

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, March 25, 2019

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

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

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, claims dated March 25, 2019 were approved in the amount of \$369,418.94. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with Muscatine County Conservation Director Curt Weiss regarding a grant application to the Community Foundation for \$1,000. Weiss stated the funds would be used towards the Fall Conference of the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards being held in Muscatine this year. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved a grant application to the Community Foundation in the amount of \$1,000. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Holliday, the Board approved Resolution #03-25-19-01 Opposing Senate Study Bill 1045 and Senate File 184 Passed by the Senate Committee on Transportation. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

**RESOLUTION #03-25-19-01
OPPOSING SENATE STUDY BILL 1045 AND SENATE FILE 184 PASSED BY THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

WHEREAS, the Transportation Committee in the Iowa Senate has passed House Study Bill 1045 (SF 184) which would amend and make changes to Iowa Code Chapter 321 related to transportation of indivisible loads and raw forestry products on primary and non-primary highways, and;

WHEREAS, Muscatine County owns and maintains nonprimary highways, and is fiscally and legally responsible for the nonprimary highways within the County, and;

WHEREAS, Muscatine County owns and maintains 138 structures classified as bridges by the National Bridge Inspection Standards, and;

WHEREAS, many of the bridges owned by Muscatine County are aging and structurally deficient or functionally obsolete, and;

WHEREAS, current funding is not adequate to replace or rehabilitate these bridges at the rate their conditions are deteriorating, and;

WHEREAS, the nonprimary roads and bridges owned by Muscatine County serve a critical need for residents, agricultural users, businesses, schools, post offices, and emergency responders, and;

WHEREAS, the proposed bill would allow the Iowa Department of Transportation to issue annual permits to forestry industry haulers for loads up to 130,000 pounds on nonprimary highways throughout Iowa, without knowledge of or notice given to the agencies which own these highways and the structures thereon, and;

WHEREAS, bridges within Muscatine County have been designed for loads that were legal on Iowa roads at the time of their construction, and bridges have only been rated or posted with weight restrictions for loads that are currently legal on roads, and;

WHEREAS, each bridge within Muscatine County is unique based on its age, design, and current condition, and;

WHEREAS, load rating to ensure safe passage of loads greater than 80,000 pounds would be unique for each load on each individual bridge, and;

WHEREAS, the traversing of Muscatine County bridges by loads up to 130,000 pounds without the County being afforded the knowledge of or the ability to restrict each occurrence, would result in gradual and possibly sudden failure of bridges within the County, and;

WHEREAS, Muscatine County would likely bear legal and financial liability for subsequent failure of its bridges, even if such failures are caused by loads they did not permit, and;

WHEREAS, Muscatine County is not financially able to repair or replace bridges which would be subject to accelerated deterioration by increased loads, and;

WHEREAS, Muscatine County and its residents, farmers, businesses, schools, post offices, and emergency responders, would be subjected to undue operational and economic hardships by further degradation of its road system and the structures thereon;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors strongly urges all Iowa lawmakers to vote in opposition to this legislation.

PASSED and APPROVED this 25th day of March, 2019.

ATTEST:

/s/Leslie A. Soule
Muscatine County Auditor

/s/Nathan Mather, Chairperson
Muscatine County Board of Supervisors

County Engineer Keith White updated the Board on secondary road projects and flooding issues. White informed the Board that Bandag says they need another two weeks to review the right-of-way agreement for the G28 project and he has not heard from Lutheran Living so the project probably will not happen this year. White stated 152nd Street has a lot of damage from the flooding of the Cedar River. White stated Saulsbury Road also has some flood damage.

County Engineer Keith White presented Iowa Department of Transportation bid letting results for Project #70-C070-066 RCB Culvert Replacement on North Isett Avenue North of F70 as

follows: McCulley Culvert, Inc. - \$253,195.50; Iowa Bridge & Culvert, LC - \$264,171.40; Tschiggfrie Excavating Co. - \$328,775.75; and Boomerang Corp. - \$347,195.00. White stated the two low bids are reasonable bids.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, minutes of the March 18, 2019 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Saucedo reported contacts regarding road conditions which he forwarded to the County Engineer.

Holiday, Sauer and Mather reported an email from Steve Leahy concerned about rock in the ditches.

Holliday reported a contact from Jim Meredith who was satisfied with the grading of Bayfield Road.

Sorensen reported a letter from Iowa Workforce Development regarding possible realignment decreasing the number of Regions from 15 down to 6.

Committee Reports:

Holliday attended a Muscatine County Fair Board meeting March 21st.

Sauer attended a Muscatine County Conservation Board meeting March 18th.

Sauer attended a Riverbend Transit Board meeting March 20th.

Sauer attended a Muscatine Board of Health meeting March 20th.

Sauer and Sorensen attended a Region IX Transportation Board meeting March 22nd.

Mather attended a Muscatine County Veteran Affairs meeting March 19th.

Mather attended an Eastern Iowa MH/DD Region meeting March 18th.

Emergency Manager Brian Wright updated the Board on flooding levels. Wright stated sirens will be activated for a statewide tornado drill this Wednesday, March 27th at 10:15 A.M.

County Engineer Keith White stated the Governor's Office is considering offering counties \$500,000 to use towards rock due to the effect weather has had on county roads.

Emergency Manager Brian Wright stated the Governor has issued a disaster declaration for 56 counties flooded on the West side of the State.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 A.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Nathan Mather, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors