

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, April 14, 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 April 14, 2025 in the amount of \$1,107,586.19. Ayes: All.

A Public Hearing was called to order by Chairperson Mather at 9:01 A.M. on the proposed FY25/26 Muscatine County Budget. Roll call vote: Ayes: All. Budget and Administrative Services Director Kala Naber reviewed the FY25/26 budget with a pie chart showing expenditures and revenues by service areas. No one spoke for or against the proposed FY25/26 Muscatine County Budget.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved Resolution #04-14-25-01 Approval of Elected Officials Fiscal Year 25/26 Salaries. Roll call vote: Ayes: Sauer, Sorensen, Mather, Kirchner. Nay: Chick. Motion carried 4-1.

RESOLUTION #04-14-25-01
APPROVAL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS FISCAL YEAR 25/26 SALARIES

WHEREAS, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors voted to take no action to reestablish the dissolved Muscatine County Compensation Board, duties and responsibilities were transferred to the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors on December 16, 2024, in accordance with Iowa Code Chapters 331.905 and 331.907; and

WHEREAS, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met on February 24, 2025 and discussed the following proposed salaries for the following elected officials for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025:

<u>Elected Official</u>	<u>Current Salary</u>	<u>Proposed Increase</u>	<u>Proposed Salary</u>
Auditor	\$86,173	3.0%	\$88,758
County Attorney	\$160,661	3.0%	\$165,481
Recorder	\$86,173	3.0%	\$88,758
Sheriff	\$135,852	3.0%	\$139,928
Supervisors	\$30,859*	3.0%	\$31,785*
Treasurer	\$86,173	3.0%	\$88,758

* Plus \$2,500 for Board Chair and \$1,500 for Vice-Chair.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors approves the following salary adjustments for the following elected officials for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025:

<u>Elected Official</u>	<u>Approved Salary</u>	<u>Approved Increase</u>
Auditor	\$89,189	3.50%
County Attorney	\$165,481	3.00%
Recorder	\$88,758	3.00%
Sheriff	\$141,286	4.00%
Supervisors	\$31,785*	3.00%
Treasurer	\$89,189	3.50%

* Plus \$2,500 for Board Chair and \$1,500 for Vice-Chair.

APPROVED this 14th day of April, 2025.

ATTEST:

/s/Tibe Vander Linden
Muscatine County Auditor

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

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, the Board approved Resolution #04-14-25-02 Adopting the Fiscal Year 25/26 County Budget. Roll call vote: Ayes: Sauer, Sorensen, Mather, Kirchner. Nay: Chick. Motion carried 4-1.

RESOLUTION #04-14-25-02
ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025/26 COUNTY BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors conducted a public hearing on April 14, 2025, where citizens of Muscatine County were invited to comment on the Fiscal Year 2025/25 budget, as duly published according to Section 331.434(2) of the Code of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors appreciates comments from the citizens and encourages all citizens to be informed and participate in county government.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors that the Fiscal Year 2025/26 County budget is adopted as per the Proposed County Budget Summary for Fiscal Year 2025/26.

PASSED and APPROVED this 14th day of April, 2025.

ATTEST:

/s/Tibe Vander Linden
Muscatine County Auditor

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

County Development Director Eric Furnas reviewed two Variances granted by the Muscatine County Board of Adjustment on April 4, 2025. Case #25-04-01, Record Owner, David Phillips, 2794 Deer Creek, Muscatine. The affected property is located in Bloomington Township, in parts of the SE ¼ of Section 12-T77N-R2W, 2794 Deer Creek, containing approximately 2.50 acres, and is zoned R-1 Residential. The Variance request is to allow an accessory structure to be built in the front yard space approximately 41 feet from the front property line and the applicant requests a variance that would allow a detached accessory structure in the front yard space and only 41 feet from the front property line. Applicant claims that the topography of the lot makes placement of the structure in the side or rear yard very difficult, creating a hardship. Case #25-04-02, Record Owner, James Buser, 2011 Elder Avenue, Muscatine. The affected property is located in Pike Township, in parts of the NW ¼ of Section 26-T77N-R4W, 2011 Elder Ave, containing approximately 5.15 acres, and is zoned A-1 Agricultural. The Variance request is to allow an accessory structure to be built in the front yard space approximately 285 feet from the front property line. The hardship exists due to the topography, location of the septic system and the way the dwelling and driveway are arranged on the property.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board accepted the two Variances. Ayes: All.

Furnas held discussion with the Board regarding updates of the Deep Lakes Campground Project, Courthouse Roof project and the Jail Panel Project. Furnas reviewed concerns with the geothermal system. The Board consensus was to direct Furnas to contact a firm to evaluate the needs and issues of the geothermal system. Furnas estimated the evaluation to cost approximately \$10,000. Information Services Director Bill Riley questioned if a county policy could be put in place to state when county offices can be closed when extreme heat occurs (when the geothermal system is not adequate to cool the building). Naber stated a written policy can be reviewed.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, the Board approved the minutes of the April 7, 2025 regular meeting. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Sauer and Sorensen received call from a resident inquiring if rock that is being delivered could be spread by a county grader on his private lane. The resident was informed the county could not provide this service.

All Supervisors received an email from a resident with questions regarding the proposed burn ban ordinance. A copy of the proposed ordinance was sent to the resident.

Mather received information from Wilton Chamber and Development Alliance stating a WILFUNDY fundraiser golf outing is to be held on Friday, June 13, 2025. If interested, contact Cathy Brown at cbrown@wiltoniowa.org.

Committee Report:

Chick attended a Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Economic Development tour of Stanley Consultants on April 9, 2025.

The Board held discussion with Budget and Administrative Services Director Kala Naber and Human Resources Director Beth Keith in regards to the job grading evaluation system to tally a

new class specification and grade assignments. Chick expressed his concern with the proposed new class specification and grade assignment for an Administrative Secretary position (Grade 8) to become an Administrative Assistant position (Grade 10), as the change is a 13% wage increase. Sorensen stated concerns with the change of jumping two grades and two steps with the proposed new class specification and questioned if the Board will be supportive if other position changes are presented in the future. Sorensen stated he believes the wage philosophy overall for possible grade/step changes should be reviewed. Sorensen requested to review the recent salary study results and to calculate the overall costs involved, if all recommendations from the study are implemented. Mather stated he does not recommend holding up the proposed new class specification request in lieu of possible other positions being reviewed or changed. Sorensen stated department heads should review their own department job descriptions and present proposed changes if necessary.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved a new class specification and grade assignment for an Administration Secretary position (Grade 8, Step 2) to become an Administrative Assistant position (Grade 10, Step 2), held by Melissa Hill, effective April 19, 2025. Ayes: Sauer, Sorensen, Mather, Kirchner. Nay: Chick. Motion carried 4-1.

Information Services Director Bill Riley stated a change to the current fiscal year budget as a set of servers for the Administration Building will no longer be supported on the current subscription, as of July 5, 2025. Riley stated the amount of \$34,000.00 will be applied to new hardware in the current fiscal year and then the balance will be invoiced in the next fiscal year. Riley stated an amount of \$160,000.00 has been budgeted for FY25/26, however, the overall new server implementation is projected to cost \$100,000.00.

The Board recessed at 10:09 A.M. and reconvened at 10:18 A.M.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board went into a non-public session at 10:18 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 Chick, the Board returned to open session at 11:42 A.M. Ayes: All.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 AM.

ATTEST:

Jane Claussen
1st Deputy Auditor

Nathan Mather, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors