

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, May 15, 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 Mather, the agenda was approved as amended. Ayes: All.

William Hopkins, 3395 Pearl Street, Muscatine, asked if the County has plans to replace the culvert or fix the landslide behind his property in Fairport. County Engineer Keith White stated there are no current plans for this area. Hopkins stated he used his tractor to create a berm so the water would run into the culvert and not across the road. Hopkins stated it could use some more dirt so the land will not continue to slip. Hopkins stated the road is only clay with no rock. Hopkins asked if slag could be added to the road. Hopkins stated he has COPD and would like to have something done to keep the dust down and this cannot happen if the road is all clay. White stated when the Road Department receives a dust control permit they prepare the area for dust control and if they do not receive a permit they do not know to prepare the road. White stated the permits are due by May 1st so they have time to prepare the road before dust control work begins. White stated he will take a look at the area under discussion later today.

Discussion was held regarding Articles of Agreement Creating the Lower Cedar Watershed Management Authority. Sorensen stated Watershed Management Authorities are being created so all Governmental entities along a watershed can work together on projects and plans that will benefit the entire watershed. Sorensen stated some of the details still need to be worked out. Sorensen stated the County is not committing any funds or resources at this time. On a motion by Howard, second by Bonebrake, the Board approved Resolution #05-15-07-01 Approving the Articles of Agreement Creating the Lower Cedar Watershed Management Authority. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with Emergency Communications and Emergency Management Director Matt Shook regarding what to do with the a tower located on the Houser Street property to be placed under the management of the Conservation Board for the park. Sorensen stated the tower, which currently serves as paging support for Rural Fire, is an eyesore in the park. County Engineer Keith White stated the tower also serves radios for Secondary Roads. In response to a question from Sauer, Shook stated moving the equipment to the tower at MCC is the most cost effective solution. Shook stated another option would be incorporate the rural fire departments into the Countywide P25 system. Shook stated this option would be approximately four times the cost of just moving the equipment to a different tower. In response to a question from Sorensen, Shook stated the proposal presented does not address moving the County Engineer's radio service. Sorensen stated the long term question is should Secondary Roads change to using the same P25 system as Emergency Management. Shook stated the national trend is moving Public Works to a P25 platform because they are an integral part of disaster response and the County's system is capable of handling all of the users in the County. Shook stated the majority of the cost would be purchasing new equipment. White stated their equipment has been in place since the beginning of 2013 and the Motorola Turbo radios are fully digital with GPS tracking. White stated they have 50 radios in use.

Conservation Director Curt Weiss stated the Houser Street tower at the park is a safety concern for the public. Weiss stated they are concerned people will try to climb the tower or may run into the guide wires. Weiss stated his staff could put up a chain link fence but the materials will need to be purchased. White stated there are also unused towers at their Ward Avenue, Nichols and Park Avenue West locations. The Board directed Weiss to look into the cost of building safety fencing around the tower and guide wires at the park on Houser Street. The Board directed Shook to obtain estimates on moving Secondary Roads equipment to MCC or another suitable location, including ongoing annual costs; obtain estimates on converting Secondary Roads equipment to the P25 system, including ongoing annual costs; determine the resale value on the Secondary Roads Motorola equipment; obtain estimates on moving the Rural Fire paging system to MCC or another suitable location, including ongoing annual costs; obtain estimates on converting Rural Fire paging to the P25 system, including ongoing annual costs; confirm that no County equipment is still in use at the Ward Avenue grader shed, at the Nichols grader shed and on the Atalissa water tower; obtain cost estimates to demolish the towers at the park on Houser Street, at the Ward Avenue grader shed, at the Nichols grader shed and at the Park Avenue West facility; obtain cost estimates to remove any remaining equipment from the Atalissa water tower; and obtain the estimated ongoing annual cost to maintain the Houser Street tower and shed.

On a motion by Howard, second by Sauer, the following utility permit was approved: Windstream Iowa Communications, Inc. – bore under the road and run cable to 1185 and 1197 Vail Avenue.

Muscatine County Engineer Keith White updated the Board on various road projects.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas updated the Board on the newly enacted fireworks legislation. Furnas stated the law provides for the sale and use of consumer grade fireworks and establishes provisions and definitions. Furnas stated a permanent structure can offer consumer grade fireworks for retail sale from June 1st to July 8th and from December 10th to January 3rd all dates inclusive. Furnas stated a temporary structure can offer sales from June 13th to July 8th. Furnas stated the law provides for use and display of fireworks from June 1st to July 8th and from December 10th to January 3rd between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Furnas stated the allowable time for fireworks displays is extended to 11:00 p.m. on the Saturdays and Sundays immediately preceding and following July 4th and December 31st. Furnas stated the Code requires that anyone selling fireworks must have insurance to obtain a State License and mandates that a sales structure, under the review of the State Fire Marshal, must meet National Fire Protection Association standards. Furnas asked if the Board wanted to add the sale of fireworks as a standard or special permitted use to the Zoning Ordinance. In response to a question from Mather, Furnas stated due to time constraints the Zoning Commission could not implement any Ordinance changes that would take effect before the initial fireworks sales period in June. Board consensus was to wait and see what happens this year.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, minutes of the May 8, 2017 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Howard reported a contact regarding fireworks.

Committee Reports:

Mather attended an Eastern Iowa Mental Health Region meeting May 8th.

Mather attended a Seventh Judicial District correctional meeting May 12th.

Howard, Mather and Sauer attended the annual Wilton Chamber of Commerce luncheon May 8th. Howard attended the Fruitland City Council meeting May 9th.

On a motion by Howard, second by Bonebrake, the Board approved Resolution #05-15-17-02 Transferring Funds from the Mental Health Fund to the Case Management Fund in the amount of \$27,832.00. Ayes: All

On a motion by Howard, second by Bonebrake, the Board set a public hearing for Monday, June 5, 2017 at 9:00 A.M. on plans, specifications, form of contract and cost estimate for the Community Services/DHS Parking Lot project. Ayes: All.

Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber stated because Devonne Hartford from Wellmark was not able to come to the meeting today and because of timing issues she will sign the renewal documents from Wellmark. Schreiber stated the County sets its own rates and the projected administrative costs increase is 2.36%. Schreiber stated she will reschedule the Wellmark presentation to the Board.

Sorensen asked what impact the Mental Health legislation had on the County's levy rate. Schreiber stated the original Mental Health levy dropped from 93 cents to 68 cents. Schreiber stated no Board action is required because the County is mandated to make the reduction. Schreiber stated the Urban levy dropped from 7.82 per thousand to 7.58 and the Rural levy dropped from 10.30 per thousand to 10.12.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 A.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors