

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, April 15, 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 Kirchner, the agenda was approved with correction to Agenda Item #5 to replace creation rate with “cremation rate”. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Chick, the Board approved claims dated April 15, 2024 in the amount of \$3,049,235.31. Ayes: All.

A Public Hearing was called to order by Chairperson Sorensen at 9:01 A.M. on the proposed FY24/25 Muscatine County Budget. Budget Administrator Kala Naber reviewed the proposed FY24/25 Budget with a pie chart showing expenses and revenues by service areas. No one spoke for or against the proposal. On a motion by Sauer, second by Kirchner, the public hearing was closed at 9:04 A.M.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Chick, the Board approved Resolution #04-15-24-01 Approval of Elected Officials Fiscal Year 24/25 Salaries. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

**RESOLUTION #04-15-24-01
APPROVAL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS FISCAL YEAR 24/25 SALARIES**

WHEREAS, the Muscatine County Compensation Board meets annually to recommend a compensation schedule for elected officials for the fiscal year immediately following, in accordance with Iowa Code Chapters 331.905 and 331.907; and

WHEREAS, the Muscatine County Compensation Board met on March 19, 2024 and made the following salary recommendations for the following elected officials for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024:

<u>Elected Official</u>	<u>Current Salary</u>	<u>Proposed Increase</u>	<u>Recommended Salary</u>
Auditor	\$83,259	5.0%	\$87,422
County Attorney	\$155,228	5.0%	\$162,989
Recorder	\$83,259	5.0%	\$87,422
Sheriff	\$131,258	5.0%	\$137,821
Supervisors	\$30.859*	5.0%	\$32,402
Treasurer	\$83,259	5.0%	\$87,422

* Plus \$2,500 for Board Chair and \$1,500 for Vice-Chair.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors approves the following salary adjustments for the following elected officials for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023:

<u>Elected Official</u>	<u>Approved Salary</u>	<u>Approved Increase</u>
Auditor	\$86,173	3.50%
County Attorney	\$160,661	3.50%
Recorder	\$86,173	3.50%
Sheriff	\$135,852	3.50%
Supervisors	\$30,859*	0%
Treasurer	\$86,173	3.50%

* Plus \$2,500 for Board Chair and \$1,500 for Vice-Chair.

APPROVED this 15th day of April, 2024.

ATTEST:

/s/Tibe Vander Linden
Muscatine County Auditor

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

On a motion by Sauer, second by Kirchner, the Board approved Resolution #04-15-24-02 Adopting the Fiscal Year 24/25 County Budget. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

**RESOLUTION #04-15-24-02
ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2024/25 COUNTY BUDGET**

WHEREAS, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors conducted a public hearing on April 15, 2024, where citizens of Muscatine County were invited to comment on the Fiscal Year 2024/25 budget, as duly published according to Section 331.434(2) of the Code of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors appreciates comments from the citizens and encourages all citizens to be informed and participate in county government.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors that the Fiscal Year 2024/25 County budget is adopted as per the Proposed County Budget Summary for Fiscal Year 2024/25.

PASSED and APPROVED this 15th day of April, 2024.

ATTEST:

/s/Tibe Vander Linden
Muscatine County Auditor

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

On a motion by Sauer, second by Chick, the Board approved Resolution #04-15-24-03 Encumbering Local Assistance & Tribal Consistency Funds. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

RESOLUTION # 04-15-24-03
ENCUMBERING LOCAL ASSISTANCE & TRIBAL CONSISTENCY FUNDS

WHEREAS, Section 605 of the Social Security Act (the Act), added by Section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan (ARPA), established the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF), which provides for Treasury to pay \$2 billion to eligible revenue sharing counties and eligible Tribal governments across fiscal years 2022 and 2023 for use on any governmental purpose except for a lobbying activity,

WHEREAS, the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund allocated \$100,000.00 to Muscatine County and on November 18, 2022 the first half of funds totaling \$50,000.00 was received and on July 31, 2023 the second half of funds totaling \$50,000.00 was received and,

WHEREAS, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors has held public meetings to review options and has determined which best qualify for the Local and Tribal Consistency Funds and,

WHEREAS, based on the distribution guidelines from the US Department of Treasury, the following projects have been approved for the use of said funds:

- Muscatine County Fair Event Center in an amount not to exceed \$55,000

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors encumbers Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Funds for the items listed.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 15th day of April, 2024.

ATTEST:

/s/Tibe Vander Linden
Muscatine County Auditor

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

Community Services Director/Disability Services Coordinator Jessica Bopes requested to increase the current Muscatine County indigent cremation rate from \$1,000 (with an additional fee of \$250 for deceased over 350 pounds) to \$1,500 (with an additional fee of \$250 for deceased over 350 pounds). Bopes explained that the current indignant rate paid for cremation to local funeral homes, is the lowest in the area and reviewed fees for Scott, Clinton and Johnson County are paid with a range from \$1,600 to \$2,200. Bopes stated the process for a family member requesting a benefit for indigent cremation services requires an application. The criteria required includes being 100% under the poverty guidelines. Sorensen asked if Bopes can cover this request within her budget. She stated yes and also stated the indigent cremation benefit is separate from veteran service requests. Chick asked if the area funeral homes have requested an increase for their fees. Bopes stated they have asked but not been forceful on an increase in fees.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved to increase the current Muscatine County indigent cremation rate from \$1,000 with an additional fee of \$250 for deceased over 350 pounds to \$1,500 with an additional fee of \$250 for deceased over 350 pounds. Ayes: All.

County Recorder Sara Hearst updated the Board with the completed Recorder's Office ARPA Digitizing Records project. Hearst stated all the records have been digitized and the County Auditor's and Assessor's office will have access through the Eagle System to all county historical records from the 1800's to current. Hearst stated the project has been completed within budget and the digitizing records project will be moved into the Eagle system in a couple weeks.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Kirchner, the Board approved two utility permits: Eastern Iowa Light and Power, Wilton, Iowa – retire one span of overhead wires that spans over private property and from the existing pole in county right-of-way, will trench our 7,200V cable to the south, along Jeffrey Lane and then east into private property to provide power to 2369 Jeffrey Lane, Section 10-T-76N, R-3-W, Seventy-Six Township; and the second utility permit is to trench in one inch innerduct between three of our existing poles, currently in the right-of-way, for the purpose of connecting the special equipment controls with fiber optic cable so that we can control each piece of equipment remotely, the trench will be at least three feet deep and as far in the back slope as possible, Section 5-T-76N, R-4-W. Orono Township. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Bryan Horesowsky reminded the Board there is an Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) letting schedule for April 16, 2024, for the Moscow Road overlay from F-70 North to Highway 6. Horesowsky stated he anticipates to have a contract to present at the next Board meeting.

Sorensen stated the public should be aware of the major levee project that will begin in the next two weeks with hauling sand from Deep Lakes Park. The project will generate an increase in heavy equipment traffic on Pettibone Avenue and south to Louisa County. Sorensen stated residents should travel carefully and safely during the levee project. The proposed project completion date is late September 2024 for the overtopping/southern portion and late October 2024 for the levee, primarily in the Maple Grove Road area.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Chick, the Board approved to accept the County Auditor's Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending March 31, 2024 in the amount of \$34,999.66. Ayes: All

On a motion by Kirchner, second by Chick, the Board approved the minutes of the April 8, 2024 regular meeting. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Kirchner received a call from Tom Hillyer regarding an issue on 140th Street. Kirchner referred the question to County Engineer Bryan Horesowsky.

Committee Reports:

No meetings reported.

On a motion by Chick, second by Sauer, the Board authorized the Chair to execute an Agreement for Collaborative Partnership to Continue a Community Grant Writer Position for FY24/25. Sorensen stated the experience the past couple years with the Community Grant Writer Position has been a very successful one with increased grants for the county and appears to be a good investment. Ayes: All.

The Board recessed at 9:17 A.M. The Board reconvened at 9:20 A.M.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Chick, the Board went into closed session at 9:21 A.M. pursuant to Chapter 20.17(3), Code of Iowa, to discuss strategy in union negotiations. Roll call vote: Ayes: All. On a motion by Kirchner, second by Chick, the Board returned to open session at 10:20 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 A.M.

ATTEST:

Tibe Vander Linden
County Auditor

Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors