

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, February 24, 2025

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. with Kirchner, Chick, 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 a request from Mississippi Valley Child Protection Center for permission to place blue pinwheels and signs at the Muscatine Courthouse, County Jail, County Attorney, and Community Service Building for April's Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month. Ayes: All.

Community Services Director Jessica Bopes reviewed a proposed increase for the fee schedules for General Assistance and Veterans Affairs services. Bopes recommended to increase the fees from guardianship and conservator fees from \$100.00 to \$300.00 and to charge a 4% fee for veteran affairs services.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved to revise fee schedules for General Assistance and Veterans Affairs services. Ayes: All.

Bopes reviewed a written data request from the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services for all historical and current data for the continuity of care as the state transitions from MHDS Regions to the new Behavioral Health Statewide System on July 1, 2025. Sorensen recommended the language mark up on the release form, completed by County Attorney Jim Barry, should be reviewed by Carosh Compliance Solutions. Sorensen stated he will be attending the MHDS region meeting today and will discuss the request for release of data. Sorensen stated he will report back at next week's Board meeting.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board moved to table the request for Resolution 02-24-25-01 Approving a Request to Release Data to Iowa Department of Health and Human Services. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board set a public hearing for Monday March 17, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. on proposed amendments to the Muscatine County Zoning Ordinance regarding Private Burial Sites and Cryptocurrency and Data Center Facilities. Ayes: All.

County Development Director Eric Furnas updated the Board regarding Muscatine County Administration Building Maintenance-Phase 1. Furnas stated a contractor will begin work at 6 A.M. tomorrow to replace doors that go out to the roof and attic. Muscatine County Administration Building Maintenance -Phase 2, pre-bid walk through has been completed for tuck pointing and masonry work.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board authorized the Chair to sign a letter of support regarding the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant application submitted by Iowa Department of Transportation. Specifically for the Hwy 6 bridge over the

East Branch of the Wapsinonoc Creek in Muscatine County. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Chick, the Board authorized the Chair to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between Muscatine County and the State of Iowa, Department of Management (“DOM”) for Cybersecurity with Information Services Director Bill Riley. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, the Board approved the minutes of the February 17, 2025 regular meeting. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

All Supervisors received two emails from residents regarding the 245<sup>th</sup> Street, Conesville, Iowa, road and bridge.

Sauer was contacted by residents at M & W Trailer Park regarding water quality issues. Sauer contacted County Development Director Eric Furnas who had been contacted by residents with the concern.

Sorensen was contacted by residents with concerns about food pantries in the area. Sorensen stated Community Services Director Jessica Bopes is reviewing the food pantry concerns.

Chick received calls from two residents regarding 245<sup>th</sup> Street, Conesville.

Committee Reports:

Kirchner attended a Muscatine County Fair Board meeting on February 20, 2025.

Chick attended a County Trails System meeting on February 19, 2025 regarding a proposed county wide trail system. American Discovery Trail was also discussed which is a proposed trail from Washington DC to Washington State.

Chick attended a Mississippi Valley Workforce Area Board meeting on February 19, 2025.

Chick attended a Mississippi Valley Workforce Area Board CEO meeting on February 20, 2025.

Mather attended a Muscatine County Veterans Affairs Commission meeting on February 19, 2025.

Mather attended Bi-State Regional Planning Commission Personnel meeting on February 21, 2025.

Sauer attended a Muscatine County Conservation Board meeting on February 17, 2025.

Sauer attended a River Bend Transit Board of Directors meeting on February 19, 2025.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Kirchner, the Board set a public hearing on proposed FY24/25 Muscatine County budget amendments for Monday, March 17, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Kirchner, the Board set a public hearing on the FY25/26

Muscatine County Proposed Property Tax Levy for Monday, March 24, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the conclusion of the Board of Supervisors regular meeting. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, the Board approved a hiring request for the Human Resources Administrator position in the Administration Office. Ayes: Kirchner, Mather, Sauer, Sorensen. Nay: Chick. Motion passed 4-1.

Conservation Director Katie Hammond updated the Board stating the seasonal positions have been offered and filled and are seeking a campground host at Saulsbury campground. Hammond questioned if the request for an environmental education intern has been approved for the upcoming fiscal year. Budget Administrator Kala Naber stated budget deliberations will be discussed later in this meeting. Hammond stated there are two grants the Conservation Board is planning to apply for. Delta Dental is offering a grant to place a drinking fountain with a water bottle refill station at Discovery Park and another grant submission will be for ballistic vests grant for the three law enforcement conservation employees. Hammond stated the Deep Lakes Park Campground ground breaking with Triple B Construction is planned for the week of March 3, 2025. Hammond asked the Board if they would like to attend a ground breaking ceremony. The Board consensus was to meet at the campground with the Conservation Board on March 3, 2025 at 12:00 P.M. for a ground breaking ceremony. Hammond stated she will be meeting with Furnas to discuss inspections for the campground project. Hammond stated an on-line reservation system for the cabin and campground reservation is being discussed and set up with the County Treasurer's office.

The Board recessed at 9:40 A.M. and reconvened at 9:46 A.M.

Naber presented information regarding FY24/25 salary comparisons, total salaries and benefits, salary increases FY19/20 through FY24/25, salaries of appointed officials, proposed FY25/26 salaries, compensation board recommendations across the state, CPI information, ISAC statewide survey of salaries and Iowa County Compensation Iowa Code information for the review of FY25/26 proposed wage increases for elected officials. The Board held discussion on the proposed wage increase for all elected officials. County Sheriff Quinn Riess presented comparable salary information according to Iowa law on police chiefs of similar population to our county. The Board held discussion with ongoing FY25/26 budget deliberations.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board went into closed session at 10:44 A.M. pursuant to Chapter 21.5 (c), Code of Iowa, to discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent. Roll call vote: Ayes: All. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board returned to open session at 11:37 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 A.M.

ATTEST:

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Shannon Steele  
Administrative/Elections Clerk

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Nathan Mather, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors