

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, April 7, 2025

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

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

Emergency Manager Chris Jasper stated the Emergency Management Commission currently has a red flag warning policy (or if a fire chief in the county requests a burn ban), then all fire chiefs decide by majority decision if a burn ban is to be issued by the state fire office. Jasper stated he has contacted other counties, Sheriff Quinn Riess, County Attorney Jim Barry and fire chiefs within our county, who are recommending a proposed ordinance for the regulation of burning for the county.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board set a public hearing for Monday April 21, 2025 at 9:00 A.M. on a proposed ordinance for regulation of burning for Muscatine County. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Bryan Horesowsky reviewed the Muscatine County DOT FY 2026 Secondary Roads Budget and the Five-Year Construction Program. Horesowsky held discussion with the Board regarding the bridges needing replaced that are not in the Five-Year Construction Program. Mather recommended the Board view in person the bridges on this list after a meeting this spring or summer.

On a motion by Chick, second by Sorensen, the Board approved the Muscatine County DOT FY 2026 Secondary Roads Five Year Program and Secondary Roads Budget. Ayes: All.

Horesowsky stated he has been notified by the Department of Transportation for possible Haul Road Agreements for projects taking place in Cedar County on Hwy 38 and the Mediapolis area on Hwy 61.

County Development Director Eric Furnas held discussion with the Board regarding a contract adjustment for Horizon Architecture to provide additional design services for the Muscatine County Engineering and Zoning Building.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board authorized the chair to sign a contract adjustment for Horizon Architecture to provide additional design services for the Muscatine County Engineering and Zoning Building in the amount of \$55,844.80. Ayes: All.

Furnas stated the Muscatine County Jail Exterior Insulated Metal Panel Project has not been started but recently rain events occurred have caused leaks into the jail kitchen area. Henley Group has quoted additional work of 11 new louver hoods with a subcontract with Giese Roofing.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved Change Order #1 with Henley Group, Davenport, Iowa, in the amount of \$12,390.00 for the Muscatine County Jail Exterior

Insulated Metal Panel Project. Ayes: All.

Mike Nolan, Horizon Architecture, reviewed the updated Facilities Master Plan for Muscatine County Conservation.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board approved County Recorder's Report of Fees collected for the quarter ending March 31, 2025 in the amount of \$52,542.82. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved Muscatine County Sheriff's Office – Civil Department's Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending March 31, 2025 in the amount of \$24,067.13. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board approved County Auditor's Report of Fees collected for the quarter ending March 31, 2025 in the amount of \$3,339.35. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved County Treasurer's Report of Fees collected for the quarter ending March 31, 2025 in the amount of \$652,242.94. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board approved a new application for a Class C Retail Alcohol License and Outdoor Service Permit for The Chart House, Inc. dba The Lighthouse, 2142 Water Street, Muscatine, Iowa. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, the Board approved the minutes of the March 31, 2025, regular meeting. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Sauer and Mather had several conversations with citizens regarding solar power.

Mather received a packet of solar power information from Mark Patton. The packet will be forwarded to all Board members by email.

Committee & Meeting Reports:

Chick and Sorensen attended a Housing Council meeting on April 2, 2025.

Sauer attended a Muscatine County Conservation Board meeting on April 2, 2025.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved Resolution #04-07-25-01 Transferring Funds from the Rural Services Fund to the Secondary Roads Fund. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

**RESOLUTION # 04-07-25-01
TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM THE RURAL SERVICES FUND TO THE
SECONDARY ROADS FUND**

WHEREAS, it is desired to authorize the Auditor periodically to transfer sums from the Rural Services Fund to the Secondary Roads Fund; and

WHEREAS, said transfers must be in accordance with Sections 331.429 and 331.432 of the Code of Iowa.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors that the Auditor is authorized to transfer \$1,140,000 from the Rural Services Fund to the Secondary Roads Fund.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 7th day of April, 2025.

ATTEST:

/s/Tibe Vander Linden
Muscatine County Auditor

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

Emergency Manager Chris Jasper stated pumps were delivered a couple weeks ago to Louisa County for the drainage district. The pumps have been installed and are functioning. Jasper stated the Corps of Engineers has stated they will leave the pumps until the entire project is done in case there is a pump failure. Jasper reminded the public that today starts the testing season with outdoor siren testing at 11:00 A.M. and will continue the first Monday of the month at 11:00 A.M. Jasper stated there are four to five outdoor sirens that are down due to waiting on parts. Jasper stated he expects the parts to be delivered and installed so that all outdoor sirens are functioning for the May 2025 test.

County Development Director Eric Furnas requested the Board's consensus to allow a foreign exchange student from Switzerland during the month of July, to observe his department to see American agriculture and buildings. The student is out of high school and participating with an apprenticeship in architecture and construction management, which is part of a farm state program. Furnas will work with County Attorney Jim Barry to prepare a Hold Harmless Agreement. The Board consensus was to allow Furnas to host the exchange student for the apprenticeship type program.

The Board recessed at 10:06 A.M. and reconvened at 10:10 A.M.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board went into Non-public session at 10:10 A.M. pursuant to Chapter 20.17(3), Code of Iowa, to discuss strategy for the FY25/26 union negotiations. Roll call vote: Ayes: All. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board returned to open session at 11:12 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer. The Board went into closed session at 11:12 A.M. (at employee's request) pursuant to Chapter 21.5.1 (i), Code of Iowa, for performance evaluation. Roll call vote: Ayes: All. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board returned to open session at 11:27 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 A.M.

ATTEST:

Tibe Vander Linden
County Auditor

Nathan Mather, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors