

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, January 20, 2025

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

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

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner the Board approved claims dated January 20, 2025 in the amount of \$678,737.11. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer the Board approved a contract between Muscatine County and Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc (ACH) for management of a correctional healthcare contract for the Muscatine County Jail. Ayes: All.

Community Services Director Jessica Bopes reviewed the proposed FY25/26 General Assistance/Mental Health/Veteran's Affairs budget. Bopes stated increases shown are for software, education/training and rent payments (for citizen rent assistance). Bopes stating she is proposing increasing monthly trust fees from \$41.00 to \$55.00. Bopes stated Veteran's Affairs Director Eric Sanders has requested an increase for veteran's funeral service assistance. Bopes stated the mental health region funding will end on June 30, 2025. Bopes stated the region does not cover guardianships, conservatorships and social security payees. Bopes stated it is unclear as to how sheriff transports and other services will be covered with the new ASO, as the region funding is ending. Bopes reviewed the salary increase shown within the Veteran's Affairs budget stating the current Administrative Assistant position for Bopes and Sanders will be assigned to assist Sanders with screening and appointment duties.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board approved Resolution #01-20-25-01 Suspending the Collection of Taxes. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

**RESOLUTION #01-20-25-01  
SUSPENDING THE COLLECTION OF TAXES**

WHEREAS, notice from the Director of Human Services has been received regarding the eligibility of Lisa Waddell, Muscatine, Iowa, (the 'recipient') for medical and facility care; and

WHEREAS, as such recipient of such assistance is deemed to be unable to contribute to the public revenue pursuant to Section 427.9, Code of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, the recipient is the owner of property described as follows:

Address: 2101 Americana Ave, Muscatine, IA 52761  
Parcel No: 0834402006  
Legal Description: 34-77-2W Lot 1 Blk 7 & 25' Strip Adj Walton's SD

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors:

1. That the County Treasurer is hereby ordered to suspend the collection of all taxes, including special assessments, rates or charges, interest, fees and costs for the current year and those unpaid from prior years. As long as the petitioner is authorized by DHS no interest accrues during suspension but payments can be made.
2. If the parcel is sold, passes by bequest or inheritance to any person other than the spouse or minor child of the petitioner, all taxes and special assessments become due and payable by the next semi-annual installment date. Interest at the rate of 1 ½% per month will start on the next delinquency date after the suspended taxes become due.

Passed and approved this 20th day of January, 2025.

ATTEST:

/s/Tibe Vander Linden  
Muscatine County Auditor

/s/Nathan Mather, Chairperson  
Muscatine County Board of Supervisors

On a motion by Kirchner, second by Sauer, the Board approved the minutes of the January 13, 2025 regular meeting and January 14, 2025 special meeting. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

All Supervisors received an email from Rhonda Staley with concerns related to the Comprehensive plan.

All Supervisors received an email invitation from Sue Johannsen regarding an affordable housing energy event on February 5, 2025.

Sorensen received an email from Kim Warren regarding an initiative for childcare options in Muscatine.

Mather was contacted by an individual who complimented Community Services Director Jessica Bopes and her staff for the assistance they offered.

Committee Report:

Kirchner attended a Muscatine County Fair Board on January 16, 2025.

Chick attended a Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Economic meeting on January 14, 2025.

Mather attended a Muscatine County Veterans Affairs Commission meeting on January 15, 2025.

Sauer attended a River Bend Transit Board of Directors meeting on January 15, 2025.  
Sauer attended a Muscatine County Board of Health meeting on January 15, 2025.  
Sauer attended a Muscatine County Conservation Board meeting on January 17, 2025.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, the Board approved to indefinitely extend the Director of Administrative Service's signatory authority to the Budget Administrator. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Chick, second by Sauer, the Board appointed Sue O'Donnell to the Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission to fill a vacancy on a term ending January 1, 2027. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kirchner, second by Sorensen, the Board appointed Dakoatah Trystyn Domnik Jacobs to the Muscatine County Conservation Board to fill a five-year term ending December 31, 2029. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Chick, second by Sorensen, the Board approved the Board of Supervisors appointments to Boards and Commissions for 2025. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board approved an Education Reimbursement request for Melissa Hill, Administration Administrative Secretary for tuition cost of \$495.00 for Certificate in Accounting & Finance for Non-financial Managers. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Bryan Horesowsky updated the Board on secondary road design projects.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas reviewed the upcoming Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing and regulatory specific language that will be reviewed. Furnas stated he received the email from Sue Johannsen regarding an invite from a group called Muscatine County Renewable Energy Districts. Furnas stated Muscatine County is not part of a renewable energy district in the unincorporated areas and there are no pending ordinance updates or mandates that is beyond what is in the building code minimums for efficiency.

The Board recessed at 9:42 A.M. and reconvened at 9:57 A.M.

County Attorney Jim Barry advised the Board, pursuant to Chapter 20.17, Code of Iowa, the Board is not required to enter into a non-public session by motion and roll call vote.

The Board entered into Non-public session at 9:58 A.M. pursuant to Chapter 20.17(3), Code of Iowa, to discuss strategy for the upcoming FY25/26 union negotiations. The Board returned to open session at 11:04 A.M.

The Board reviewed an employee wage report presented by Budget Administrator Kala Naber. Mather stated three things to consider: implement the salary study; carve out parts of the salary study; or if we adopt the salary study, how fast do we implement it to catch up certain positions.

Chick recommended to adjust the salary study changes to a 5% increase maximum. The Board consensus was to direct Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber to prepare a report with the proposed adjustment to scale decreased by 1% and the salary study catch up increases at two steps per year (for FY25/26) instead of four steps as shown on the report. Sorensen recommended the wage increase for elected officials to match the proposed adjustment to scale plus the step percentage (same as discussed for other employees).

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 P.M.

ATTEST:

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Tibe Vander Linden  
County Auditor

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Nathan Mather, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors