

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, February 3, 2025

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. with Chick, Kirchner, Mather, 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 February 3, 2025 in the amount of \$190,269.92. Ayes: All.

A Public Hearing was called to order by Chairperson Mather at 9:02 A.M. on proposed updates to the Muscatine County Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Bi-State Regional Commissions Deputy Director Gena McCullough, and Dave Kovarik proposed to the Board the updates to the Muscatine County Comprehensive Land Use Plan. McCullough reviewed the highlights of the plan itself. A comprehensive plan is based upon Iowa Code. The Zoning ordinance must be in accordance with this comprehensive plan. The comprehensive plan is based on land use regulations and development. The plan needs to consider the areas character and suitability, and is made with smart planning principles in mind, such as: Vision, Public Input, Data Inventory, Goals/Priorities and Implement Strategies. The Zoning Commission then recommends adoption of the plan to the Board of Supervisors. A draft of the proposed updated plan can be found on the County website under Zoning Commission.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the public hearing was closed at 9:37 A.M. Roll call vote. Ayes: All.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas updated the Board about prior bids for sidewalk and parking lot replacements. The bids received from three different contractors over a year ago, ranged from \$178,800 to \$424,000. Mike Nolan of Horizon Architecture, instructed Furnas to consult with an engineering service. Furnas met with Brad Roeth of Watersmith Engineering service and after visiting all sites, Roeth put together a proposal for design, construction and bidding paid services. Furnas also met with the Muscatine City Engineer about the 4<sup>th</sup> Street curb. City of Muscatine may partner with us to do some needed entrance and curb work. Chick asked Furnas why we are paying an engineering service. Furnas stated to get a good sidewalk, a topographic and utility survey will need completed before excavating to identify site features and utilities, property and right of ways lines, and because we are within the city limits, we need clear specs for the contractors on how the ADA access and crossing are designed.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved to accept a Proposal for design and engineering services with Watersmith Engineering of Muscatine in the amount of \$29,800 for sidewalk and parking lot replacements. Ayes: All.

Sorensen asked the Board to consider discussing on next week's agenda, the overseeing of construction in the Zoning Office.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas updated the Board on roof work beginning today on Administration building. Kirchner asked for an update on the Jail panels and Courthouse roofing project. Furnas stated he spoke with Mike Nolan of Horizon Architecture; Nolan is going to reach out to the contractor again and then Furnas wants to contact the actual vendor with a bit of aggressiveness since the material continues to be unavailable. This product has been unavailable since April 2024. Furnas wants to put a little pressure on the vendor that if they want us to use their product or recommend their product, we need to see movement very soon. Furnas stated the Courthouse roof project had a bit of a slow down due to the weather, but still anticipates a completion date in April or May 2025.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner the Board approved the minutes of the January 27, 2025 regular meeting. Ayes: All.

#### Correspondence:

Sorensen received a call from an unknown caller as he could not make out the name of the caller. Sorensen asked the caller to reach out again.

Sorensen attended a Pattern Book discussion with the City of Muscatine on Thursday January 30, 2025.

Mather noted a number of forwarded emails showing gratitude to the Veteran Affairs Director Eric Sanders, and also expressed a thank you to all that were involved and participated in the Steering Committee and the updating of the Comprehensive Plan.

#### Committee and Meeting Reports:

All Supervisors attended a Conference Board meeting on Tuesday January 28, 2025.

Kirchner attended a WELEAD meeting on Thursday January 30, 2025.

Sorensen attended an Eastern Iowa Mental Health Region meeting on Monday January 27, 2025.

Information Services Director Bill Riley reminded the Board of budgeted money in the current fiscal year for a Switch Refresh. This is a process that involves replacing or upgrading network equipment to meet increased demand. Riley stated the Virtualization Cluster installed at the Jail has had some resource contention. The Jail grew faster than anticipated in the 5-year window allotted. Riley asked the Board to use the budgeted \$60,000 for the Switch Refresh, to replace the Virtualization Cluster to one more size appropriate. Riley stated that only 4-5 switches out of the whole group were questionable due to end of sale, end of support, and believes we should be good for another year. Layer 3 switches are good for 7-10 years. These switches are 7 years old.

The Board recessed at 10:02 A.M. and reconvened at 10:11 A.M.

The Board held discussion with Budget Administrator Kala Naber regarding updated budget report options based on requests from the prior meeting. The discussion included the debt service levy and general supplemental options. In the updated packets are now three options. Naber stated she contacted our bond attorney about if the remaining levy debt can be used for any other levy project. Since this was levied for an essential purpose, and we currently don't have one, we could repurpose it to another essential purpose. Iowa Code 331.441 shows the "essential county purpose" list.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 A.M.

ATTEST:

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Shannon Steele  
Administrative/Elections Clerk

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Nathan Mather, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors