

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, April 20, 2026

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

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the agenda was approved with revised grant amounts under Agenda Item #4 HRDP grant application. Ayes: All.

County Attorney Korie Talkington reviewed the ARPA grant award agreement related to the Muscatine Power & Water (MPW) rural fiber expansion project. Muscatine Power & Water General Manager Gage Huston requested the Board to consider a waiver of the requested reimbursement on MPW's \$100,000 ARPA grant award related to the rural fiber expansion project completed in 2025. Huston requested to waive reimbursement as miscommunication or misinterpretation at the time of the grant award must have occurred. The grant was intended to close a funding gap to all the project to be financially viable, and repayment would not have served to close the gap; it would have merely shifted the timing of cash flow and MPW would not have considered signing the agreement had they understood the required reimbursement. Huston stated the rates that MPW charges in no way result in profits or private gain to any individual or private corporation as they are a government entity with a separate Board of Trustees. The Board held discussion on the ARPA grants that were awarded to two other entities for fiber expansion: Wilton Telephone who rescinded the grant due to the required reimbursement and Liberty Communications, a private for profit company, who has been making reimbursement payments for approximately two years.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board moved to waive MPW's reimbursement grant award payments and reimburse Liberty Communications for their reimbursement payments. Ayes: 1; Nays: 3. The motion did not pass. Huston thanked the Board for their time and consideration.

Historic Preservation Commissioner Lynn Pruitt and Chris Brase presented a Historical Resource Development Program (HRDP) grant application with the primary use of funds for the Mississippi Courts Tourist Cabins/Supper Club, 3149 Highway 22, east of Muscatine (SE SW Section 27). Pruitt stated the property consists of a 1910 bungalow that later served as roadhouse, café and filling station; eight one-room tourist cabins built in 1936, a larger two-bedroom cabin built in 1938, and their associated setting built into the bluff overlooking the Mississippi river. Pruitt stated that recognizing this historic facility as a historic district will help preserve this piece of transportation history in Muscatine County. The HRDP grant will be used to fund the services of a historic consultant. Brase stated there are no restrictions with the owner of the property as she has signed off on a waiver, and the award of the grant allows the owner to possibly apply for other grants.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board authorized the Historic Preservation Commission to submit a Historical Resource Development Program (HRDP) grant application in the amount of \$6,964 (grant amount \$4,500, cash match \$2,290 and in-kind services \$174). Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Kirchner, the Board set a public hearing for Monday, May 18, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. on the proposed rezoning of approximately 12.44 acres in Wapsie Township in the NW ¼ of Section 10-T78N-R4W, from A-1 Agricultural District to R-1 Residential District. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sorensen, the Board appointed Ashley Spitler to the Muscatine County Zoning Board of Adjustment for a five-year term ending March 31, 2031: Ayes: All.

County Engineer Bryan Horesowsky reviewed a request to purchase two 2027 Mack Granite 64BR Cab and Chassis trucks from Nextran Truck Centers, Mediapolis, Iowa in the amount of \$332,394.00. Horesowsky stated he is reviewing purplewave.com, an internet auction company that conducts public auctions of heavy equipment, as an option to sell the current trucks rather than a trade with the dealership.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the Board approved the purchase of two 2027 Mack Cab and Chassis trucks in the amount of \$332,394.00 from Nextran Truck Centers, Mediapolis, Iowa. Ayes: All.

Horesowsky updated the Board on secondary road projects. Chick asked the projected end date for the Stewart Road construction and Horesowsky stated mid to late summer 2026.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board approved a new application for a Class "C" Retail Alcohol License (LC) and Outdoor Service Permit for The Chart House Inc., 2142 Water Street, Muscatine, Iowa. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kirchner, second by Mather, the Board approved the minutes of the April 13, 2026, regular meeting. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

- All Supervisors received an email from Tony LoConsole regarding the library.
- All Supervisors received an email from MPW General Manager Gage Huston.
- All Supervisors received an email from Laura Curtis Cramer regarding zoning concerns.
- Sorensen received an email from an advocacy group regarding legislation.

Committee & Meeting Reports:

- Kirchner attended a Muscatine County Fair Board meeting on April 16, 2026.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sorensen, the Board accepted the April 2026 payroll claims. Ayes: All.

Community Services Director Jessica Bopes stated the Aspire Nursing Home is closing and is not expected to be reopened per DIAL (Department of Inspection, Appeals and Licensing). Bopes stated four to five clients have been relocated. Bopes stated she notified the Board by email that the Social Security review has been completed and passed the review. Bope stated

Veterans Director Eric Sanders has determined how to collect federal repayment on veteran cremations which will lessen the cost to the county.

The meeting recessed at 9:38 A.M. and reconvened at 9:46 A.M.

On a motion by Mather, second by Kirchner, the Board moved into closed session at 9:46 A.M. (at employee's request) pursuant to Chapter 21.5(I)(i), Code of Iowa, for performance evaluation. Roll call vote: Ayes: All. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board returned to open session at 9:57 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 A.M.

ATTEST:

Tibe Vander Linden
County Auditor

Danny Chick, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors