

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, May 5, 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 with revision of spelling to new hire's name. Ayes: All.

A Public Hearing was called to order by Chairperson Mather at 9:01 A.M. on the proposed ordinance for special events in Muscatine County, the first of three readings.

County Development Director, Eric Furnas, gave a brief overview of an event the ordinance would support, such as an upcoming triathlon. Furnas stated the triathlon would involve county roads and parks.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the public hearing was closed at 9:03 A.M. Roll call vote. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved an Ordinance for special events in Muscatine County on the first of three readings. Roll Call vote. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Kirchner, the Board approved Ordinance #05-05-25-01 Regulation of Burning for Muscatine County, Iowa on the third and final reading. Roll Call vote. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, 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 second of three readings. Roll Call vote. Ayes: All.

Director of Public Health, Jen Craft, presented the 2025-2027 Muscatine County Health Improvement Plan. Craft stated the Public Health Department conducts a community health assessment every three years in alignment with Trinity Muscatine. Craft stated they also partner with Unity Point Quad Cities, Scott County Health Department and Rock Island County Health Department Community Health Care. Craft noted that there were six priorities identified in their 2024 assessment and that the Muscatine County stakeholder committee chose behavioral health and physical activity - nutritional and weight management for the top two priorities to focus on for the next two years. Craft gave an overview of the goals which are also linked on the Public Health website and the Trinity Muscatine Public Health website. Craft stated for behavioral health, the goal is to promote mental well-being and access to behavioral health resources by reducing barriers, increasing awareness, and fostering a supportive community that prioritizes emotional and psychological wellness. Craft emphasized that the focus will be on improving awareness by launching an educational media campaign on who to contact, where to go and how to access behavioral health services. The department also intends on expanding mental health first aid training to community members, educators and first responders. Craft stated she was able to obtain

funding to become certified to train mental health first aid. Craft will be able to offer this training at a free or reduced cost and is currently the only person within the county able to provide this training. Craft stated the final step for public health is to market Together We Care, a resource hub that community partners can enter information into and keep up to date. This will allow Craft and Unity Point to pull metrics to establish what resources are being searched and utilized within our community. The remaining initiatives tied to behavioral health are focused on Robert Young Center initiatives which is a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC). The Robert Young Center is working to increase evidence-based practices to screen, assess and treat chronic depression, implementing early detection and interventions to address alcohol-related deaths and enhancing their crisis services. The second priority addresses physical activity – nutritional and weight management. Craft stated the goal is to create a culture of health in Muscatine County by increasing access to nutritious foods, promoting physical activity and empowering individuals to make sustainable lifestyle choices that improve overall well-being. Craft mentioned they are working closely with Iowa State University (ISU) extension and outreach and their Leveraging Activities and Partnerships to Address Obesity (LEAP) coalition to provide education to individuals that want to work towards a healthier lifestyle. Craft stated that the Public Health department will be launching an educational media campaign selling the why of healthy living, emphasizing risks such as healthy weight and chronic disease. They will also be partnering with local schools, businesses and community groups to integrate wellness focused policies and practices such as healthy eating guidelines. This will also work with the Together We Care resource hub allowing citizens to find resources for a dietitian and meal planning support, etc. as well as organizing community fitness challenges, walking clubs and cooking classes to help build sustainable healthy lifestyles. The next initiative is in partnership with Unity Point Clinics to educate parents and children on healthy weight for children as well as provide education on healthy lifestyles. The third initiative is in partnership with Unity Point Muscatine to increase their community outreach, offering community members education regarding lasting changes to manage their heart to health with a focus on prevention. The fourth initiative is in partnership with Unity Point Health Heart to Heart and Trinity Muscatine Public Health and will be focusing on connecting community members via heart-to-heart program to provide healthy lifestyle education. Sorensen asked if CCBHC was planning to roll out in July 2025. Craft stated she has been in communication with the staff at CCBHC but no official date has been set. Sorensen asked if the Together We Care resource application will be integrated with the Muscatine Cares application. Craft stated some of the resources and challenges may be put in the Muscatine Cares application.

Conservation Director, Katie Hammond, presented a contract with Horizon Architecture, to design a maintenance building. Hammond stated currently there are two buildings at 2557 Pettibone Ave., Muscatine. Hammond stated they are looking for some controlled heating and air space and some uncontrolled space that is open to the elements as well as a restroom. Hammond stated that the Conservation Board did approve the contract, however thought this should be something that the Board of Supervisors should sign instead.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved a contract with Horizon Architecture, in the amount of \$16,000.00, for feasibility and design services for the Deep Lakes Park Maintenance Building. Ayes: All.

Hammond updated the Board with the campground project, stating the electric lines should be done by September 1, 2025. Mather inquired on when the swimming area will be opened to the public. Hammond stated that she believed it would be May 24, 2025. Hammond also stated she has received inquiries on utilizing the open water to help train for the upcoming triathlon and she will work with County Attorney, Jim Barry for advice.

Community Services Director, Jessica Bopes, stated that with the Administrative Service Organization (ASO) starting on July 1, 2025, and the regional Board terminating at sunset on June 30, 2025, there is a 28E Agreement with Cedar, Scott, Jackson and Clinton counties. Bopes stated that the agreement will be resolved due to the new legislation with the new ASO. Bopes presented a 28E to the Board that will take effect on December 31, 2025. Bopes stated this will allow enough time to ensure financials are closed and audit completion.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved Resolution #05-05-25-01 Approval of the Eastern Iowa MHDS Regional Governing Board of Directors Action to Terminate/Dissolve the Eastern Iowa MHDS Region 28E Agreement. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

**RESOLUTION #05-05-25-01**  
**APPROVAL OF THE EASTERN IOWA MHDS REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD OF**  
**DIRECTORS ACTION TO TERMINATE/DISSOLVE THE EASTERN IOWA MHDS**  
**REGION 28E AGREEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, as it states in the third amended Intergovernmental 28E Agreement entered into on December 20, 2022, Cedar, Clinton, Jackson, Muscatine and Scott Counties are member counties within the Eastern Iowa MHDS Region; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to House File 2673, Iowa Code Chapter 225C will be rescinded as of July 1, 2025, and the MHDS Regions will not be responsible for service management activities and/or payment of mental health and disability services provided after June 30, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the repeal of Iowa Code Chapter 225C, under section 3.1 (a) of the December 20, 2022 amended Eastern Iowa MHDS Region's 28E agreement, the statutory requirement for mental health services to be provided through a regional format will terminate the 28E agreement.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the termination/dissolving of the Eastern Iowa MHDS Region 28E agreement, effective December 31, 2025.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 5th day of May, 2025.

ATTEST:

/s/Shannon Steele  
Administrative/Elections Clerk

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

Bopes stated this is Mental Health Awareness Month and Make It Okay Muscatine is going on. Green shirts with the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline number on the back are available for purchase online. Additionally, the Mississippi bridge lights will remain green until at least May 15, 2025.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board approved setting a letting date of June 2, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. for project L-(GO-4)- -73-70, a twin 12'x6'x75' RCB Culvert on 160<sup>th</sup> St in the SW ¼ of Section 34-T78N-R03W. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved setting a letting date of June 23, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. for project LFM-(FR-6)- -7X-70, a PCC Pavement Grade and Replace Project on Stewart Rd (X61) from Fruitland Rd (G38) north to Muscatine City Limits. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, the Board approved four utility permits: Eastern Iowa Light and Power, Lone Tree, Iowa and Wilton, Iowa – Change out an old pole in the County Right-of-Way (ROW) with the purpose of extending our underground cable to a new service, in private property at 2016 Geneva Hills Road - Section 29, T77N, R1W, Sweetland Township; the second utility permit is to bore Bayfield Road with 2 inch innerduct and 7,200V cable, into private property, then retire out the overhead wires and poles in the ROW at 2665 Bayfield Road – Section 14, T77N, R2W, Bloomington Township; the third utility permit is to cross 100<sup>th</sup> Street with overhead primary conductor for a new house at Section 3, T78N, R04W, Wapsinonoc Township; the fourth utility permit is to bore 3-2 feet duct on the north side of 160<sup>th</sup> Street for the bridge replacement at Section 34, T78N, R03W, Goshen Township. Ayes: All.

County Engineer, Bryan Horesowsky, update the Board on secondary road projects.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board approved the minutes of the April 28, 2025 regular meeting as revised. Ayes: All

Correspondence:

Sorensen stated the Board received a note from Tom Furlong commenting on a private burial. Sorensen appreciated the note.

Mather stated Veterans Affairs Coordinator, Eric Sanders forwarded an encouraging and positive voicemail giving feedback to the services he provided.

Mather spoke with Anthony Davis from the Dennis Quaid podcast and stated he was thankful for the interest, but we were not interested in pursuing anything further at this time.

Committee & Meeting Reports:

No meetings reported.

On a motion by Chick, second by Sorensen, the Board accepted the April 2025 payroll claims. Ayes: All.

Sheriff, Quinn Reiss, stated this week is Correction Officer Appreciation Week.

Furnas stated he received the same email from Furlong and there was concern about the proposed private burial cemetery ordinance and the likelihood of those turning into pioneer cemeteries. Furnas stated the people that establish these private sites, as well as subsequent owners of the properties, would have to maintain control and care. Sorensen questioned if we have a process for approval, then they will not become pioneer. Barry stated you cannot prohibit a private cemetery as it is provided in the Iowa Code. Barry also stated we are not in a position to prohibit it; we are only in a position to regulate it. A pioneer cemetery, by code, is not the same as a private cemetery and stated only the pioneer cemeteries identified in our ordinance are our responsibility. Mather asked if it was a State or County Code. Barry responded that there is both a County 331 rule and there's also Iowa Code 523I which deals with cemeteries in general. Mather suggested to place this back on the agenda for discussion and possible action on a first reading next week.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 A.M.

ATTEST:

---

Shannon Steele  
Administrative Elections Clerk

---

Nathan Mather, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors