

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, May 19, 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 an Ordinance #05-19-25-01 Muscatine County Special Events on the third and final reading. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

The Board agenda item #6 was presented ahead of agenda items #4 and #5.

Brad Roeth of Watersmith Engineering gave an overview of proposed County Parking Lot and Sidewalk Replacement Projects. The Board reviewed the three projects: Jail Parking Lot/Sidewalk, Administration Building Parking lot and East 4th Street/Walnut Street sidewalks. Roeth presented a Construction Cost Opinion for each proposed project with a total cost for all projects at \$434,603.00. Budget and Administrative Services Director Kala Naber stated the Jail Parking Lot/Sidewalk project was bonded so the funds are available. Naber stated the other two projects are being estimated at a higher cost than previously budgeted for. Naber stated there is a possibility of left-over contingency funds from the Courthouse Roof Project, however the project has not been completed to determine if funds are available. The Board held discussion regarding the potential bidding process to occur in July 2025 in order for the projects to be completed in the next fiscal year. Sorensen thanked Roeth for his overview of the projects.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved an Ordinance for amendments to the Muscatine County Construction Codes on the second of three readings. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board approved an 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 second of three readings. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board moved to enter into Agreement No. 2025-C-087, between Muscatine County and the Iowa DOT, to pave local road returns along Hwy 22 from the Johnson County line east to the east junction of Highway 70 (MM 60.14). Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board approved to amend the Muscatine County DOT FY 2025 Secondary Roads Budget. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board approved renewal of a Class E Retail Alcohol License for Casey's Marketing Co., dba Casey's General Store #2472, 1334 Hwy 22, Nichols, IA 52766. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved the minutes of the May 12, 2025 regular meeting. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

- Sorensen received an email from the Coalition Against Large Trucks. Sorensen forwarded the email to County Engineer Bryan Horesowsky.
- All Supervisors received an email from Kory Hogan regarding an issue on Highway 38. Horesowsky contacted Hogan with contact information for Iowa DOT.
- All Supervisors received an email from Iowa House Representative Taylor Collins, who thanked the Board members for feedback on the proposed property tax relief bill. Sorensen stated the proposed changes did not pass during the 2025 Iowa legislative session.
- All Supervisors received an email from Lisbeth Klein with concerns of cell phone service at Salisbury Park. Conservation Director Katie Hammond contacted Klein with available options for cell phone service.
- Mather received an email from Veteran's Affairs Director Eric Sanders stating Sanders has assisted eight Vietnam Veterans to receive their high school diplomas. Mather commended Sanders on his outstanding service to veterans.
- Kirchner received a call from a resident regarding a concern with a near accident at the modified T intersection at Eliason Avenue and 155th Street. Horesowsky is reviewing the intersection.

Committee Report:

- Kirchner attended a Lower Cedar Watershed Management meeting on May 13, 2025.
- Kirchner attended a Muscatine County Fair Board meeting on May 15, 2025. Kirchner stated the Fair Board received a Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) grant on May 17, 2025 for the Muscatine County Fair Event Center in the amount of \$422,000.00.
- Chick attended an Economic Development Committee meeting on May 13, 2025.
- Sorensen attended a Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GMCCI) Advocacy meeting on May 13, 2025.
- Sauer attended a Ports of Eastern Iowa meeting on May 14, 2025.

Discussion was held with the Board regarding an agreement between Eastern Iowa Community College District/Muscatine Community College and Muscatine County to provide video production services for the period 7/01/2025 through 6/30/2027. Chick stated he has been contacted from citizens with a concern that not all open meeting sessions are captured, such as when the Board readjourns after a closed session and also when the budget meetings occur. Naber stated the contract is based on a number of days, such as regular Monday Board meetings. Sorensen stated there is an "As Needed Contracted Fee" schedule within the agreement allowing the Board to request additional video services as needed or budgeted for.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board approved an agreement between Eastern Iowa Community College District/Muscatine Community College and Muscatine County to provide video production services for the period 7/01/2025 through 6/30/2027 with a base fee in the amount of \$12,605.00 for FY25/26 and \$12,983.00 for FY26/27. Ayes: All.

Budget and Administrative Services Director Kala Naber reminded the Board there is no meeting

on Monday, May 26, 2025, due to the Memorial Holiday.

Katie Hammond, Conservation Director, updated the Board stating the Naturalists have been very busy with environmental educational school field trips. Hammond stated summer camp registrations are filling up with a few camp registration spots still available. The County Rangers have been busy with park patrol rotations and the Deep Lakes Park beach opened over the past weekend. Hammond stated the on-line reservation process has been successful. The Deep Lakes Campground project is progressing with the electrical portion expected to be completed this week. Hammond questioned the Board if they want to make a recommendation to the Conservation Board (scheduled to meet tonight) regarding scuba diving regulation and procedures as there have been concerns expressed in order to control the liability to the county. Hammond stated there are two different scuba groups scheduled and approved with a special event permit to perform lake bottom and shore clean up at Lake Jewel and Lake Violet and/or scuba training. County Attorney Jim Barry stated the individuals should provide a waiver certificate, as they will not have individual insurance, and then Barry would request to review the certificate. The Board consensus was to allow local search and rescue teams to train but to disallow other scuba diving groups, due to the possible risk to the county.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 AM.

ATTEST:

Shannon Steele
Administrative/Elections Clerk

Nathan Mather, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors