

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, March 13, 2017

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

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

On a motion by Howard, second by Sauer, claims dated March 13, 2017 were approved in the amount of \$464,380.43. Ayes: All.

Louisa County Emergency Management Director Staci Griffin updated the Board on Muscatine County damages from the March 6, 2017 tornado. Muscatine County Dispatcher Chris Jasper stated 6 homes were destroyed, 21 homes had major damage and 80 homes were impacted with minor damage. Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber stated County owned buildings and vehicles sustained approximately \$100,000 in damage. On a motion by Howard, second by Bonebrake, the Board affirmed the disaster declaration executed by the Board of Supervisor Chair on March 7, 2017. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Howard, second by Mather, the Board approved a contract for 2017, 2018 and 2019 with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for patrol services at the Mississippi River Project, Clark's Ferry and Shady Creek Recreation Areas. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Bonebrake, the Board approved a contract, bond and certificate of insurance for a Cold Storage Building to be constructed at 3610 Park Avenue West from Greinier Buildings in the amount of \$254,000.00. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Bonebrake, second by Sauer, the Board approved an agreement with the Iowa DOT to utilize local county roads X43, G34 and X61 for incident management temporary detour routes due to construction on Hwy 61. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Howard, the following utility permit was approved: Eastern Iowa Light and Power – install electric lines on 220th Street east and west of Atwood Avenue. Ayes: All.

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

On a motion by Sauer, second by Mather, the Board approved a renewal application for a Class C Beer, Liquor, Sunday Sales Privilege and Outdoor Service Permit for West Liberty Golf and Country Club, 1248 Country Heights Lane, West Liberty, Iowa. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Howard, second by Sauer, minutes of the March 6, 2017 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Howard, Mather, Bonebrake and Sorensen reported several contacts about the Old Barn. Bonebrake reported a contact regarding vacated County roads.

No committee reports were noted.

Mather, Sorensen and Sauer met with Friends of the Old Barn March 8th. Howard participated in a Norstar Focus Group Community Branding Session March 7th. Sorensen participated in a Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce Community Branding Session March 8th.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas updated the Board on the Water Main Project at the old DHS location.

Discussion was held regarding requests from Friends of the Old Barn for continued use of the Old Barn and cottage, adding usage of the metal outbuilding, possible transfer of ownership of these properties to Friends of the Old Barn and possible lease of adjacent ground. Chairperson Sorensen stated in the request there was an area blocked out that included the maintenance shed that General Services uses that Friends of the Old Barn would like to lease. Howard stated he would like the Board to decide what their plan is for that area before making these decisions. Sorensen stated the road is a concern to him due to the damage to the road that will be incurred with the demolition of the DHS building. Sorensen stated if that ground is turned over to Conservation, they may want the road removed and turned to grass. Sorensen stated he is not interested in transferring ownership of any ground to Friends of the Old Barn. Mather agreed there are a lot of loose ends that need to be resolved before making these decisions. Mather suggested holding off on any decisions until the demolition of the DHS building is complete. Sauer stated he is not in favor of any land transfer and he is unsure about transfer of ownership of the Old Barn. Sauer stated for any sizable event a single restroom in the cottage would be inadequate. Sauer stated parking would have to be addressed to insure parking for the Discovery Park shelter that is leased is not devoured by events at the Old Barn. Shelley Maharry, representative for Friends of the Old Barn, stated they have the resources available to restore simple connection of utilities to the cottage, but depending on the proposed use of the cottage, simple connection may not be the best solution. Conservation Director Curt Weiss stated his short term goal would be to close off the road with a long term goal of removing the road. Weiss

stated his plan would be to access that area from the park road system if they put any shelters out there. Howard stated he has no plan to tear down the Old Barn. Board consensus was ownership of the land will not be transferred to Friends of the Old Barn. Sorensen stated he is agreeable to transferring the building, if there is a way to do it legally. Maharry stated Friends of the Old Barn would like to own the buildings and have a long term lease on the use of the land. Board consensus was to wait to make decisions until the demolition of the DHS has progressed further, but the demolition of the cottage decision has to be made before the demolition of the DHS building is completed. Maharry asked if Friends of the Old Barn has satisfied the requirement to have a plan to restore the utilities to the cottage. Sorensen stated he feels they have a plan for restoring utilities, but the Board needs to get input from the Conservation Board to decide what the best step forward is for that property. Mather asked if the plans for utilities are still viable if the cottage is demolished. Maharry stated all of their plans have connected the utilities utilizing the cottage as the hub and then running the utilities off of that. Maharry stated porta potties would have to be brought in for larger events. Weiss stated if the Old Barn is utilized for events, Conservation would probably just keep that area as green space because you would not want two venues so close together with events going on at the same time. Bonebrake asked Weiss about taking over the Old Barn and using it like a shelter. Weiss stated he would have a tough time recommending to the Conservation that they take over the Old Barn due to the upkeep it would take, but he has no problem with Friends of the Old Barn having events at the Old Barn as long as the park is not negatively impacted. Bonebrake has a hard time seeing how a venue like the Old Barn is not going to impact the park or the residences around it because of traffic and noise. Maharry stated the outcome that has occurred is that the supporters want to fund the Old Barn, but there is uncertainty that their support will be utilized for the Old Barn if the Board decides not to keep it. Board consensus was to get more information from Conservation before putting this item back on the agenda.

On a motion by Mather, second by Bonebrake, the Board set a public hearing for Monday, April 3, 2017 at 9:00 A.M. on proposed amendments to the Muscatine County Zoning Ordinance to add Outdoor Shooting Ranges as a permitted special use in A-1 Agricultural District. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Howard, second by Sauer, the Board accepted a proposal from the Office of the Auditor of State for Muscatine County auditing services for FY16/17 (\$54,100), FY17/18 (\$55,350) and FY18/19 (\$56,600). Ayes: All.

The Board reviewed the health/dental fund balance as of February 28, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors