

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, March 25, 2024

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

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

Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas reviewed a Special Use Permit granted by the Muscatine County Board of Adjustment on March 15, 2024. Furnas stated Case #23-09-01 is an application filed by Kayla Carlsten, Record Owner. The property is located at 1612 Taylor Avenue, Muscatine, Iowa in Sweetland Township, in parts of the NE ¼ Section 6-T77N-R1W, containing approximately 7.19 acres, and is zoned A-1 Agricultural District. The request, if approved, would allow the Zoning Administrator to issue a Special Use Permit to allow the applicant to build a public stable on the property that utilizes horses and other farm animals as part of mental health counseling that would be conducted onsite. The owner already operates a private mental health counseling business under the Home Occupation provisions of the Zoning Ordinance. The facility is limited to no more than 10 employees and their respective patients on site at any one time. Furnas stated the Board of Adjustment approved this request.

Furnas reviewed Resolution #03-25-24-01 Approval of the Combined Preliminary and Final Plat of Southview Subdivision stating Rodney Treimer, Record Owner, requested to combine the preliminary/final plat of the one lot agricultural subdivision, Southview Subdivision. The proposed subdivision would be located in Wilton Township, in the NW ¼ of Section 1-T78N-R1W, parent Parcel #04-01-100-004, and would consist of approximately 2.79 acres, and is zoned A-1 Agricultural District. The lot meets the minimum lot size and is a good candidate for annexation and has an existing sewer easement. Treimer has already contacted the City of Durant about annexation and the city has expressed interest in doing so.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Kirchner, the Board approved Resolution #03-25-24-01 Approval of the Combined Preliminary and Final Plat of Southview Subdivision. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: All.

RESOLUTION #03-25-24-01
APPROVAL OF THE COMBINED PRELIMINARY AND FINAL PLAT OF
SOUTHVIEW SUBDIVISION

WHEREAS, there has been presented before the Board of Supervisors of Muscatine County, Iowa, a dedication and plat of the proposed subdivision “Southview Subdivision”; and

WHEREAS, said plat has heretofore been approved by the Zoning Commission of Muscatine County, Iowa; and

WHEREAS, said dedication and plat fully conform with all laws of the State of Iowa and all ordinances of Muscatine County, Iowa, applicable thereto; and

WHEREAS, the platting of said subdivision is conducive to orderly development within Muscatine County, Iowa, is not in conflict with any extensions of the established road systems of Muscatine County, Iowa, and is in harmony with the comprehensive plan of zoning now in effect within Muscatine County, Iowa.

WHEREAS, the subdivision of said real estate and the plat thereof were accepted and approved by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors following a public meeting on March 25, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Muscatine County, Iowa, as follows:

Section 1. The said subdivision is hereby designated as “Southview Subdivision”, a subdivision in Muscatine County, Iowa, and that the descriptions of lots and parcels of land located therein shall be according to the number and designation thereof as set forth on said plat.

Section 2. The Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors and the Auditor of Muscatine County, Iowa, are hereby authorized and directed to certify this Resolution in order that the same and all other matters material to said subdivision may be recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Muscatine County, Iowa.

PASSED and APPROVED this 25th day of March, 2024.

ATTEST:

/s/Tibe Vander Linden
Muscatine County Auditor

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

Furnas thanked the public for attending a Muscatine County Comprehensive Plan Visioning Workshop held on March 21, 2024 at the Environmental Learning Center with approximately 35-40 attendees, which included Board of Supervisor members and county staff. Furnas stated the Bi-State Regional Planning Commission can be commended on how the meeting was structured and how it involved the public in the discussions. Kirchner inquired when the Muscatine County Comprehensive Plan public meeting will be held in West Liberty, Iowa. Furnas stated the date has not been set but May 2024 is probable. Furnas stated he believes social media helped notify citizens of the recent meeting and increased attendance.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Chick, the Board authorized the Chair to sign a Statement of Election Costs for the March 5, 2024 Columbus Community School Special Election. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Chick, second by Sauer, the Board approved a renewal application for a Class C Beer, Liquor, Sunday Sales and Outdoor Service Permit for West Liberty Golf & Country Club, 1248 Country Heights Lane, West Liberty, Iowa. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Kirchner, the Board approved a new 8-month application for a Class C Liquor License and Outdoor Service Permit for The Chart House, Inc. dba The

Lighthouse, 2142 Water Street, Muscatine, Iowa. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Chick, second by Kirchner, the Board approved the corrected minutes of the March 18, 2024, regular meeting. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Sorensen and Kirchner received an email from Diane Glenney regarding concerns with House File 2554. Sorensen contacted Ryan Streck of Muscatine Power & Water for information regarding Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), who coordinates the generation of power to cover the area related to a proposed 765kv transmission line from central Iowa through the Muscatine area. Streck stated he is unaware of the proposed line.

Chick received a call from Kevin Terry regarding the budget year statement/public hearing notice.

Chick received a call from Dusty Buffington regarding the budget year statement and a proposed tax increase for the 245th Street, Conesville area.

Kirchner spoke with Carl Morris regarding a bridge project on Bancroft Avenue. Kirchner contacted County Engineer Bryan Horesowsky.

Committee & Meeting Reports:

Kirchner met with Ken Brooks and Jerry Mellick of West Liberty Economic Area Development (WELEAD) regarding the status of 125th Street, West Liberty project and the access to the progress park in the area. Kirchner contacted County Engineer Bryan Horesowsky.

Kirchner attended a Muscatine County Fair Board meeting on March 21, 2024.

Chick attended a Mississippi Valley Workforce Development CEO meeting on March 19, 2024.

Chick and Sauer attended a Compensation Board meeting on March 19, 2024.

Chick, Sorensen and Sauer attended the Muscatine County Comprehensive Plan Visioning Workshop held on March 21, 2024.

Sorensen attended an Eastern Iowa Mental Health Region meeting on March 18, 2024.

Sorensen attended a Robert Young Center CADS (Center for Alcohol and Drug Services) Board meeting on March 19, 2024.

Sauer attended a Muscatine County Conservation Board meeting on March 18, 2024.

Sauer attended a River Bend Transit Board of Directors meeting on March 20, 2024.

Sauer attended a Muscatine County Board of Health meeting on March 20, 2024.

Discussion was held with Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber regarding the Muscatine County Compensation Board FY24/25 salary recommendations for elected officials. A letter from the Muscatine County Compensation Board recommended a 5% increase for the Board of Supervisors plus \$2,500 for Chair and \$1,500 for Vice-Chair; and a 5% increase for the Sheriff, Attorney, Auditor, Recorder and Treasurer, effective July 1, 2024. Schreiber stated there is a scheduled virtual meeting on March 27, 2024 with MRA, the company conducting a salary study. Schreiber stated preliminary market data will be discussed and she has requested a review of the middle management positions (deputies) to determine if they are compensated

accordingly, when compared to other industries. Chick asked if the elected officials can change their deputies to be a salaried position instead of tied to the percentage increase the elected official receives. Schreiber stated yes, they can. Sheriff Quinn Riess stated he advises to proceed with caution if this change is considered as his department has paid supervisory positions in both type of pay conditions and from his experience a compression issue of the wages can occur, which can cause employees to lose incentive to be a supervisor. Board discussion was held on whether to take action on elected official salary recommendations or to table the action item until the next board meeting after Schreiber has attended the virtual meeting with MRA to possibly obtain more information.

On a motion by Chick, second by Sorensen, the Board moved to approve a 4% increase for Sheriff, Attorney, Auditor, Recorder and Treasurer and a 3% increase for Board of Supervisors. Roll call vote: Ayes: Kirchner, Chick; Nays: Sorensen, Sauer; Absent – Mather. The motion was a split vote.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board moved to table the discussions and possible action regarding the Muscatine County Compensation Board FY24/25 salary recommendations for elected officials to Monday, April 1, 2024 Board meeting. Ayes: All.

Administrative Director Nancy Schreiber stated 2nd Deputy Auditor, Cathy Ribbink, has submitted a notice that she is leaving her position in the Auditor's office. Schreiber stated County Auditor Tibe Vander Linden will be changing the duties of 1st Deputy Auditor, Jane Claussen, to the Elections/Real Estate Administrator position (currently the 2nd Deputy Auditor duties), which creates an opening for the Payroll/Accounts Payable Administrator position. Schreiber stated the class specification and grade assignment for Payroll/Accounts Payable Administrator is being recommended to change from Grade 9 to Grade 10, as there is more emphasis on the education requirements. The position and job description will be returned to the salary administration program as it is currently named as Claussen's 1st Deputy Auditor position.

On a motion by Chick, second by Kirchner, the Board approved an updated class specification and grade assignment for a Payroll/Accounts Payable Administrator position in the Auditor's Office to Grade 10. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Chick, second by Sauer, the Board accepted the March 2024 payroll claims. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Bryan Horesowsky stated he attended a pre-construction meeting for the levee project on March 22, 2024. Horesowsky stated the haul route for trucks will be 52nd Street to Pettibone Avenue then either south to Wiggins Road or north to 41st Street which will increase traffic and safety concerns. Horesowsky stated the contractor has requested a temporary haul road to cross Pettibone and enter an industrial business to access the levee and to use large dump trucks for the significant amount of material to be hauled. Horesowsky stated the current safety and traffic on Pettibone is already a public concern, therefore the haul route options offered at the meeting are being reviewed. Horesowsky stated he will contact County Attorney Jim Barry to review the haul road agreements. Horesowsky reviewed with the Board that the Department

of Transpiration (DOT) has standards with flashing lights, stop lights or flaggers to stop traffic during construction. Horesowsky stated the southern portion of the levee project is scheduled to start in two weeks with the entire project to run until October 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 A.M.

ATTEST:

Tibe Vander Linden
County Auditor

Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors