

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, September 9, 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 September 9, 2024 in the amount of \$2,095,881.11. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Mather, the Board approved a utility permit: MidAmerican Energy Company, Des Moines, Iowa – directional bore new conduit and fiber for MidAmerican placement to be as close to back of right-of-way as possible to avoid bridge work on 120th Street bridge replacement project LFM- (FU-9)-7X-70. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Bryan Horesowsky updated the Board on secondary road project, department personnel changes and the Levee Project.

Miranda Swafford, Executive Director, Mississippi Valley Workforce Development (MVWD) Board, gave a virtual update to the Board. The presentation included objectives and announced a new online portal named Skill Up, which offers free resources and online courses for self-learning. The online portal is located on the Musser Public Library website. Mandy Tripp, MVWD Compliance Officer and Tyler Lanz, MVWD Strategic Partnership Specialist, also presented items within the virtual update.

Chris Jasper, Director-Emergency Management/E911 and EMS Association President Tom Summitt presented a Muscatine County EMS Association Essential Services Update to the Board. Summitt stated Muscatine County EMS has been an association for approximately 40 years represented by the all the EMS services in the county. Summitt stated in 2021, Bobby Kaufmann, Iowa House of Representative, District 82, began working with SF615 to make ambulance service an essential service (fire and police were essential services but ambulance was not). Summitt stated a year ago the EMS Association began monthly meetings to research and develop a potential plan for ambulance service as an essential service and the possibility of county funding in the future. Jasper reviewed the current ambulance service areas, first responder areas, average response time to rural county areas, lack of funding for some of the EMS agencies, lack of volunteers and the significant lack of EMS coverage. Jasper reviewed a map of the first responder areas in the county which showed 72% of ambulance calls do not fall within a first responder district. Jasper stated their findings show there are trained first responders in our county who are interested in helping but because they do not live within a certain district, they are unable to respond to calls. Jasper stated the EMS Association has discussed eliminating the districts and having a county-wide first responder network which could oversee distribution, policies, fiscal and operational oversight. Sandy Heick, Vice-President of EMS Association, reviewed the 2022 legislation for county-wide essential services and stated the county has a unique situation as the City of Muscatine has a good organization with paid service now. Heick stated there are two ways for essential service funding with one option to be

county-wide service and another option is to establish EMS service districts under IA Code 357F and 357G. Heck stated the EMS Association has discussed the potential EMS service districts. The review has determined there is a requirement of 25% of property owners in the rural districts to file that they want this change, which then would lead to an election with a 60% majority vote from the citizens for a potential \$1.00 per thousand in property taxes, not to include agricultural, railroads and parks. Heck stated the association is a long way from the process and stated a board would be required to oversee the EMS service districts. Heck stated the proposed EMS service district would allow first responders to service the entire county and respond times will improve. Gary Ronzheimer, Muscatine Fire Battalion Chief, reviewed the first responder map and explained that if a first responder network is implemented the response time per call will improve, which will benefit the entire county. Sorensen thanked the group for their presentation and the direction they are going. Heck thanked Sorensen for attending meetings and his support. West Liberty City Mayor, Mark Smith, stated the City of West Liberty supports the work of the EMA Association and has a lot of potential for their area. Smith stated he received a draft of a 28E Agreement and is not sure how the draft was already released. Smith stated he has major concerns with the draft document. Wilton City Police Chief, Dave Clark, stated the 28E draft agreement was not meant to be released as it is only a draft at this time.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas reviewed Change Order #03 in regards to the Courthouse Roofing Project. Furnas stated Renaissance Historic Exteriors removed the old copper cupola off of the top of the courthouse clocktower, they found the underlying steel support/frame structure was very minimal and allowed for steel to copper contact. The resultant galvanic reaction led to some corroding of the steel frame members at the contact points, although not to the extent that structural integrity is jeopardized. The proposal was to add additional wood framing and sheeting around the steel frame to support the new cupola metal. Additional wood framing will provide additional anchor points, better support for the copper and the ability to properly dry-in and keep the cupola dry. Furnas stated because there was no Board meeting last Monday, due to the holiday to bring this before you and to keep the work on schedule, he requested and approved a change order in the amount of \$3,951.52.

On a motion by Chick, second by Mather, the Board affirmed Change Order #03 with Renaissance Historic Exteriors, in the amount of \$3,951.52 for the Courthouse Roofing Project. Ayes: All.

Furnas stated he has been meeting with Mike Nolan of Horizon Architecture and Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber to review pending issues such as the masonry work. Furnas stated he is pleased with the work and craftsmanship so far.

Conservation Director Katie Hammond reviewed a proposal from Winona Controls to upgrade the HVAC system at the Environmental Learning Center as the current JSI Metasys system no longer functions.

On a motion by Chick, second by Sauer the Board approved a proposal from Winona Controls in the amount of \$24,950.00 to upgrade the HVAC system at the Environmental Learning Center. Ayes: All.

Hammond asked the Board if they had any questions on the FY24 Conservation Annual Report that was provided at last week's meeting. The Board has no questions. Hammond stated the Deep Lake Campground Project is moving along with weekly meetings to make sure the progress is on track to secure contractor contracts by December 2024.

On a motion by Mather, second by Kirchner, the Board approved the minutes of the August 26, 2024 regular meeting. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Sauer had a discussion with a resident regarding an intersection in a rural area and a request to place a stop sign.

Sorensen received a call from a landowner in the Trolley bridge project and concern with ability of getting equipment onto the road from his property. Sorensen stated contractors have been made aware that land access needs to be provided.

Chick received several calls from Connie Fuller and emails from Kelsie Bell regarding cemetery access onto Bell's property.

Chick received a call from Chad Healey with concerns of tall weeds on the intersection of 41st Street and Stewart Road. Chick contacted County Engineer Bryan Horesowsky.

All Supervisors received an email from Kelsie Bell regarding Connie Fuller's cemetery access request on her property and regarding the cemetery ordinance.

Committee & Meeting Reports:

Chick attended a Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce and Industry meeting on August 28, 2024.

Chick attended a Mississippi Valley Workforce Area finance meeting on August 28, 2024.

Sorensen attended a meeting with City of Muscatine Steering Committee regarding their Comprehensive Plan on September 4, 2024 and September 5, 2024.

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

Sorensen stated the state has released the districts for mental health and our district is approximately 1,000,0000 people for fourteen counties. Sorensen stated Mae Hingtgen, CEO of East Central Mental Health Region requested to put together a proposal in response to a recent Request for Proposal for ASO's.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the Board approved Resolution #09-09-24-01 Taking Action to Set a Public Hearing on a Proposal to Repurpose Bond Proceeds. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

RESOLUTION #09-09-24-01

**RESOLUTION TAKING ACTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING ON A
PROPOSAL TO REPURPOSE BOND PROCEEDS**

WHEREAS, on July 18, 2023, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors (the “Board”) entered into a \$3,000,000 General Obligation County Purpose Note, Series 2023, of which \$195,000 was allocated to construction of a bathroom addition at the Muscatine County Jail; and

WHEREAS, the Board and staff agree that a discussion is required to determine if the jail bathroom addition is a need at this time or if said bond proceeds would be better utilized for other repairs at the Muscatine County Jail and Sheriff’s Office; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to hold a public hearing to discuss repurposing \$195,000 of the Series 2023 bond proceeds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors shall meet on September 23, 2024, at the Muscatine County Administration Building, Muscatine, Iowa, at 9:00 a.m., at which time and place a hearing will be held and additional action may be taken on the repurposing of bond proceeds, and that the Director of Administrative Services is directed to give notice of the proposed action, the time when and place where the said meeting will be held, by publication at least once, not less than four (4) and not more than twenty (20) days before the hearing, in a legal newspaper of general circulation in the County.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 9th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

/s/Tibe Vander Linden
Muscatine County Auditor

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

On a motion by Chick, second by Kirchner, the Board approved the appointment of Laura Curtis Kramer to the Muscatine County Civil Services Commission for a six-year term ending June 30, 2030. Ayes: All. Sorensen stated he appreciates Curtis’ service to the commission.

Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber reviewed the grievance review board process in the employee handbook regarding an employee who has filed a grievance and the department responded to the grievance. They have requested the next step which is a grievance review board. The Board is required to appoint a department head. The employee will select one member and a third member will be selected by the Board’s and the employee’s appointees to serve on the grievance review board. In the event the two appointees cannot agree on a third member, within five working days, the Board of Supervisors shall be notified and will select the third member. If the employee is not satisfied with the review board decision, then the Board can decide to have a hearing. Sorensen recommended to appoint Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas as the department head member for the grievance review board.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board moved to appoint Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas, to serve on a grievance review board, in accordance with the Muscatine County Handbook. Ayes: All.

Chris Jasper, Director-Emergency Management/E911 and Public Health Director, Jen Kraft addressed the Board regarding a partnership between their two departments to create an emergency preparedness public health app with funding from a Public Health grant. The app will launch this week under the name “Muscatine Cares” which is a community alerting resource emergency system. The app will be resources on how to create disaster plans, has links to sign up for the Alert Iowa Program, mental health resources and public health resources. Jasper encourages citizens to download the app to their phones as an excellent resource. Kraft stated citizens can contact her if they have suggestions on improving the app.

Chick asked Jasper about delayed ambulance response time that was discussed earlier in the meeting. Chick asked if more than one ambulance service can be alerted instead of waiting for the first call to respond. Jasper stated the current EMS agreement states the appropriate ambulance will be paged and to wait for five minutes and then page them again and wait five minutes. Jasper stated discussions have been held to change the policy to page the next available service after five minutes instead of 10 minutes. Jasper stated it is a lengthy process to implement a change.

Jasper updated the Board on the transition to the Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communities System (ISICS) radio system. Jasper stated the tower the county took possession of is running smoothly.

The Board recessed at 10:25 A.M. The Board reconvened at 10:31 A.M.

On a motion by Mather, second by Kirchner, the Board went into Closed session at 10:32 A.M. pursuant to Code of Iowa, Section 21.5 (c) to discuss strategy with counsel in matter where litigation is imminent where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the governmental body in that litigation; and/or Section 21.2 (j) to discuss the purchase or sale of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for the property or reduce the price the governmental body would receive for the property. Roll call vote: Ayes: All. On a motion by Mather, second by Kirchner, the Board returned to open session at 10:55 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Chick, the Board went into a Non-Public session at 10:55 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 Chick, second by Mather, the Board returned to open session at 11:14 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 A.M.

ATTEST:

Tibe Vander Linden
County Auditor

Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors