

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, February 6, 2023

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

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

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, claims dated February 6, 2023, were approved in the amount of \$361,790.38. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, Drainage District #13 stamped warrants payable dated February 6, 2023, were approved in the amount of \$18,979.81. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with the Board regarding the request to place blue pinwheels wreaths and child abuse signs within several county buildings for April's Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month. The Board consensus was to allow for the same permission as 2022, which allowed only the placement of blue pinwheels in the Muscatine County Courthouse flower planters along the sidewalk at the Muscatine County Jail and in front of the Muscatine County Community Services Building (no items within county buildings). On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board approved a request from the Prevent Violence Coalition to place blue pinwheels, as the same permission in past years, which is placement in the Muscatine County Courthouse flower planters along the sidewalk at the Muscatine County Jail and in front of the Muscatine County Community Services Building for April's Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with the Board regarding required polices and assurances to receive a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for a CDBG-2019 Disaster Recovery Buyout Project. Board consensus was apprehension regarding several of the required policies and to consider other options to fund the buyout project.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the minutes of the January 30, 2023 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

No correspondence was reported.

Committee & Meeting Reports:

All Supervisors attended the Conference Board meeting on January 31, 2023.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the Board approved the current authorization for a credit card with a \$5,000 limit for Community Services. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board approved the appointment of Rebecca Bovenmyer to the Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission for a two-year term ending 01/01/2025. Ayes: All.

County Attorney Jim Barry stated Rodd McNeal, Drainage District #13 Trustee, has reported the pump repair project is scheduled for a startup today with the new pump. Barry will report updates to the Board.

Barry updated the Board with the process of hiring a new Fines Director Coordinator with the consideration of moving the position back to the County Attorney's office for additional security and overseeing the position.

John Pahl, 137 Nyenhuis Street, Muscatine, Iowa and Larry Driskell, Commander of American Legion Post 27, stated their concerns regarding the placement and issuing of flags on veteran's graves. Pahl stated the American Legion Post 27 have placed grave flags for decades for Memorial Day with the flags being allowed to be flown year-round and is a successful program with volunteers from the community and the membership of American Legion Post 27. Pahl stated a recent request from the Muscatine County Veteran Affairs Commission Chair, Jodi Royal-Goodwin, stated the Commission has elected to continue the purchase of 5,000 grave flags for the 2023 Memorial Day weekend however the flags will need to be removed from the graves in the week following Memorial Day and returned to the Muscatine County Veterans Affairs Office by June 5. The letter also stated the Veterans Affairs Office will inventory, replace damaged flags and store all supplies to have them available annually to honor veterans and requested a commitment to place and remove grave flags no later than March 1, 2023. Driskell stated the American Legion Post 27 has responded to the letter to request the Commission continue to furnish the flags but to allow the annual placement of flags to be flown year-round however they have not received a response from the Commission. Chick thanked all veterans for their service and stated the Commission budgets \$5,000 for the grave flags. Chick stated the question has been raised regarding the annual cost of the flags and if the money could be better served for living veterans with counseling and other services. Sorensen stated the overall discretionary Commission budget is set at approximately \$25,000 that pays for items such as flags, grave markers, rent and shelter assistance. Ken Rochholz, Walcott, Iowa with Durant American Legion Post, stated the Durant cemetery is located in Muscatine County and their Post supports the annual placement of grave flags to be flown year-round. Discussion was held with the Board regarding the American Legion Post 27 contacting the Veteran's Affairs Commission Director, Eric Sanders, by phone or email with their flag placement request and to come to an agreement.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 A.M.

ATTEST:

Susan Schnedler
2nd Deputy Auditor

Scott Sauer, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors