

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, February 23, 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.

Sheriff Quinn Riess stated that the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB) grant is something that Muscatine County has received since he has worked here. Riess said funding is requested this year to cover more overtime wage expenses. Riess reminded the Board that during Budget presentations, he mentioned that some of the items covered by GTSB funds in prior years would no longer be covered. Riess also stated the grant is divided into two sections, one being General Enforcement and the other Impaired Enforcement. The FY25/26 Grant had \$32,544 in General Enforcement and \$17,700 in Impaired Enforcement. The FY 26/27 Grant application was \$35,000 for General Enforcement and \$19,800 for Impaired Enforcement.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board approved a Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB) Highway Safety Grant application in the amount of \$61,000.00. Ayes: All.

Emergency Manager Chris Jasper spoke regarding Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Muscatine County EMS Association President Tom Summitt was absent. Muscatine County has been able to provide services to area residents but are now starting to see staffing and funding issues. Jasper stated that Iowa Code Chapter 422D was passed into law a couple of years ago and allows us to declare EMS as an essential service in Muscatine County. Jasper asked the Board to set a public hearing date of May 4, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., declaring Emergency Medical Services an essential service. Jasper stated the public meeting must be published 60 days prior and will be the first of three readings.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved to set a public hearing on Monday May 4, 2026, declaring Muscatine County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) an essential service in and for Muscatine County, the first of three readings. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen the Board approved a utility permit with Eastern Iowa Light and Power, Wilton, Iowa to bore under the road for an electric service at 1985 235th Street Muscatine, Iowa. Section 10, T76N-R3W. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Bryan Horesowsky updated the Board on secondary roads projects.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, the Board approved the minutes of February 16, 2026, regular meeting. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

No correspondence reported.

Committee & Meeting Reports:

Sorensen attended a meeting to discuss housing with Community Foundation on February 18, 2026.

Sorensen attended a meeting on February 18, 2026, with the EMS Association.

Sorensen and Sauer attended a meeting for Region 9 Transportation Policy Committee on February 19, 2026

Kirchner attended a Muscatine County Fair Board meeting on February 19, 2026.

Kirchner, Sorensen attended a zoom meeting on February 17, 2026, with Bi-State Regional Planning Commission on the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazmat Plan.

Chick attended a Mississippi Valley Workforce Area Board meeting on February 18, 2026.

Chick attended a Mississippi Valley Workforce Area Board CEO quarterly meeting on February 19, 2026.

Sauer attended a meeting with Muscatine County Conservation Board on February 16, 2026.

Sauer attended a meeting with River Bend Transit on February 18, 2026.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board approved to set a public hearing on the FY26/27 Muscatine County Proposed Property Tax Levy for Monday March 23, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the conclusion of the Board of Supervisors regular meeting. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board accepted the February 2026 Payroll claims. Ayes: All.

Conservation Director, Katie Hammond updated the Board on the approved lowest bid by Wolfe Contracting \$357,000 for the Maintenance Shop. Hammond also stated there are bid requests for installing the septic system for the Maintenance Building and one for installing the well. Both are due March 12, 2026, prior to the next Conservation Board meeting. Hammond also mentioned this Friday February 27, 2026, at 3:00 p.m., there will be a required walkthrough for anyone wanting to bid on the septic project at 2570 Pettibone Muscatine, Iowa. Hammond mentioned the Deep Lakes campground opens on April 15, 2026, and reservations are going very well.

The Board recessed at 9:26 A.M. and reconvened at 9:32 A.M.

The Board entered into Non-public session at 9:32 A.M. pursuant to Chapter 20.17(3), Code of Iowa, to discuss strategy for the upcoming FY25/26 union negotiations. The Board returned to open session at 9:49 A.M.

The Board discussed and decided that no further changes will be made to the FY26/27 Expenditure and Revenue Fund Summary sheet prepared by County Administration and Finance Director Kala Naber.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 A.M.

ATTEST:

Jane Claussen

Danny Chick, Chairperson

1st Deputy Auditor

Board of Supervisors