

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, December 22, 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 Chick, the Board approved claims dated December 22, 2025 in the amount of \$476,114.60. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, at 9:01 A.M. the Board approved reopening a public hearing first held on April 17, 2024, on a proposal to vacate and close 245th Street Bridge, 245th Street and Edgewater Road in Orono Township. Ayes: All. No comments from the public occurred.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the public hearing was closed at 9:01 A.M. on a proposal to vacate and close 245th Street Bridge, 245th Street and Edgewater Road in Orono Township. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

County Attorney Jim Barry held discussion with the Board regarding the proposal to vacate and close 245th Street Bridge, 245th Street and Edgewater Road in Orono Township. Barry stated that efforts will be made by the Edgewater Bridge and Road Association to take over the road and replace the bridge. Barry stated that CBI Bank & Trust is designated as the depository for the funds. Barry stated there is a Reciprocal Access Agreement so the county can continue to access the six lots owned by Muscatine County based on the FEMA action. Barry noted that there are individual releases and waivers from all the individuals that make up the Edgewater Bridge and Road Association. Barry stated the county has a quick claim deed and authorization to sell the bridge. Barry stated the next step is to consummate the closure and the damage settlement. Barry addressed the Board regarding a previous claim made by individuals that have since passed away. Barry stated that proceeds are to be paid into a construction account, a contingency account and a maintenance account pursuant to the terms of the bank's escrow agreement. Barry reviewed how the funds and the interest will be allocated before and during the bridge construction. Barry stated funds, including interest, that are not expended will be returned to the county pursuant to the settlement agreement. Barry recommended that the Board adopt the settlement agreement.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board approved Resolution #12-22-25-01 Approving a Request to Vacate and Close 245th Street Bridge, 245th Street and Edgewater Road in Orono Township. Roll call vote: Ayes: Kirchner, Chick, Sorensen, Sauer. Mather abstained from the vote due to client conflict.

RESOLUTION #12-22-25-01
APPROVING A REQUEST TO VACATE AND CLOSE 245TH STREET BRIDGE, 245TH
STREET AND EDGEWATER ROAD IN ORONO TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on April 17, 2024, on the proposed vacation and closure of 245th Street Bridge, 245th Street and Edgewater Road in Orono Township, described as follows:

245th Street in Orono Township:

All of an existing roadway easement, originally established Thomas Boggs Road (now known as 245th Street), recorded in Establishment Record Book “B”, Page 2, in the Office of the Muscatine County Engineer, varying width (60 feet and 40 feet) over a parcel of land located in Section 16, Township 76 North, Range 4 West, of the 5th Principal Meridian, Muscatine County, Iowa, lying easterly of the following described Point of Beginning:

Commencing at a concrete monument with broken top found at the West Quarter Corner of Section 16, Township 76 North, Range 4 West, of the 5th Principal Meridian, Muscatine County, Iowa; thence North 0° 47’ 06” East along the west line of said Section 16, basis of bearings for this survey being the Iowa Regional Coordinate System, Zone 14 Burlington, a distance of 4.02 feet to the present centerline of originally established Thomas Boggs Road (now known as 245th Street), recorded in Establishment Record Book “B”, Page 2, in the Office of the Muscatine County Engineer, thence South 89° 33’ 28” East 415.00 feet along said centerline, to the Point of Beginning.

Said easement contains 4.51 acres, more or less, and is subject to all easements and other restrictions of record.

Edgewater Road in Orono Township:

All of an existing roadway easement, originally established Lords Ferry Road (now known as Edgewater Road), recorded in Establishment Record Book “PB”, Page 254, in the Office of the Muscatine County Engineer, 40 feet wide over a parcel of land located in Sections 15 and 16, Township 76 North, Range 4 West, of the 5th Principal Meridian, Muscatine County, Iowa.

Said easement contains 3.65 acres, more or less, and is subject to all easements and other restrictions of record.

And the proposed closure, demolition and replacement of Muscatine County Bridge #319, FHWA #257230, located on 245th St roughly 3,125 ft east of Blue Heron Ave, in Section 16, T-76N, R-04W, all within Orono Township, Muscatine County, Iowa; and

WHEREAS, the Board thereafter continued action on the proposed road and bridge vacation to allow the parties time submit supplemental information supporting their damage claims and to thereafter discuss and potentially reach an agreed settlement of their respective differences.

WHEREAS, the parties have now reached a settlement agreement as well as the related documents necessary to effectuate the terms of the settlement agreement.

WHEREAS, both the Edgewater Bridge & Road Association and the Nature Conservancy have signed the settlement agreement and all the related documents and these documents were submitted to the Board of Supervisors on December 22, 2025 for final consideration and action in conjunction with the road and bridge vacation.

WHEREAS, the Board received the information at the hearing on December 22, 2025 has been considered by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors and determined to take action to close and vacate the bridge and roads.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors:

1. That the roads (245th & Edgewater) described herein above are hereby vacated and closed based upon the settlement terms reached by the parties.
2. That the bridge described as #319, FHWA #257230 is likewise hereby closed and ordered to be transferred to the Edgewater Bridge and Road Association pursuant to the terms of the settlement documents.
3. That Muscatine County will make a damage payment, not to exceed \$1,322,290.00, per the terms and conditions in the attached settlement agreement.
4. That said damage payment will be made to CBI Bank & Trust 310 Iowa Ave., Muscatine, Iowa 52761 to be held and distributed pursuant to the terms of the escrow account and settlement documents.
5. That the Reciprocal Access Agreement allowing for access by the respective parties has been agreed upon and signed by the parties.
6. That Release and Waivers, executed by the individuals comprising the Edgewater Bridge and Road Association have been executed pursuant to the terms of the settlement documents.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 22nd day of December, 2025.

ATTEST:

/s/Shannon Steele
Administrative/Elections Clerk

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

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved Resolution #12-22-25-02 Signatory Authorization for CBI Bank & Trust Escrow Account. Roll call vote: Ayes: Kirchner, Chick, Sorensen, Sauer. Mather abstained from the vote due to client conflict.

RESOLUTION #12-22-25-02
SIGNATORY AUTHORIZATION FOR CBI BANK & TRUST ESCROW ACCOUNT

WHEREAS, CBI Bank & Trust (the “Financial Institution”) is designated as a depository for the funds Muscatine County, Iowa (the “County”) deposited for the purposes and reasons contained in both the Settlement Agreement and Escrow Agreement between Muscatine County, Iowa and The Edgewater Bridge and Road Association, Inc. acting on its behalf and the behalf of The Nature Conservancy; and to provide other financial accommodations contained therein; and

WHEREAS, Muscatine County is a governing unit under the Code of Iowa and County governments in Iowa are governed by an elected board of supervisors where the Chair has signatory authorization for all county related business and transactions; and

WHEREAS, the Chair authorizes that the agents listed below may sign all escrow payment requests on the County’s behalf for submission to the Financial Institution and authorize the payment to the County of any funds which are to be paid back to the County, pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement and Escrow Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the signature of an Agent on this Resolution is conclusive evidence of their authority to act on behalf of the County. Any Agent, so long as they act in a representative capacity as an Agent of the Corporation, is authorized to make any and all other contracts, agreements, stipulations and orders which they may deem advisable for the effective exercise of the powers indicated in this Resolution, from time to time with the Financial Institution, subject to any restrictions on this resolution or otherwise agreed to in writing; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution shall continue to have effect until express written notice of its rescission or modification has been received and recorded by the Financial Institution. Any revocation, modification or replacement of a resolution must be accompanied by documentation, satisfactory to the Financial Institution, establishing the authority for the changes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors that the following agents are authorized to exercise the powers granted in this resolution on behalf of Muscatine County.

AGENTS:

1. Kala Naber
2. Eric Furnas
3. Bryan Horesowsky

PASSED AND APPROVED this 22nd day of December, 2025.

ATTEST:

/s/Shannon Steele
Administrative/Elections Clerk

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

On a motion by Chick, second by Sorensen, the Board approved Resolution #12-22-25-03 Selling Muscatine County Bridge #319, FHWA #257230, located on 245th Street roughly 3,125 feet east of Blue Heron Avenue, in Section 16, T-76N,R-04W, all within Orono Township, Muscatine County, Iowa. Roll call vote: Ayes: Kirchner, Chick, Sorensen, Sauer. Mather abstained from the vote due to client conflict.

**RESOLUTION #12-22-25-03
DISPOSAL OF COUNTY BRIDGE**

WHEREAS, THE Muscatine County Engineer's Office has received a request from Richard or Irene Buser and Daphne Buser, James and Janette Robinson, and Conesville Yacht Club LLC. to purchase Bridge #319 on 245th St. for the sum of \$1.00; and

WHEREAS, said bridge is located on roadway vacated by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors on December 22, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors to authorize the sale of FHWA Bridge #257230, Muscatine County Bridge #319, located on 245th St roughly 3,125 ft east of Blue Heron Ave, in Section 16, T-76N, R-04W, all within Orono Township, Muscatine County, Iowa to Richard or Irene Buser and Daphne Buser, James and Janette Robinson, and Conesville Yacht Club LLC for \$1.00.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 22nd day of December, 2025.

ATTEST:

/s/Shannon Steele
Administrative/Elections Clerk

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

Mather stated that the committee to appoint a County Attorney discussed and concluded that Korie Talkington is uniquely qualified for the open appointment of Muscatine County Attorney for the interim period from January 5, 2026 through November 3, 2026. Mather stated that Talkington has been an Assistant Attorney for several years and has been recommended by local law enforcement and others who have worked with her. Chick stated he had two personal phone calls with her to discuss her qualifications and feels comfortable with the decision to appoint Talkington. Barry stated that he would not have resigned if it were not for Talkington's indication of interest in the position.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved Korie Talkington to be appointed as Muscatine County Attorney to serve from January 5, 2026 through the November 3, 2026 General Election. Ayes: All.

County Auditor Tibe Vander Linden presented the Canvass of the Montpelier Sanitary Sewer District Election to the Board stating the Board canvassed the Montpelier Sanitary Sewer District Election held on December 17, 2025 at 1958 Scott Street, Montpelier, Iowa. Results were as follows: For the office of Trustee for the six-year term beginning January 2, 2026– 22 votes were cast. Randy Ferkel received 22 votes. Randy Ferkel was elected. For the office of Trustee for the To Fill a Vacancy term (3-year term) – 27 votes were cast. Kim Cox received 22 votes and Randy Ferkel received 5 votes. Kim Cox was elected.

County Engineer Bryan Horesowsky presented the bid letting results for project L-(M26-1)- -73-70, Pavement Markings on various roads throughout the county. The three bids that were received are as follows: Advanced Traffic Control, Inc., Cedar Rapids, Iowa - \$525,509.92, Vogel Traffic Services, Orange City, Iowa - \$660,281.97 and ProLine Striping Inc., Muscatine, Iowa - \$690,384.80. Horesowsky recommended Advanced Traffic Control, Inc., Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in the amount of \$525,509.92.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board awarded a bid for project L-(M26-1) - -73-70, Pavement Markings on various roads throughout the county to Advanced Traffic Control, Inc., Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in the amount of \$525,509.92. Ayes: All.

Horesowsky updated the Board on secondary road projects.

Furnas held discussion with the Board regarding possible action to appoint Justin Yant to the Muscatine County Building Board of Appeals for a three-year term ending December 31, 2028. Furnas stated Tim Nelson of Nelson Electric has served several full terms and has now asked that Justin Yant be appointed. Sorensen wanted to publicly thank Tim Nelson for his many years of service.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved the appointment of Justin Yant to the Muscatine County Building Board of Appeals for a three-year term ending December 31, 2028. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, the Board approved the minutes of the December 15, 2025 regular meeting. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Sorensen received a call and attended a meeting regarding issues that arose with EMS community communications with Cedar County. Sorensen stated he referred the communication concern to Emergency Manager Chris Jasper.

Sorensen received a letter from BSNF Railway requesting the Board to send a negative approval of the Norfolk Southern and Union Pacific merger. Sorensen referred the letter to Horesowsky.

Mather received an email from Gene Hammonds about an Essential Services meeting for December 17, 2025. Mather stated he was unable to attend.

Mather received an email from Vander Linden for a request from a newspaper to serve as an official newspaper of records.

Committee Reports:

Sorensen attended a Robert Young Center Board meeting on December 17, 2025.

Sorensen met with a group of community stakeholders on December 19, 2025 to discuss MSCA's 21 bed unit that will be open sometime in February 2026.

Kirchner attended the Muscatine County Joint Communications Commission meeting on December 15, 2025.

Kirchner attended the West Liberty Economic Area Development meeting on December 18, 2026.

Kirchner attended the Muscatine County Fair Board meeting on December 18, 2025.

Chick and Sorensen attended the Bi-State Regional Planning Commission meeting on December 17, 2025.

Sorensen attended the Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region meeting on December 15, 2025.

Sorensen attended the Muscatine County Emergency Management Committee meeting on December 17, 2025.

Sorensen attended the MS Essential Association meeting on December 17, 2025.

Sauer attended the Muscatine County Conservation Board meeting on December 15, 2025.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved to adopt a revised Muscatine County Right-to-Use Lease Asset Policy to include Subscription Based Assets. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board approved to adopt a revised Muscatine County Claims Submittal Policy. Ayes: All.

Barry held discussion with the Board regarding the 2026-2027 budget for hiring another attorney for the County Attorney's office in July 2026 as requested by the Board. Barry stated he had not included an amount in the budget as he was not sure how much to ascertain due to hiring a new County Attorney after his resignation. Barry stated he could include an estimated amount, and the Board could amend it in the future if needed.

Furnas wanted to publicly thank Barry for his years of service serving as the Muscatine County Attorney.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 A.M.

ATTEST:

Jane Claussen
1st Deputy Auditor

Nathan Mather, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors