

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, December 4, 2023

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

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

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission Member Lynn Pruitt reviewed the Historic Fruit and Vegetable Industry CLG Grant application process and the proposed Underground Railroad Intensive Survey and stated the importance to document the history while it is still available.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board authorized the Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission to apply for a CLG Grant in the amount of \$11,800.00 with a cash match of \$1,361.00, to support a Historic Fruit and Vegetable Industry Survey. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sorensen, the Board authorized the Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission to support the Muscatine City Historic Preservation Commission in their proposed Underground Railroad Intensive Survey, at no cost to Muscatine County, as volunteer staff will conduct the survey. Ayes: All.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas updated the Board on the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Acquisition Project that began in 2019 due to flooding and heavy rains. Furnas stated the project has been a voluntary declaration by homeowners to allow a buyout of their damaged home and turn the property into green space. Furnas stated after the 2019 spring flood there was a home on Sweetland hill that was not in a flood plain however the soils were sliding and the home was deemed structurally unsafe. The home met the criteria for a buyout and for the property to be turned into green space. Furnas stated there was also an additional property owner in the Pike Run area who expressed interest in a voluntary buyout however recently the owner withdrew. Furnas stated there are public assistance funds remaining in the project which typically will be turned over to the county roads or county parks. Furnas stated the project is moving toward close out and requested the Board's approval to do so.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sorensen, the Board directed the Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas to advise Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Iowa Economic Development of Muscatine County's intent to proceed to project close out. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the Board approved the minutes of the November 27, 2023 regular meeting and the November 28, 2023 and November 30, 2023 special meetings. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Mather and Chick received an email invitation for a workshop with the Muscatine Housing Council on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at the Community Foundation.
Mather received an email announcing Katelyn Leeper as the Decategorization Director.

Committee Reports and Meetings:

Sorensen and Chick participated in a Housing Survey discussion with Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas and City of Muscatine on December 1, 2023.

Chick attended a Mississippi Valley Workforce Development Finance meeting on November 29, 2023.

Mather thanked the work of the Muscatine County Sheriff Department as they conducted a search and kept the public informed regarding a missing male last week.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sorensen, the Board approved the appointment of Joshua Rudolph as a Medical Examiner Investigator for Muscatine County. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board approved hiring Jessica Bopes as Community Services Director/Disability Services Coordinator at Grade 16, Step 15. Ayes: All.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 A.M.

ATTEST:

Tibe Vander Linden
County Auditor

Scott Sauer, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors