

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, January 13, 2025

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

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

Mather requested a reorder to the agenda for GIS Manager Mark Yerington to present the FY25/26 MAGIC budget after Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas, with no objections.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Chick, the Board approved a utility permit with Eastern Iowa Light & Power, Lone Tree, Iowa – cross Muscatine/Johnson Co. Rd. with primary wires at 784w30 to 785w25. 5581 on Muscatine/Johnson County Road to maintain a 20-foot clearance to bottom conductor. Section 30, T78N-04W. Ayes: All.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas reviewed a Special Use Permit was granted by the Muscatine County Board of Adjustment on January 3, 2025. Furnas reviewed Case #25-01-01, an application filed by Kevin Phillips, Record Owner. The property is located in Sweetland Township, in part of the SW ¼ of Section 4-T77N-R1W, Parcel #09-04-300-006, containing approximately 8.10 acres, and is zoned A-1 Agricultural District. The request allows the Zoning Administrator to issue a Special Use Permit to allow the applicant to build a rural residence on the parcel. Furnas stated the Board of Adjustment approved this request.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Kirchner, the Board approved to set a public hearing on the proposed 2025 Updated Comprehensive Plan for Monday, February 3, 2025 at 9:00 A.M. to be held in the County Administration Board Room. Ayes: All.

GIS Manager Mark Yerington reviewed the FY25/26 MAGIC budget request stating a new three-year contract with Asri Enterprise was entered and was budgeted for a 10% increase. The contract actually saw a decrease from \$53,700 to \$49,700. MAGIC Beacon hosting service has continued to go up on an annual basis with more hosting fees and server infrastructure. Aerial imagery was completed and paid in 2024. The MAGIC network environment will continue to be developed into a VM environment and should be coming in early 2025. Yerington stated they will be transitioning to a new software at all partner locations. The deprecation of the ArcMAP desktop software used in the past will be transitioned to ArcGIS Pro at no added cost. There will also be a parcel conversion in 2025 for compatibility to the updated software.

Oa motion by Kirchner, second by Chick, the Board approved the minutes of the January 6, 2025 regular meeting. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Mather received a call from a citizen with a question regarding Community Services.

Mather referred the call to Community Services Director, Jessica Bopes.

Committee & Meeting Reports:

Kirchner attended a Muscatine County Communications Joint Commission meeting on January 8, 2025.

Chick stated he and Sorensen attended the Builders meeting for the Housing Council on January 8th, 2025.

Chick and Sorensen attended a Housing Council meeting on January 8th, 2025.

Sauer attended the County Conservation Board meeting on January 8th, 2025. The Conservation Board voted to move forward with utilizing asphalt for the roadways.

Mather noted there is one additional application for a vacancy on the Muscatine County Conservation Board to fill a vacancy for a five-year term ending December 31, 2029. Mather stated action will be taken on this item next week.

On a motion by Chick, second by Kirchner, the Board approved to re-appoint Dr. Robert Weis as the Muscatine County Medical Examiner, for a two-year term ending December 31, 2026. Ayes: All. Mather thanked Dr. Weis for his continued service.

On a motion by Kirchner, second by Sauer, the Board approved to re-appoint the following Muscatine County Medical Examiner Investigator for a two-year term ending December 31, 2026 – Tom Summitt (Chief MEI), Susan Garrett, Todd Heck, Julia Hilbert, Richard Hines, Joshua Rudolph and Tashia Wheeler. Ayes: All.

The Board reviewed Board of Supervisors appointments to Boards and Commissions for 2025. The Board will take action on the 2025 assignments at the next regular Board meeting.

County Attorney Jim Barry reviewed the FY25/26 budget requests stating the only changes are for salary changes. Barry stated the line item for Service of Papers is to pay the Sheriff for the service fees to keep track of the fees each year. Barry stated the fine collections program is being run by one and a half employees within the County Attorney's office as the objective was run the program with fewer than two employees. Barry stated the forfeiture funds continue to be given to law enforcement and his office continues to pay the share of fine collection fees with transfer of funds deposited to the general fund.

Chick requested a breakdown of the individual county employee wages for inquiry on the increases shown for FY25/26 budget salary requests. Kirchner asked Barry if his budget request includes any new employees. Barry stated no additional employees for FY25/26 but the Board may need to consider additional staffing to handle the work load in the future.

County Auditor Tibe Vander Linden reviewed the FY25/26 budget requests stating the changes to the auditor portion of the budget includes a decrease in postage as Administration is now mailing claim checks and an increase for parcel mapper maintenance for the new Schneider agreement for survey work with real estate splits and combinations. Vander Linden stated for the election budget the increases are for postage due to increased absentee ballot mailings, registration cards and NCOA cards. Additional increases are for education and training for new employees to attend

SEAT II; an increase for election workers to cover two elections (City/School in November 2025 and Primary Election in June 2026) and a request for 50 election day laptops as the Precinct Atlas program is now requiring Windows 11 program and the current laptops (purchased in years 2018-2020) are not compatible for the upgrade. Vander Linden stated she is working with IS Director, Bill Riley, to order 8-10 laptops within the FY24/25 budget, as there is \$6600.00 remaining in the current budget for voting equipment. Vander Linden stated overall the budget request is a decrease of 4% compared to the current budget.

The Board took a recess at 9:33 A.M. and reconvened at 9:39 A.M.

County Recorder Sarah Hearst reviewed the FY25/26 budget request to replace three office chairs. There are no other significant changes. Hearst reminded the public that boat renewals are now until April 30, 2025.

County Treasurer Amy Zybarth reviewed the FY25/26 budget request with an increase in postage. The revenue portion of the budget request states an increase due to motor vehicle registration changes in legislation allowing any Iowa county to issue registrations. Zybarth stated an increase fee of \$10 per title, per registration and per lien are applied for this service. Zybarth stated a new position is reflected in the salary request with a facilitator position being considered to oversee mail, electronic registrations and the counter work.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas reviewed the FY25/26 budget requests stating one of the inspector positions is being considered to be upgraded to an Inspector II position as a current employee is a valuable experienced inspector, which if approved will be an increase in his salary. Furnas stated budget increases are shown for education and training for new employees, well sampling, publications and a motor vehicle request to trade a 2014 Jeep Cherokee for a 2025 Chevy Traverse.

County Engineer Bryan Horesowsky reviewed the FY25/26 budget requests for secondary roads revenue for road use taxes stating an increase is predicted from the Department of Transportation (DOT). Bridge replacement (Federal reimbursement) is at \$0 for the foreseeable future for the on-system bridges as it will be part of the DOT budget that DOT administers. County fuel reimbursements has an increase in the budget and local option sales tax remains the same as the current budget. Horesowsky stated budget increases are for the proposed Stewart Road project, engineering supplies and services, bridge inspections to be completed for 2/3rds of all bridges, asphalt/seal coat, snow and ice plowing, new equipment and materials and pave markings (completed every other year). Chick questioned the budget increase for signs and asked if lighted/flashing stop signs are included in the budget item. Horesowsky stated the Safety Action Plan from Kimley Horne Consultants is expected in mid-January and recommendations and plan of actions for signs will be part of the plan. Horesowsky stated lighted signs are not included however the cost can be added and discussed. Horesowsky reviewed the proposed engineer and zoning office building project and capital expenditure equipment requests.

Information Services Director Bill Riley reviewed the FY25/26 budget requests stating the significant increases are offline backup and the website budget. Riley stated the Board may want

to consider a committee to discuss the possible refresh of Civics Plus website or consider a new vendor for the county website as there have been annual increased costs. Riley stated there has been a reduction in cost for service agreements (virtualization platform) and Tyler annual maintenance fees are the typical 5% increase. Riley stated the Microsoft renewal three-year agreement is anticipated at a 10% increase. Riley stated during the upcoming Microsoft renewal, users will be moved to Office 365 because the box version is ending. Riley reviewed the service agreement for cyber security as a 5% increase and the increase shown for new computer equipment is to replace the virtualization hosts. Riley stated a detail list of the computer hardware/software requests are included with the budget.

Riley stated his department will be only one employee (himself) for the next four to six weeks.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 A.M.

ATTEST:

Tibe Vander Linden
County Auditor

Nathan Mather, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors