

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, April 1, 2024

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

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

On a motion by Sauer, second by Kirchner, the Board approved claims dated April 1, 2024 in the amount of \$411,493.17. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with County Engineer Bryan Horesowsky regarding the Muscatine County DOT FY 2025 Secondary Roads Five Year Program and Secondary Roads Budget. Horesowsky stated the proposed Muscatine County DOT FY 2025 Budget mirrors the FY 2025 Muscatine County Budget. Horesowsky reviewed the map of the FY 2025 Secondary Roads Five Year Program. Chick asked if ARPA funds can be used for bridge and culvert projects. Chick stated he supports the community housing project for which ARPA funding of \$875,000 has been designated to, however he questions if the ARPA funding should be re-evaluated and be used for bridge projects, which could be beneficial to the county tax payers. Budget Administrator Kala Naber stated ARPA funds have been designated for two bridge projects in the amount of \$600,000. Horesowsky stated all bridge projects are required to be in the Five Year Program and if ARPA funding is designated to additional projects then the projects which are currently assigned with local funding would be the preferred projects.

On a motion by Chick, second by Mather, the Board approved the Muscatine County DOT FY 2025 Secondary Roads Five Year Program and Secondary Roads Budget. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Mather, the Board approved three utility permits: Muscatine Power and Water, Muscatine, Iowa – install 2” Orange High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) with fiber optic cable (48 count) from North Mulberry Road to North Tipton Road along 180th Street, Section 16 and 15 -T77N-R02W; install 2” Orange HDPE with fiber optic cable (48 count) from 180th Street along North Isett Avenue, Sections 10, 11, 14 and 15 -T77N-R02W; and install 2” Orange HDPE with fiber optic cable (48 count) from 170th Street to 180th Street along North Tipton Road, Sections 9, 10 and 15 -T77N-R02W. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Kirchner, the Board approved the minutes of the March 25, 2024 regular meeting and the March 28, 2024 special meeting. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

All Supervisors received an email from Megan Tebbe of Atlas Community Studios with the final report of the Muscatine County Housing Market Analysis. Sorensen recommended the final report be posted on the county website.

All Supervisors received an email from Colonel Robert Sinkler, Executive Coordinating Director of Corn Belt Ports, regarding Port of Eastern Iowa.

Committee Reports:

Kirchner, Chick, Sorensen and Sauer attended the Public Hearing for the Tax Budget

Statement on March 28, 2024.

Sorensen attended an Emergency Management Services meeting to discuss fire and emergency services to townships on March 27, 2024.

Sorensen attended a Region 9 Transportation Policy Board meeting on March 27, 2024.

Sorensen attended Bi-State Regional Planning Commission meeting on March 27, 2024.

Kirchner attended a West Liberty Economic Area Development (WELEAD) meeting on March 28, 2024.

Chick attended a Mississippi Valley Workforce Finance meeting on March 27, 2024.

Discussion was held regarding Port of Eastern Iowa information received in an email from Colonel Robert Sinkler, Executive Director of Corn Belt Ports. Chick had a phone discussion with Sinkler regarding a regional inland U.S. port that is being proposed to Dubuque, Jackson, Clinton, Scott, Muscatine and Louisa Counties. Chick stated his understanding from Sinkler was if the county becomes a port, it would be of no cost to the county, opens up possible funding from the Corp of Engineers for the navigable water ways, and can help lead to a physical port if desired. Chick stated Sinkler has offered to make a presentation to the Board. Chick recommended the Board seek additional information from other sources and counties. Sorensen stated he will contact Denise Bulat, Executive Director of Bi-State Regional Planning Commission for additional information and stated he has talked to Clinton and Scott County who are gathering additional information. Sorensen stated Muscatine County already has a Resolution, adopted in 2019, for Supporting the Creation of the Statistical Boundaries of the Mississippi River port of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. Sorensen stated Sinkler has stated an additional resolution is recommended. Sorensen stated he believes there is no urgency and recommends the Board obtain more information.

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 all elected officials effective July 1, 2024. On a motion by Mather, second by Kirchner, the Board approved a 3.5% increase for Attorney, Auditor, Recorder, Sheriff and Treasurer and 0% increase for Supervisors. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the Board moved to approve the proposed FY24/25 Muscatine County budget for publication. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Chick, the Board set a public hearing on the proposed FY24/25 Muscatine County budget for Monday, April 15, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Ayes: All.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 A.M.

ATTEST:

Jane Claussen
First Deputy Auditor

Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors