

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, January 19, 2026

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

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

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, the Board approved claims dated January 19, 2026, in the amount of \$578,925.98. Ayes: All.

County Development Director Eric Furnas reviewed a Special Use Permit for a Rural Residence granted by the Muscatine County Board of Adjustment on January 9, 2026. Case #25-01-01 was a Reconsider Case with an application filed by K & R LLC, Record Owner, to allow the construction of a rural residence on the parcel. The affected property is in Sweetland Township, in parts of the SW ¼ of Section 4-T77N-R1W, Parcel #09-04-300-006, containing approximately 6.84 acres and is zoned A-1 Agricultural District. The Board of Adjustment acknowledged that the CSR2 of the ag land was considerably higher than what they would normally consider, but that the relatively small parcel size already limited the farmland value. They also acknowledged the proposed dwelling would be less than 750 feet from the closest dwelling but noted that there is already significant residential development across Sweetland Road that gave the area a residential feel. The Board of Adjustment approved the Special Use Permit 4-1. Sauer questioned that the parcel was reconsidered due to the high CSR and asked what the highest CSR rating number is when considering a special use permit application. Furnas stated the ordinance states anything over a rating of 55 should not be allowed. Sauer asked what the rating is for the parcel. Furnas stated it is rated at 82 or 83. Sauer asked if the rating was actually over 50% higher than allowed. Furnas stated that is correct. Sauer questioned the value of the farmland statement, the 750 feet separation and the significant residential development across Sweetland Road. Sauer stated there are only two houses across Sweetland Road that have been there for 100 years. Sauer stated that if they are speaking of 170<sup>th</sup> Street where Sweetland Acres is (where the sale barn used to be), there is significant residential development on 170<sup>th</sup> Street. Sauer stated he doesn't understand the logic with this special use permit. Sorensen stated this is the second time this corner has come up for discussion in the past several years. Sorensen stated when Sweetland Mill area was looking at making some changes they had significant conflicts that did not allow them to continue their operations due to the residential area behind them. Sorensen stated that issuing special use permits can become a concern when a property is transferred to a new owner in the future. Sauer stated this approval goes against all the guidelines that have been set forth.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board approved Resolution #01-19-26-01 Approval of the Combined Preliminary and Final Plat of Phillips Acres Subdivision. Roll call vote: Ayes: Sorensen, Kirchner, Chick. Sauer abstained from voting. Motion passed 3-0.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board approved the minutes of

January 12, 2026, regular meeting and the minutes of January 13, 2026, special meeting.  
Ayes: All

Correspondence.

No correspondence was reported.

Committee Reports.

Sorensen attended a meeting with local leaders on January 15, 2026, regarding a 15 bed MCSA facility is located at the corner of 5th Street and Orange Street. The facility is scheduled to open in February or March 2026.

Kirchner attended the Muscatine County Fair Blue Ribbon Fundraiser at the new Kent Event Center on January 17, 2026.

Kirchner attended the Muscatine County Fair Board meeting on January 15, 2026.

Sauer attended the Muscatine County Board of Health meeting on January 14, 2026.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board approved placement of Corrections Lieutenant Tye Hardman into Grade 14 Step 9, effective January 24, 2026.  
Ayes: All.

Conservation Director Katie Hammond stated the Deep Lakes Campground Ribbon Cutting Ceremony date will be set at tonight's Conservation Board Public Hearing. The proposed date is February 2, 2026, at 11:00 A.M. The on-line reservation for the campground is scheduled to go live after the ribbon cutting.

County Engineer Bryan Horesowsky stated the F70 Mosquito Creek bridge contract documents have been received and are in order. Horesowsky stated he will be meeting with the contractor.

County Development Director Eric Furnas spoke with Terry Martin, Trustee for Drainage District #13 regarding a proposed project at Whiskey Creek/Whiskey Hollow for a sediment basin. Furnas will draft a general support letter with the proposed project concept for the Board. Sorensen recommended Drainage District #13 reach out to Bi-State Regional Planning Commission for grant opportunities.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 A.M.

ATTEST:

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Tibe Vander Linden  
County Auditor

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Danny Chick, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors