee is the County's business. White stated he assumes the County is looking at fixing the road at a minimum and maybe the berm. Howard asked if the County owned the berm. White stated some of the berm sets on private property and some in road right-of-way, but the County does not own the right-of-way. Sauer asked if there is any potential of receiving funds from FEMA. White stated the County did not qualify for FEMA funding for this event. White confirmed the berm is not a levee. White stated there are two holes to repair that would take about 20,000 cubic yards of material and would probably not be bid out until Spring. Louis Broders, Levee District #17 Trustee, stated the levee district stops at the railroad right-of-way. Broders stated he believes 90% of the berm is in the County right-of-way. Sauer stated it seems to make sense to extend the levee district down to Hwy 22. Keith Barnhart, Levee District #17 Trustee, stated the levee district wanted to extend to Hwy 22, but found it was too expensive an endeavor and was not as simple as it seemed. Broders stated he had warned the County that the berm needed to be maintained and the lack of maintenance of the berm is what caused the breach. Sorensen stated part of the challenge is the County is supposed to spend their funds on roads, not levees. Sorensen asked what the hurdles were in 2008 of getting this structure added to the levee district. Barnhart stated the levee district did not have the funds for the approximately \$50,000 cost of legal fees and surveys of the entire area. Kelly asked if it is possible for the County to do the surveying. White stated it is possible, but he would be losing a lot of staff time that he does not have to lose. White stated it would also be a conflict of interest for the County Engineer to be involved in establishing a levee district. Sauer stated with the frequency of the events, it would appear to him that a 17 foot levee isn't working. Barnhart stated landowners are willing to support a 17 foot levee and repair it when it fails. Broders stated it is a bad idea to wait for Spring to fill the holes because it will be hard to find the material that is not still frozen before flooding begins. Sorensen stated the challenge for the Board is that they do not know what they can do or when they can do it. Broders asked how the County decided to spend a lot of money on drive overs when they could have filled the holes with sand periodically. Broders believes the drive overs put stress on the rest of the levee. White stated there were multiple trips every year to fill the holes so the County determined it was better to build the drive overs. Broders asked if

there is a way to speed up the bidding process to get the holes repaired sooner. White stated State projects take a year or two for development to get to bidding and although this would not be a State project, it would still take months. Sorensen stated in order to do this project, they would have to not do another project. Broders stated it is not a major undertaking to fill the hole. Sauer stated he still does not see how this can be a long term fix without running the levee district down to Hwy 22. Sorensen stated the County will fix the road, but to what degree is yet to be determined. Broders stated the levee district could help fix the berm if the Board wanted to speed up the process. Sorensen stated he still thinks the County needs to see how they can help to get the berm into the levee district. Sorensen stated the County can move forward on the road repairs with the assumption that the berm and levee get repaired and the levee district long term would be extended to Hwy 22. White asked if the Board is interested in the option of having the levee district repair the berm. Barnhart stated the trustees would have to hold a meeting with the levee district to consider that option. Broders stated the levee district can probably repair it to what it was prior to the event within a week. Sorensen stated he is committed to the road as long as the road is protected by a levee district. Howard stated he does not want to own a levee, but he does want to fix the road. Board consensus was to move forward with repairs and hire the levee district to get the repairs done subject to levee district approval. Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber was directed to look into seeing if it is possible for the County to assist with costs associated with extending the levee district.

County Engineer Keith White updated the Board on Secondary Road projects.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sauer, minutes of the November 28, 2016 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

No correspondence was noted.

There were no Committee Reports.

Sorensen attended the League of Women Voters Nitrate Reduction Strategy Water Quality Presentation November 29th.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sauer, the Chairperson was authorized to execute a revised Letter of Understanding – Animal Control Agreement between the Muscatine Police Department and the Muscatine County Sheriff's Office. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Howard, second by Kelly, a public hearing was set for Monday, December 19, 2016 at 9:00 A.M. on a confinement feeding operation expansion construction permit application from Doug & Nic Site, Section 5, Orono Township. Ayes: All.

Howard reported Muscatine County Community Services Food Pantry is in need of plastic bags.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 A.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Robert E. Howard, Vice-Chairperson
Board of Supervisors