

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, February 26, 2024

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

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

On a motion by Chick, second by Mather, the Board approved an application for a FY24/25 Iowa Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) in the amount of \$258,855.19. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Chick, the Board accepted for publication the Muscatine County Treasurer's Semi-Annual Report for July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Chick, second by Kirchner, the Board approved Resolution #02-26-24-01 Authorizing Weight Embargoes on Secondary Roads in Muscatine County, Iowa. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

**RESOLUTION # 02-26-24-01  
AUTHORIZING WEIGHT EMBARGOES ON SECONDARY ROADS  
IN MUSCATINE COUNTY, IOWA**

WHEREAS, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors recognizes that recent weather conditions have caused soft subgrade and surface conditions to develop on some Secondary Roads; and

WHEREAS, Sections 321.236(8), 321.255, 321.471 and 321.473 of the Code of Iowa provide the authority for local authorities to impose restrictions as to the weight of vehicles to be operated on any highway under their jurisdiction and Section 321.463 establishes the penalty for violating said restrictions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Muscatine County, Iowa, that an embargo be authorized where necessary on the Secondary Roads System for Muscatine County. The County Engineer is directed to restrict all traffic to an 11-ton gross load where deemed necessary on certain sections of the road system and to erect signs to advise the traveling public of these limits, in accordance with Section 321.472. If conditions warrant, the embargo is rescinded by the removal of signs by direction of the County Engineer.

Passed and approved this 26th day of February, 2024.

ATTEST:

/s/Tibe Vander Linden  
Muscatine County Auditor

/s/Jeff Sorensen, Chair  
Muscatine County Board of Supervisors

On a motion by Mather, second by Chick, the Board approved the minutes of the February 19, 2024 regular meeting and the February 21, 2024 joint Muscatine County/City of Muscatine/Muscatine Community School District meeting. Ayes: All.

#### Correspondence.

All Supervisors received an email from Emergency Manager Chris Jasper regarding a town hall meeting to be held on March 14, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. at the Environmental Learning Center hosted by Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management/Office of Levee Safety. The primary objective for the meeting is to share information from the 2022 Levee District Study as well as the new Levee Improvement Program.

Chick had a discussion with Greg Blaesing regarding a property. Chick spoke with Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas regarding Blaesing's question.

#### Committee Reports.

Chick, Kirchner, Mather and Sorensen attended the Joint meeting of the Muscatine City Council, Muscatine Community School District and Board of Supervisor's held at Merrill Hotel on February 21, 2024.

Kirchner attended the 2024 Muscatine County Weekend at the Fair fundraiser on February 24, 2024. Kirchner reported the event had good attendance and an announcement was made that Kent Feeds is donating \$500,000 toward a proposed new building. The donation will be subject to matching funds.

Sorensen attended a Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GMCCI) Business After Hours event held at the new GMCCI office on February 20, 2024.

Sorensen and Chick attended a GMCCI Business Forum with the elected state officials on February 23, 2024.

Mather attended a Wilton Chamber and Development Alliance meeting on February 21, 2024.

Mather stated the Muscatine County Veteran's Affairs Commission did not meet due to the lack of quorum.

On a motion by Mather, second by Kirchner, the Board accepted the February 2024 payroll claims. Ayes: All.

Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber stated she received information from Community Action of Eastern Iowa (CAE). CAE is a 15-member governing board made up of consumers, community partners and elected official representatives. CAE is a non-profit organization that is funded primarily by state and federal grants. CAE runs the Head Start program and other programs for Clinton, Scott and Muscatine Counties. The board meets on the odd months of the year on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 5 P.M. in Davenport, Iowa. CAE is seeking to fill a seat due to a resignation. Mather agreed to serve as a representative. Schreiber will contact CAE and formal action to place Mather on the CAE Board will be placed on the agenda for the next Board of Supervisors meeting.

Sorensen stated he has accepted an invitation from the Robert Young Center to serve on their board.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas reviewed an article that addresses CO-2 pipeline concerns as it pertains to the purpose of regulating and restricting the use of land for the transport of hazardous liquid through a liquid pipeline. Furnas recommended the concerns should be addressed during the upcoming Comprehensive Plan discussions and a review of current ordinances.

Budget Administrator Kala Naber reviewed the proposed FY24/25 budget. Naber reviewed the State Audit Schedule of Findings in regards to the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) revenues to be allocated 100% for rural property tax relief in the unincorporated area of the county. Naber presented a LOST Tax Relief report for the Board to review. The Board discussion and interpretation for the LOST ballot allocation wording is to allocate 100% of the LOST revenue to Rural Services expenditures, in our case Secondary Roads, in order to provide property tax relief to Rural Services. So as long as we do not levy the maximum amount of \$3.95, which for FY22/23 we levied \$2.99 and we continue to apply 100% of the LOST revenue to Rural Service expenses, we are providing property tax relief. The State Audit concluded that the ballot wording is not the same as being used 100% for Rural Services expenditures and that the calculated amount of LOST revenue plus the Rural Services Basic levy should not be more than \$3.95 per thousand dollars of valuation plus the amount that could be levied for Rural Supplemental purposes. Board discussion was held as to whether to re-word the LOST ballot referendum and place it on an upcoming election. The Board consensus was to lower the LOST tax levy to 2.70 for FY24/25 to be in compliance and also to make no further changes to the overall budget.

Naber reviewed the Levee Project and the recent notice from the project engineers Klingner & Associates that the project bids for the raising of the levee are lower in cost than first proposed. Naber stated the \$3.2 EDA Grant funding which has been awarded (with matching funds) will allow part of the matching funding to be moved to the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the levee project, hardening of the overflow structure, which was bid higher in cost than first proposed. Naber stated Legacy Corporation has predicted the hardening of the overflow structure project to be completed by October 2024 and the raising of the levee to be completed by December 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 A.M.

ATTEST:

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Tibe Vander Linden  
County Auditor

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Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors