

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, April 28, 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 28, 2025 in the amount of \$426,903.89. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board approved an ordinance for regulation of burning for Muscatine County on the second of three readings. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved to amend Title III, Chapter II, of the Muscatine County Code of Ordinances relating to the Zoning Ordinance for Data Centers & Cryptocurrency on the first of three readings. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

The Board held discussion with County Development Director Eric Furnas regarding the Muscatine County Code of Ordinance relating to the Zoning Ordinance for Private Burial Sites. Furnas stated burials on private land is legal in Iowa. Furnas stated requests from Muscatine County residents are not frequent. Furnas stated if private grave plots are recorded, they can be disclosed to any future buyers of the land. Discussion was held regarding the possibility of moving a grave site, costs related to moving a site, possibility of requirements for a maintenance bond and possible burden on future land owners and the tax payers. The Board consensus was to table the ordinance indefinitely.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board moved to indefinitely table the proposed Ordinance to amend Title III, Chapter II, of the Muscatine County Code of Ordinances relating to the Zoning Ordinance for Private Burial Sites on the first of three readings. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kirchner, second by Sorensen, the Board set a public hearing for Monday, May 12, 2025 at 9:00 A.M. on proposed amendments to the Muscatine County Zoning Ordinance regarding Construction Codes. Ayes: All.

Items with County Engineer Bryan Horesowsky presented the bids for L-(M25-2)--73-70, full depth reclamation and seal coating along portions of Saulsbury Road and North Tipton Road. Horesowsky reviewed a bid from Pelling L.L. Co., Inc., North Liberty, Iowa in the amount of \$1,397,489.20. Horesowsky stated only the one bid was received. Horesowsky recommended to approve the bid from Pelling L.L. Co., Inc, North Liberty, Iowa.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board awarded a bid for L-(M25-2)--73-70, full depth reclamation and seal coating along portions of Saulsbury Road and North Tipton Road in the amount of \$1,397,489.20 with Pelling L.L. Co., Inc., North Liberty, Iowa.. Ayes: All.

Horesowsky updated the Board on secondary road projects.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved the minutes of the April 21, 2025 regular meeting. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Sorensen received several emails from Jeanette Blank with concerns regarding a guardianship case.

Sorensen shared a notice to all Board members which stated Jail Administrator, Matt McCleary, was selected as a member to the Regional Governance Board (Mental Health Advisory Board).

Mather had a conversation with Anthony Davis of the Dennis Quaid podcast. The Board consensus was to decline participation with the podcast. Mather stated he has forwarded the podcast information to the Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mather stated the Muscatine County Veterans Outreach Program event on April 24, 2025 was well attended.

All Supervisors received an email from Andrea Woodard from Iowa Association of Counties (ISAC) regarding her plans to conduct a 99-county tour. The Board consensus was to contact Woodard to suggest a date in September 2025 to consider a tour of our county.

Chick was contacted by a representative with Assured Partners regarding a review. Human Resources Director Beth Keith stated she spoke with him and there is no interest for a review at this time.

Committee Report:

Kirchner attended a West Liberty Economic Area Development (WELEAD) meeting on April 24, 2025.

Chick and Sorensen attended a Bi-State Regional Planning Commission meeting on April 23, 2025.

Mather attended a Muscatine County Veterans Affairs Commission meeting on April 23, 2025.

Sorensen attended an Eastern Iowa Mental Health Region meeting on April 21, 2025.

Sorensen reported the region will be dissolving the 28E Agreement with a finalized document, which will be presented to the Board of Supervisors.

Sorensen received an email from County Treasurer Amy Zybarth regarding Drainage District #13 negotiating a land purchase to design a settling basin at Whiskey Hollow bridge area. Zybarth stated she will contact Rodd McNeal with community grant writer contact information regarding the proposed project. Sorensen recommended the Board form a committee to review this.

Sauer attended a River Bend Transit Board of Directors meeting on April 16, 2025.

Sauer attended a Muscatine County Conservation Board meeting on April 21, 2025.

Sauer attended a River Bend Transit meeting on April 22, 2025 to conduct interviews for the Executive Director position (due to a retirement).

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, the Board set a public hearing on proposed FY24/25 Muscatine County budget amendments for Monday, June 2, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. Ayes: All.

Sheriff Quinn Riess stated Jail Administrator, Matt McCleary was selected as a member to the Regional Governance Board (Mental Health Advisory Board) which is an excellent choice as McCleary's law enforcement background and knowledge will be an asset.

The Board recessed at 9:40 A.M. and reconvened at 9:48 A.M.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board moved into closed session at 9:48 A.M. pursuant to Code of Iowa, Section 21.5 (c) to discuss strategy with counsel in matter where litigation is imminent where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the governmental body in that litigation; and/or Section 21.2 (j) to discuss the purchase or sale of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for the property or reduce the price the governmental body would receive for the property. Roll call vote: Ayes: All. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board returned to open session at 9:55 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board approved an offer to buy real estate and acceptance agreement for the purpose of a parcel with approximately 5.06 acres to use property as a satellite storage and motor grader shed facility or any other manner as may otherwise be allowed by law. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board moved into Non-public session at 9:56 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 10:14 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 AM.

ATTEST:

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Shannon Steele  
Administrative/Elections Clerk

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Nathan Mather, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors