

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, January 10, 2022

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

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

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Holliday, claims dated January 10, 2022 were approved in the amount of \$464,006.16. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Holliday, the Board approved Ordinance #01-10-22-01 Redefining the County Supervisor Districts and Election Precincts for Muscatine County on the third and final reading. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Sorensen, Sauer and Holliday. Abstain: Mather.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Holliday, the Board approved Ordinance #01-10-22-02 Floodplain Management on the third and final reading. Roll Call Vote: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sorensen, the Board approved the County Recorder's Office Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending December 31, 2021 in the amount of \$79,062.14. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sorensen, the Board approved the County Treasurer's Office Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending December 31, 2021 in the amount of \$134,416.77. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Holliday, the Board approved an updated Muscatine County Investment Policy as recommended by Muscatine County Treasurer Amy Zybarth. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sorensen, minutes of the January 3, 2022 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

All Supervisors received updates from Public Health Director Christy Roby-Williams with COVID updates.

All Supervisors received numerous emails regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Declaration.

All Supervisors received an email regarding the CLG Grant approval for the Muscatine County Historic Preservation.

All Supervisors received a letter from the Iowa City Catholic Workers requesting the Board set aside \$2 million from the American Rescue Act funds for low income and essential workers.

Committee & Meeting Reports:

Mather attended the Muscatine County Health Association meeting on January 5, 2022.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the Board approved re-appointment of Mary Beveridge to the Historic Preservation Commission for a three-year term ending January 1, 2025. Ayes: All.

On motion by Mather, second by Sorensen, the Board approved 2022 appointments to the following Boards and Commissions: Ayes: All.

Bi-State Regional Planning Commission	Sauer and Mather
Bi-State Drug and Alcohol Consortium	Mather
City of Muscatine Transportation Zone Commission	Sauer
Community Volunteer Nominating Committee	Mather
Decategorization Board	Mather
Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region	Sorensen and Saucedo
Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Sauer
Mississippi Valley Workforce Area Board	Mather
Muscatine Community Health Association	Mather
Muscatine County Board of Health (ex-officio)	Sauer
Muscatine County Conservation Board (ex-officio)	Sauer
Muscatine County E911 Service Board	Sorensen
Muscatine County Enterprise Zone Commission	Sauer
Muscatine County Fair Board	Holliday
Muscatine County Flood Control Commission	Holliday and Saucedo
Muscatine County/Muscatine City Joint Administration Board (Emergency Management)	Sorensen
Muscatine County REAP Commission	Sauer
Muscatine County Safety Committee	Holliday
Muscatine County Veterans Affairs Commission (ex-officio)	Mather
Muscatine County Solid Waste Mgmt. Agency	Saucedo
Region 9 Transportation Policy Board	Sorensen
Seventh Judicial District Dept. of Correctional Services Board	Mather
WELEAD (West Liberty Economic Area Development)	Saucedo
Wilton Development Corporation	Holliday
Muscatine County Joint Communications Commission (Standing appointments until Board resolution to change)	Holliday Sorensen
M.A.G.I.C. Board (2 year terms)	Sorensen– term ends 12/31/22 Mather – term ends 12/31/23 Sauer – term ends 12/31/22
River Bend Transit Board of Directors (2 year term)- 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed each month - 10 a.m.	
Lower Cedar Watershed Management Authority	Eric Furnas – primary Jeff Sorensen - alternate
Bi-State Regional Trails Committee	Saucedo and Curt Weiss
Ad Hoc Conference Board Committee	Sauer
Examining Board (Assessor)	Sherry Seright

County Attorney Jim Barry stated the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments related to the OSHA Vaccine Mandate and has not issued a decision in the case. Barry stated Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds issued a press statement on January 7, 2022 stating Iowa OSHA decision was to not implement the vaccine mandate for businesses. Board consensus was to take no further action on the vaccine and test mandate with county employees.

The Board recessed at 9:11 A.M. and reconvened at 9:16 A.M.

GIS Manager Mark Yerington reviewed the FY22/23 MAGIC budget stating there have been structural changes with Muscatine Power & Water (MPW) absorbing the MAGIC organization within their normal operations with a budget for MPW, City of Muscatine and Muscatine County to share the agreements for personnel, operations, ESRI software purchases/maintenance fees and projects. Yerington stated the 2021 completed projects include a new application software for large property assessments; redistricting efforts due to the 2020 census and unknown property identification with on-going work with the County Attorney and Assessor's office. Yerington stated Justin Thomas led the GIS effort with the Muscatine County Redistricting Commission. Yerington stated there is a transition to a hosted environment for the server/equipment with the start of the first active servers in December 2021. Yerington stated the next imagery update should occur in 2024. Yerington stated there will be only one in-person meeting scheduled for October 2022 to discuss the budget.

Several citizens from the West Liberty area, with the aid of a bilingual interrupter, spoke to the Board and referenced the letter they sent to demand that the County invest \$2 million of American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) dollars in an Excluded Workers Fund, to distribute direct assistance to the approximately 1,500 excluded essential workers in Muscatine County who did not receive government financial assistance during the pandemic. The citizens stated their work during the pandemic allowed the economy to continue while risking their lives. Sauer stated the County has an ARPA Request form that will need to be completed and submitted by the January 13, 2022, 12:00 P.M. deadline to have their request reviewed by the Board.

County Attorney James Barry reviewed the FY22/23 budget request for the Attorney's Office stating the budget includes a potential additional full-time legal secretary due to increased work. Barry stated a change in office expense line items with separating litigation expenses and service of papers are a result of service fees paid to the Sheriff's department for better tracking of fees.

County Recorder Sarah Hearst reviewed the FY22/23 budget request for the Recorder's Office stating the only significant change is for digitizing record books so all records will be in one system and the project will be fully completed. Hearst stated she intends to submit an ARPA Request form for the digitizing project costs.

County Treasurer Amy Zybarth reviewed the FY22/23 budget requests for the Treasurer's Office stating no significant changes. Zybarth stated interest on investments is a continued concern with low interest rates. Zybarth stated the local banks are issuing the best rates at this time.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas reviewed the FY22/23 budget request for Zoning/Environmental Services stating small increases to the budget include updated Code books

and publication costs for updating building and electrical codes. Furnas stated the budget shows a trade-in for a motor vehicle depending on availability and trade-in costs. Furnas stated well testings are anticipated to increase this year as the testing numbers have been down due to COVID. Furnas stated the office equipment and furniture budget increase is for storage cabinets.

County Engineer Keith White reviewed the FY22/23 budget for Secondary Roads shows an anticipated beginning balance of approximately \$5 million due to supply chain issues. White stated an increase in the budget for bridges and culvert construction will depend on construction prior to July 2022. White reviewed the roadway maintenance budget stating the asphalt/concrete cost is for overlay work. White stated the snow and ice budget is increased due to material cost increases. White reviewed Capital Expenditure Requests including purchasing one new Tandem Truck with heavy-duty box; one new Tandem Truck; two Motor Graders; one Medium-Duty Truck and one Heavy-Duty Trailer.

The Board recessed at 11:07 A.M. and reconvened at 11:12 A.M.

Information Services Manager Bill Riley reviewed the FY22/23 Information Service's budget. Riley stated there are large purchases included in the budget but are also being requested for ARPA funds. Riley stated the items are based on a security consultant list which includes Nutanix Server Cluster and IntSights (cyber security automated service to detect, analyze and remediate threats before damage). Riley reviewed the on-going expenses based on the budget item requests.

County Auditor Tibe Vander Linden reviewed the FY22/23 Auditor's budget. Vander Linden stated the budget requests include an increase for postage, map preservation (digitizing real estate books), election workers, election equipment and election set up expenses. Vander Linden stated due to redistricting, the county will have two more precincts which requires additional election equipment, laptops and poll workers. Vander Linden stated the amount for digitizing the real estate books will be requested from ARPA funds. Vander Linden stated FY22/23 revenue is lower as there will be no reimbursement for the November 2022 General Election.

Budget Administrator Sherry Seright presented the FY22/23 General Services budget. Seright stated the salary and benefits increase is due to the hiring of a part-time groundskeeper in 2021.

Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber presented the FY22/23 Administration budget with no significant changes.

The Board reviewed the FY21/22 budget request for Court Services with Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber and Budget Administrator Sherry Seright with no significant changes. Seright stated the budget for DHS is lower as employees are working primarily from home.

The Board recessed at 12:29 P.M. and reconvened at 2:00 P.M.

The Board reviewed the FY22/23 budget requests for General Assistance, Mental Health and Veteran Affairs with Muscatine Community Services Director Felicia Toppert and Veterans Affairs Director Jennifer Watkins-Schoenig. Toppert stated budget increases are due to inflation, funeral expenses and increases for rent payment assistance. Toppert reviewed the mental health

budget changes from county funding to state funding. Toppert explained the transition will be funded by the region for all mental health services starting July 1, 2022 with the Department of Management requesting all transfers be made to the region by June 20, 2022. Toppert explained the transition from county to the region is scheduled to begin part of the transfers in March 2022 with June 20, 2022 for the final transfer. Toppert explained the changes to state funding will include time accountability and time studies. Toppert stated the state funding will be higher funding and more resources for our county. Toppert stated the region is implementing a new program for jail-based coordinators. Toppert stated the individual monthly fee for representative payee expenses incurred in providing services has been increased to \$48.00 with Muscatine County currently at \$39.00 per month. Toppert stated discussion to raise the fee to \$45.00 per month has been proposed. Watkins-Schoenig stated veteran appointments have increased and budget increases are related to more services offered.

The Board reviewed the FY22/23 budget request for Medical Examiner with Chief Medical Examiner Investigator Tom Summitt with no significant changes. Summitt stated year 2021 had 369 investigable deaths, 8 suicides and 120 COVID deaths.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:08 P.M.

ATTEST:

---

Tibe Vander Linden  
County Auditor

---

Scott Sauer, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors