

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, July 31, 2017

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

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

Pat Corriell, 1541 Kelly Avenue, Atalissa, stated on her drive into town to attend the Board meeting she noted the peaceful and serene setting of an area cited in a recent Iowa City Press Citizen newspaper article regarding the Pike Run Wildlife Area. Corrielle presented a copy of the article to the Board. Faye Petersen, 501 N. Clay Street, West Liberty, stated she is opposed to the site selected on 170th Street in rural West Liberty for the proposed County Shooting Range. Petersen stated there are four routes to the location and all are gravel roads and at least one is a West Liberty School bus route.

On a motion by Howard, second by Bonebrake, claims dated July 31, 2017 were approved in the amount of \$775,489.21. Ayes: All.

Marc Haney, owner/operator of a computer repair business, spoke to the Board regarding Muscatine County's Home Occupation Ordinance definition, requirements, restrictions and enforcement. Haney stated, due to declining health issues he moved his business to his barn in rural Muscatine about a year and a half ago. Haney stated it took about a year for his business to get to a point where it was making an income again. Haney stated since he was asked to take his signs down a few months ago he has lost over 80 percent of his business. Haney stated his home-based business is his primary source of income and he stated it isn't fair for him to lose his main source of income over a sign. Haney stated there are multiple businesses in his area alone, within miles, which have operated far longer and more blatantly, with no penalty and are zoned the same as his property. Haney stated he wondered why the other businesses are exempt. Haney stated he feels the 30 year old ordinance is outdated, since at the time the ordinance was written there were 8 million home businesses and there are over 40 million today, representing a 500 percent increase. Haney stated he would like to see the code amended to allow signage. Haney stated he would like to see the ordinance regulated equally for everyone. Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas reviewed the Home Occupation Ordinance's objective and restrictions. Furnas stated he believes the signage issue is to protect the surrounding area from having an appearance of a full-fledged commercial business. Furnas stated other home-based businesses are allowed to use signage in the county, a couple in the immediate vicinity near Haney's residence. Furnas stated they were granted variances to exceed what the Home Occupation Ordinance would typically allow. Furnas stated in his opinion the variances were poorly granted and did not establish the creation of an undue hardship on the property due to the restrictions of the zoning ordinance. The Board directed Planning and Zoning to look at the Home Occupation Ordinance regarding the issue of signage.

Discussion was held with Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas on an agreement between the Muscatine County Board of Health and the Iowa Department of Public Health to continue the Iowa Grants to Counties Program for well testing, well plugging and well reconstruction activities. Furnas stated the county will see an increase of \$4,082 in what the state offers this year over what was offered the past two years. On a motion by Howard, second by Bonebrake, the Board affirmed Contract #5888AW61 Iowa Grants to Counties from the Iowa Department of Public Health for well testing, well plugging and well reconstruction activities in the amount of \$30,612.00 for FY 2017/18. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Howard, second by Mather, the Board approved Iowa DOT Agreement No. 05-17-STP-S-034 Pavement Rehabilitation and Restoration on County Road G28 (231st Street) from High Prairie Road to near the intersection of the U.S. 61. County Engineer Keith White stated the agreement is the standard federal aid agreement needed to be in place before moving forward with the project. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Howard, second by Bonebrake, the following utility permit was approved: Alliant Energy – repair two washouts on Bancroft Avenue on the south and north sides of the intersection with 140th Street. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Howard, second by Mather, the following utility permit was approved: Board of Water, Electric & Communications Trustees – fiber optic cable along N. Mulberry Avenue between Hummingbird Lane and Sunflower Ridge. Ayes: All.

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

On a motion by Howard, second by Sauer, minutes of the Monday, July 24, 2017 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

All Board Members received a letter from Erica Blair, representing Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement requesting support for proposed revisions to the Master Matrix concerning hog confinement management.

All Board Members received an invitation to attend a meeting on August 7th at 1:30 P.M. at Muscatine City Hall regarding the proposed voluntary annexation from White Distribution and Supply on behalf of Alpha Morehouse on a 4.18-acre one lot subdivision in the 3900 Block of Park Avenue West.

All Board Members received several contacts regarding the proposed outdoor shooting range.

All Board Members received a copy of a letter from Attorney Craig Nierman as a follow-up to the Board's request for information Nierman recently referenced regarding accessibility requirements for the proposed County Shooting Range.

Sauer received a contact regarding the Fruitland paving project.
Sauer received a contact regarding the Home Occupation Ordinance and signage issues.
Mather received a contact concerning silting-in of ditches on Davis Avenue.

Committee Reports:

Howard and Sorensen attended a Bi-State Regional meeting July 26th.
Sorensen attended a West Liberty Economic Area Development monthly meeting July 27th.

Sorensen attended an Iowa Tax Association meeting sponsored by the Muscatine Chamber on July 27th.

On a motion by Howard, second by Bonebrake, the Board authorized the Chair to execute a contract with All American Concrete, Inc. for the Muscatine Community Services Building Parking Lot Project in the amount of \$175,439.00. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the Board set a public hearing on the proposed Muscatine County Community Services Building Exterior Window and Door Replacement Project and cost estimate for Monday, August 21, 2017 at 9:00 A.M. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Bonebrake, second by Sauer, the Board accepted the July 2017 payroll claims. Ayes: All.

The Board reviewed the health/dental fund balance as of June 30, 2017. Sorensen stated the County fund balance grew 7-7½ percent this year. The Board directed Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber to investigate the possibility of establishing a Health Savings Account program.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors