

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, July 21, 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 July 21, 2025 in the amount of \$1,180,443.18. Ayes: All.

Shane Orr, United Way Muscatine County President and CEO, and Hilary Henke, United Way Community Engagement Manager updated the Board on strategic planning, assistance provided to citizens, internal programs and community outreach projects provided by United Way Muscatine County. Orr stated United Way of Muscatine has been in the community for over 70 years and recently changed their name to United Way Muscatine County. Henke stated their goal is to educate citizens of the programs United Way provides and invited Muscatine citizens employed in the county to contribute through payroll deduction with their electronic Google form.

Miranda Swafford from Mississippi Valley Local Workforce Development (MVWD) and Jim Irwin, Clinton County Supervisor, held discussion electronically through Zoom meeting with the Board, regarding possible action to approve the merger of South Central and MVWD Areas. Irwin reviewed a memo outlining the proposed merger of South Central, Mississippi Valley and Northeast Iowa Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDB). South Central Iowa LWDB has indicated they cannot sustain operations and have proposed a merger. NE Iowa and Mississippi Valley LWDB have comparable budgets, stable operations and experienced staff teams. Together these two area LWDB's can provide the structure and capacity to support a merged board. The proposed merger would offer a more centralized, strategically aligned model, with potentially seven staff, resulting in both cost savings and greater functional specialization. Mather stated his concerns that he does not foresee federal funding expanding to support this. The Board held a discussion stating the proposed merger at this time is for two areas: South Central and Mississippi Valley, with the proposed merger with Northeast Iowa (as presented in the memo) to be discussed at a later date.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board approved the merger of South Central and Mississippi Valley Local Workforce Development Areas. Ayes: Kirchner, Chick, Sorensen, Sauer: Nay: Mather. The motion passed 4-1.

County Development Director Eric Furnas reviewed a variance granted by the Muscatine County Board of Adjustment. Case #25-07-02, an application filed by property owners, Joseph & Angela Woodhouse, 2639 Canterbury Road, Muscatine, to allow the Zoning Administrator to issue a variance for the property located in Bloomington Township, in parts of the SW ¼ of Section 23-T77N-R2W, at 2639 Canterbury Road, containing approximately 1.03 acres, and is zoned R-2 Residential. The request to allow an accessory structure to be built in the front yard space approximately 28 feet from the front lot line. The Board held discussion regarding the rationale for the term "hardship" for this property.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board moved to remand the Variance to the Muscatine County Zoning Board of Adjustment. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board set a public hearing for Monday, August 11, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. on proposed amendments to the Muscatine County Zoning Ordinance regarding Accessory Dwelling Units. Ayes: All.

Mike Nolan of Horizon Architecture reviewed a contract adjustment for Service Order 23-001 and for geothermal investigation for foundation design services for the Zoning and Engineering building. Nolan reviewed Service Order 23-002 for site/foundation design and additional civil engineering services for the County Roads Satellite Facility.

On a motion by Chick, second by Sorensen, the Board approved a contract adjustment in the amount of \$6,425.00 for Service Order 23-001 for geotechnical investigation for foundation design services for the Zoning and Engineering Building. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved a contract adjustment in the amount of \$5,845.00 for Service Order 23-002 for geotechnical investigation for site and foundation design for the County Roads Satellite Facility. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Kirchner, the Board approved a contract adjustment in the amount of \$5,250.80 for Service Order 23-002 for additional civil engineering services for the County Roads Satellite Facility. Ayes: All.

Nolan reviewed and recommended awarding a bid for the Muscatine County Community Services Building Repair and Renovation project from one bid received from Wolfe Contracting.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board accepted a bid with Wolfe Contracting, Muscatine, Iowa, for the Muscatine County Community Services Building Repair and Renovation project in the amount of \$315,960.00 for base bid total and \$250.00 for additional limestone replacement. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Bryan Horesowsky reviewed the Contract, Bond, and Certificate of Insurance for bridge project for project LFM-(FR-6) --7X-70.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved the Contract, Bond, and Certificate of Insurance for bridge project 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.

Horesowsky updated the Board on secondary roads projects.

On a motion by Chick, second by Sorensen, the Board approved to disallow previously approved Homestead and Military credits. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board approved to allow new 2025 homestead tax credit, 65+ Homestead Exemption and/or Military Tax Exemption applications, except those recommended to be disallowed by the Assessor's Office. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved to approve/deny 2025 Disabled Veteran's Homestead Tax Credit applications as recommended by the Muscatine County Assessor's Office. Ayes: All.

County Auditor Tibe Vander Linden reviewed Resolution #07-21-25-01 Establishing Compensation for Precinct Election Officials. Vander Linden recommended a pay per hour increase for the Absentee Board, Health Care Facility team members and Post-Election Audit workers to change from \$10.00 per hour to \$12.00 per hour.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board approved Resolution #07-21-25-01 Establishing Compensation for Precinct Election Officials. Roll call vote: Ayes: All

**RESOLUTION #07-21-25-01
ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION FOR PRECINCT ELECTION OFFICIALS**

WHEREAS, according to Iowa Code Section 49.20, the Board of Supervisors establishes the compensation rate and mileage reimbursement rate of precinct election officials; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors, that effective July 21, 2025, Precinct Election Chairpersons shall receive \$200.00. Precinct Election Day Officials shall receive \$160.00 for full day duties or \$80.00 for half day duties. All other Precinct Election workers, such as Absentee and Special Voter Precinct Board (ASVP), Health Care Facility (HCF) team and Post-Election Audit Workers will receive \$12.00 per hour. All Precinct Election Officials (PEO) will receive \$25.00 for election school of instruction if the PEO works on election day or for the ASVP Board, HCF team or Post-Election Audit team.

WHEREAS, according to Iowa Code Section 49.125, the Board of Supervisors establishes the mileage reimbursement rate for precinct election officials.

All Precinct Election workers will receive mileage reimbursement rate, to and from the school of instruction and to and from the polling place, if over five miles, which shall be set at \$0.63 per mile for calendar year 2025.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 12th day of July, 2025.

ATTEST:

/s/Tibe Vander Linden
Muscatine County Auditor

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

Community Service Director Jessica Bopes reviewed a request to increase the department miscellaneous checking account balance from \$1,500.00 to \$2,500.000. Bopes stated the account is used for general assistance for clients who qualify for support with bus fares and True Link fees. Bopes stated the number of clients has increased.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved to increase Community Services miscellaneous checking account balance from \$1,500.00 to \$2,500.00. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, the Board approved for publication of the Muscatine County Treasurer's Semi-Annual Report for the period January 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Chick, second by Kirchner, the Board approved the minutes of the July 14, 2025, regular meeting. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

All Supervisors received an email from Gene Hammons regarding an EMS meeting scheduled for July 23, 2025, at West Liberty Fire Department.

Committee Reports:

Sorensen attended a Robert Young Center Board meeting on July 15, 2025.

The Center has plans to present to the Board their services and have a presence in our community with the Center for Alcohol and Drug services (CAD).

Sauer attended a Muscatine County Conservation 20-year Anniversary event at the Discovery Center on July 15, 2025.

Sauer attended a Riverbend Transit Board meeting on July 16, 2025. Sauer noted the cost for a bus has increased from \$74,000 (four years ago) to \$190,000.

Sauer attended a Muscatine County Board of Health meeting on July 16, 2025.

Mather stated the Muscatine County Veteran's Affairs Commission meeting was not held and will be rescheduled.

Kirchner stated the Muscatine County Fair Board wishes to thank Muscatine County Sheriff Quinn Riess and his department for their excellent work at the 2025 Muscatine County Fair that concluded on July 20, 2025.

County Treasurer Amy Zybarth stated the Treasurer's office will be closed on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, due to her staff attending the Iowa Department of Transportation training and updates in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 AM.

ATTEST:

Tibe Vander Linden
County Auditor

Nathan Mather, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors