

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, September 25, 2023

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

On a motion by Mather, second by Kirchner, the agenda was approved. Ayes: All.

County Attorney Jim Barry addressed the Board regarding the Calhoun-Burns and Associates Feasibility Analysis and Supplement Analysis of Bridge No. 319 on 245<sup>th</sup> St., Conesville, IA. Barry noted the committee has completed their work on the bridge analysis. He recommended the Board hold a public meeting to review the findings. Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber announced she will work with the Board to schedule a date, time and location for the meeting. Schreiber suggested an evening meeting at the Discovery Center. Barry stated the analysis information will be published on the County website for the public to review.

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met as a Board of Canvassers in order to canvass two public measures for the Louisa-Muscatine Community School District Special Election held Tuesday, September 12, 2023, for which Muscatine County is the control county. The Board of Canvassers certified the following results to be a true and correct abstract of the votes cast in the elections:

Public Measure A received a total of Two Hundred and Forty-Four (244) votes. Yes received One Hundred and Ninety-One (191) votes and No received Fifty Three (53) votes. Public Measure A passed.

Public Measure B received a total of Two Hundred and Forty-One (241) votes. Yes received One Hundred and Seventy Eight (178) votes, No received Sixty Three (63) votes and there were Three (3) undervotes. Public Measure B passed.

On a motion by Kirchner, second by Mather, the Board approved the minutes of the September 18, 2023 regular meeting. Ayes: All.

#### Correspondence.

All Supervisors received several contacts from residents regarding the proposed law enforcement training facility and shooting range.

All Supervisors received an email regarding suggested amendments to the County wind ordinance.

All Supervisors received an invitation for the Clean Grid Alliance Solar 101 Event.

Mather received an email from Margaret Hurlbert, the grant writer for the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine, about securing grant funding for the Courthouse Roof Project.

#### Committee & Meeting Reports:

Sauer attended the Muscatine County Conservation Board meeting on September 18, 2023.

Sauer attended the Riverbend Transit Board of Directors meeting on September 20, 2023.

Kirchner attended the Muscatine County Fair Board meeting on September 21, 2023.

On a motion by Mather, second by Kirchner, the Board approved the appointment of John Kiwala to the Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission for a term ending January 1, 2026. Ayes: All

On a motion by Mather, second by Kirchner, the Board approved a hiring request for Paul Choi as Assistant County Attorney at \$105,982.00 (ACA – Step 7) with a proposed start date of October 9, 2023. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kirchner, second by Mather, the Board approved September 2023 payroll claims. Ayes: All

Community Services Director Felicia Toppert announced to the Board she is retiring on February 16, 2024. Toppert recommended the Board allow Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber to hire someone to fill her position prior to her retirement date. Schreiber stated it is important for a minimum two month overlap in the hiring of a new Director so training and the transition of guardianships can happen seamlessly. The Board thanked Toppert for her outstanding work with the County.

Laura Curtis Kramer, 1670 N Mulberry Rd, addressed the Board stating the opposition to the law enforcement training facility and shooting range has not faded. She stated most of the people who oppose the training facility work during the day so they can't always be at the Board of Supervisor's weekly meetings. Kramer stated she had emailed the Board of Supervisors on September 15, 2023, which the Board acknowledged receiving during the September 18, 2023 meeting, but she had not received any response from them. Kramer asked the Board to put the law enforcement training facility and shooting range back on the agenda for a re-vote. Kramer asked if there was a public meeting for the training facility prior to the Board's vote on approving the purchase of the land. She continued, if there was not a public meeting, she suggested the Board have a public meeting and put the training facility back on the agenda for a re-vote. Sauer stated the Zoning Commission is holding a public meeting on October 6, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. The meeting is being held at the Discovery Center, which will have the space needed to accommodate the public. Kramer stated she understands that meeting is planned but suggested the Board rescind their prior votes and hold a public meeting prior to re-voting on the issue.

Mike Marston, 2484 150<sup>th</sup> St., addressed the Board regarding the law enforcement training facility and shooting range, stating the gun range was going to be right behind his property (as the crow flies). He stated if the Board doesn't live in that area, they don't understand how sound travels. He also stated there will be eight-foot (8') berms on each side of the shooting range and twenty-foot (20') berms that law enforcement would be shooting into and there is a drainage section directly east of the proposed build site for these berms. Marston states this section drains into the Nature Conservatory and Mosquito Creek. Marston believes if the County digs down ten feet (10') they will be into the water table. He asked how the County plans to line a pond to protect it from lead while it's filling up with water. Marston also believes that property values

will be affected negatively by the building of this facility.

Ted Dickey, 1744 N Tipton Rd, addressed the Board asking why the law enforcement training facility and shooting range was proposed to be built on flat ground when the County has a bluff that can be used as a natural shooting berm. He stated the Isaac Walton shooting range uses a natural sand berm to shoot into and there isn't any concern for stray bullets. Dickey stated the noise from the Isaac Walton shooting range is annoying, however it is safe. He feels the proposed training facility location is dangerous because of the families who live around the area. Dickey asked the Board if they had given any thought into what the future life of the property owners in the surrounding area would be like living near the proposed facility.

Kristine Schroeder, 2400 155<sup>th</sup> St., addressed the Board regarding the proposed law enforcement training facility and shooting range. Schroeder stated from her property she can see and hear the Isaac Walton shooting range. She states shooting starts as early as 8:00am and sometimes goes into the night. Schroeder stated she can hear the voices of the shooters as well as the traffic from them as they are coming and going. She stated she does not want another shooting range a mile and a half from her property. Sauer asked her if she has ever asked anyone to come to the Isaac Walton shooting range to experience it. Schroeder said she has asked a Muscatine City Council member to look toward her property while he is out on the range and to think about what she experiences while they are yelling "pull", firing their guns and the lights they use, that are visible from her property.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 A.M.

ATTEST:

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Tibe Vander Linden  
Muscatine County Auditor

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Scott Sauer, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors