

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, January 13, 2026

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. with Chick, Kirchner, Mather, Sorensen and Sauer present. Chairperson Chick presiding.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the agenda was approved as presented. Ayes: All.

Unity Public Health Director Jen Craft reviewed the FY26/27 budget request presenting a slide show of the past year's services the department provided. Craft provided a budget request justification report showing a county cost per citizen for essential services of \$7.45.

County Attorney Korie Talkington reviewed the FY26/27 budget stating she has not worked with the budget previously and is only eight days into the appointment as County Attorney.

Talkington stated a MOU was signed with the City of Muscatine for the City Prosecutor Reimbursement to increase the amount from \$40,000 (this rate has been held for approximately 10 years) to \$50,000. Talkington stated the Fine Collection program runs well. Talkington stated the budget (per former County Attorney Jim Barry) requests another Assistant County Attorney. Talkington stated it appears another Assistant is needed, however a recent meeting with two judges has led to discussing the possibility of changing court schedules, which may help the office manage their time more efficiently. Talkington recommended a change to forfeitures to no longer wave the county portion of the fees.

County Sheriff Quinn Riess reviewed the FY26/27 Patrol budget stating a decrease to the fuel and motor vehicles. Riess stated the new equipment budget is increased as tasers are due for replacement. Other increases include education and training, maintenance agreement (generator), guns/ammo and motor vehicle set up. Riess reviewed the Jail budget stating there are decreases for fuel and telephone interpreters and increases for postage/ mailing, professional fees-training (real time updates), utilities and vehicle maintenance. Riess reviewed the medical contract for the nursing staff. Riess stated the kitchen food and provisions increase is due to federal guideline changes. Riess stated a possible increase to the jail per diem is under review with Jail Administrator Matt McCleary.

County Development Director Eric Furnas reviewed the FY26/27 Zoning and Environmental Services budget. Furnas stated the increase for salaries is due to a potential grade and step increase for an employee taking the test for E2 Electrical Inspector license required for commercial inspections. Furnas reviewed increases in equipment (GPS update) and ordinance revisions due to state code minimum revisions.

Furnas reviewed the FY26/27 General Services budget stating an increase for education and training for lock system training for one employee to attend. Furnas stated the Community Services building heat pump replacement (two pumps) are budgeted for.

Budget & Administrative Services Director Kala Naber reviewed FY26/27 Board/Administration budget stating a decrease in salaries due to change in staff and an increase in televised fees due to the new contract. The Board held discussion on adding additional funding for televised meetings for public hearings and special meetings. Naber stated an additional \$4,000 can be included in the budget to allow for the additional televised meeting costs.

Naber reviewed the FY67/27 Court Services budget stating there is an increase in juvenile detention due to the contract with Scott County to hold one bed for detainees.

Naber reviewed the FY26/27 DHS budget with no change in expenditures and revenues.

Naber reviewed the FY26/27 Non-Departmental budget stating an increase for MUSCOM, Emergency Management and liability insurance. Naber reviewed the ARPA Recovery Funds, LG Abatement (Opioid Settlement Administration) budget and Debt Service payments.

The Board recessed at 12:01 P.M. and reconvened at 1:00 P.M.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the Board approved the revised class specifications and grade assignments, due to AFSCME union decertification, effective July 1, 2026. Ayes: All.

The Board held discussion with Budget & Administrative Services Director Kala Naber, Sheriff Quinn Riess and Jail Administrator Matt McCleary regarding revised class specifications and grade assignments for AFSCME. Riess recommended step changes for a food service worker, jail receptionist and jail records clerk. The Board consensus was to accept the recommendations as presented and to act on the revisions for grade assignments and steps.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, the Board approved placement of current employees into the revised grade assignments and steps with changes, due to the decertification of the AFSCME union, effective July 1, 2026. Ayes: All.

- Administrative Assistant – Jail (Grade 10)
Tara Hogan – Step 16
- Commissary Manager (Grade 9)
Tracie Williams – Step 5
- Commissary/Food Service Worker (Grade 6)
(LeAnne Daufeldt – Step 1)
- Food Service Worker (Grade 6)
(Sara Carmichael – Step 3) (Tracy Frymoyer – Step 12) (Stephanie Honts – Step 3)
- Food Service Worker II (Grade 7)
(Michelle Leopard – Step 12)
- Jail Medical Records Clerk (Grade 8)
(Part Time Position – Vacant with no intention to fill at this time)

- Jail Receptionist (Grade 8)
(Sonya Sturms – Step 8)
- Jail Records Clerk (Grade 8)
(Brenda Eagle – Step 8)

Riess requested a salary change for a current Lieutenant to be changed from Grade 14, Step 2 to Grade 14, Step 9, due to the salary study changes creating the salary for a current Sargeant at Grade 12, Step 18, who is now paid a higher salary than the Lieutenant (at Grade 14, Step 2). The Board consensus was to add this recommendation to the agenda for Monday, January 19, 2026, for discussion and possible action.

Naber held discussion with the Board regarding placement of current employees into the revised class specifications listed below, with no change to current grade assignments or steps, effective today. The proposed change will not alter current salaries or grade/step assignments. The job descriptions have been updated to the current positions listed.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the Board approved placement of current employees into the revised class specifications listed below, with no change to current grade assignments or steps, effective today January 13, 2026. Ayes: All.

- Administration & Finance Director (Grade 18)
(Kala Naber – Step 6)
- County Development Director (Grade 18)
(Eric Furnas – Step 19)

Naber held discussion with the Board regarding the Levee Projects remaining funds. The Board consensus was to repurpose the funds towards other capital projects.

Furnas reviewed the Capital Project Plan.

Naber reviewed the ARPA Recovery funds with a possible overage that can be repurposed with no restrictions. Naber reviewed the FY26/27 valuation increase and levy estimates.

The meeting adjourned at 2:56 P.M.

ATTEST:

Tibe Vander Linden
County Auditor

Danny Chick, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors