

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, January 9, 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 January 9, 2023, were approved in the amount of \$378,044.70. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, stamped warrants dated January 9, 2023, were approved in the amount of \$87,973.35. Ayes: All.

A Public Hearing was called to order by Chairperson Sauer at 9:01 A.M. on a request from the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine for a \$26,400 unbudgeted expenditure to provide ongoing funding for a Community Grant Writer position. Community Grant Writer Meghan Custis updated the Board on the collaborative partnership established with the City of Muscatine, Muscatine County and Community Foundation on how to best pursue grant funding opportunities in housing, economic development, health care, educational and work force development. Custis reported that \$8.3 million in grant requests are currently outstanding. Custis thanked the Board for their support of the grant writer position. Community Foundation Director Charla Schafer reviewed the established collaborative partnership and the success with the grant writing position, stating the investment of \$25,000 from each of the three partners over the past year has generated nearly \$4 million in local grants. Schafer acknowledged current grant writer Meghan Custis, former grant writer Mariah Rose, Community Development Director Jodi Royal-Goodwin and former Supervisor Santos Saucedo for their dedication, expertise and for creating collaborative engagements. Schafer stated the first agreement for November 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$26,400, which includes \$13,900 to cover incurring expenses completing the November 2021 contract and the amount of \$12,500 for the upcoming first period of 2023. Schafer stated \$9,400 has been reimbursed from the County. Schafer stated the 2nd proposed contract agreement with the County in the amount of \$25,000, will align with the County's fiscal year (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024) with two installments to be requested of \$12,500.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the public hearing was closed at 9:10 A.M. Roll call vote. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sorensen, the Board authorized the Chair to sign an Agreement between the City of Muscatine, Muscatine County and the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine for a Collaborative Partnership to Establish (Maintain) a Community Grant Writer Position for an unbudgeted expenditure in the amount of \$26,400. Ayes: All.

Caroline Levine with Muscatine Rotary Club reviewed a Proclamation #01-09-23-021 Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month stating the Muscatine Rotary Club is partnering with a student led program at Muscatine Community College to educate the community on recognizing and taking steps to prevent human trafficking. Levine stated Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate

recently presented a program at a Rotary Club meeting called Iowa Businesses Against Human Trafficking to assist businesses with information their employees and clients should be aware of.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board approved Proclamation #01-09-23-01 Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month – January 2023. Ayes: All.

PROCLAMATION #01-09-23-01
SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH –
JANUARY 2023

Whereas, the United States was founded upon the principle that all people are created with the inalienable right to freedom, and added the 13th Amendment to the Constitution making slavery illegal; and

Whereas, slavery within the United States today is most often found in the form of forced labor and sex trafficking, which weakens our social fabric, increases violence and organized crime, and debases our humanity; and

Whereas, this heinous crime is found within our own community; and

Whereas, the Rotary Club of Muscatine is working towards the abolishment of all forms of human trafficking through education, volunteerism, advocacy and collaboration; and

Whereas, even though awareness of this crime is growing, human trafficking continues to go unreported due to its isolating nature, the misunderstanding of its definition, and the lack of awareness about its indicators; and

Whereas, increased community education on how to identify victims of human trafficking along with increased knowledge of local resources and services for those affected by these criminal actions can help restore freedom and dignity to identified survivors, as well as help diminish the number of future victims; and

Whereas, every business, community organization, faith community, family and individual can make a difference by choosing products that are not made by forced labor; by working to protect our young people from sexual exploitation; by addressing the problem of internet sex trafficking and pornography; and by becoming more aware of the problem and possible solutions.

Now, therefore, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors do hereby proclaim the month of January 2023 as Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, and encourage all our citizens

to become more informed on this growing problem, to be vigilant and report suspicious activity, and to work towards solutions to end trafficking in all its forms in our community. If you see something that doesn't look right, take action and call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-3737-888.

ATTEST:

/s/Tibe Vander Linden
Muscatine County Auditor

/s/Scott Sauer, Chairperson
Muscatine County Board of Supervisors

Discussion regarding mental health services and funding at the Muscatine County Jail was held with Community Services Director Felicia Toppert, Sheriff Quinn Riess and Jail Administrator Matt McCleary. Toppert reviewed the funding provided by the Mental Health Region and the proposed process to reduce the number of mentally ill inmates being housed in the county jail. McCleary estimated that 40% of the county inmate population is on mental health medications. Toppert stated the remainder of inmates may not be on medication but may have mental health issues that needs to be assessed by a social worker. Mather asked how the mental health issues are diagnosed. Toppert stated the process is done by a tele-health process and also by the current inmate social worker who has proper training. Toppert stated the Region is also contracted with Robert Young Center to provide a jail-based coordinator to work with inmates leaving the jail to assist for 30 days to insure they have housing and transportation for medical appointments. Sorensen asked if there will be documentation to verify the impact of the process and asked if funding is provided by the Mental Health Region. Toppert stated the Region will fund the program and the Region is looking at the next level of outcome measurement to count the number of inmates with mental health issues going into the jails. Toppert stated all inmates will benefit from the program if provided a mental health diagnosis and mental health medications before their problems are acute. Toppert stated the proposed process will also contribute to better safety of the correctional officers and jail staff as the extremely mentally ill can cause safety issues at the jail. Toppert stated the project is slated to be funded (by the Region) for 2023 and 2024, awaiting the Mental Health Region Board approval. Administrative Director Nancy Schreiber asked if the Region will pay the vendors directly or will the payments be run through the Sheriff Department budget. Riess stated the Sheriff Department budget will pay the vendors with reimbursement from the Region.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sorensen, the Board re-appointed Joseph Harper to the Historic Preservation Commission for a three-year term ending January 1, 2026. (1 vacancy remaining). Ayes: All.

On a motion by Chick, second by Sorensen, the Board appointed Julie Jindrich to the Muscatine County Conservation Board for a five-year term ending December 31, 2027. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the Board appointed Sherry Seright to the Muscatine County Conservation Board to fill a vacancy for the term ending December 31, 2025. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board appointed Justin Johnson on the Muscatine County Veterans Affairs Commission to fill a vacancy for a term ending June 30, 2025. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the Board approved the County Recorder's Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending December 31, 2022 on the amount of \$66,638.53. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board approved the Muscatine County Sheriff's Office – Civil Department's Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending December 31, 2022 in the amount of \$30,215.44. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board approved the County Auditor's Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending December 31, 2022 in the amount of \$187.50. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the minutes of the January 3, 2023 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

All Supervisors received an email from Terry Martin forwarded from City Council Member Nadine Brockert, concerning over weight truck loads and the new limitations and permits that began on January 1, 2023 for commercial and farm vehicles. Chick reviewed the changes stating the new \$500 permit and extra vehicle licensing of \$100 will allow year-round over weight freight loads with each county and city establishing and approving the routes. Chick expressed concern of growers getting their grain to market. Sorenson stated other industries will also be impacted with the change. County Engineer Brian Horesowsky stated the Department of Transportation (DOT) on-line maps and permit information is out of date and cautioned the Board to obtain correct information in their process.

Sorensen received a request from an engineer working on the levee improvement project requesting meeting minutes. Sorensen thanked Schreiber for assisting with the request.

Sorensen and Kirchner participated in several conference calls regarding the 3D initiatives.

Mather had correspondence with residents on Edgewater Road, Conesville, Iowa.

Kirchner received a call from a Durant resident complimenting the secondary road department with the ditch clean up in the southern Durant area.

Committee & Meeting Reports:

Mather reported the Muscatine Community Health Association Board meeting was cancelled for January 4, 2023 and the meeting will be rescheduled for late January.

On motion by Mather, second by Sorensen, the Board approved 2023 appointments as amended to the following Boards and Commissions: Ayes: All.

2023 APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Bi-State Regional Planning Commission (2)**	Sauer and Sorensen
Bi-State Drug and Alcohol Consortium	Mather
City of Muscatine Transportation Zone Commission*	Sauer
Community Volunteer Nominating Committee	Mather
Decategorization Board	Mather
Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region	Sorensen
	Chick - alternate
Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce and Industry*	Chick
Mississippi Valley Workforce Area Board	Chick
Muscatine Community Health Association	Mather
Muscatine County Board of Health (ex-officio)	Sauer
Muscatine County Conservation Board (ex-officio)	Sauer
Muscatine County E911 Service Board	Sorensen
Muscatine County Enterprise Zone Commission*	Sauer
Muscatine County Fair Board	Kirchner
Muscatine County Flood Control Commission (2)	Chick and Kirchner
Muscatine County/Muscatine City Joint Administration Board (Emergency Management)	Sorensen
Muscatine County REAP Commission	Sauer
Muscatine County Safety Committee	Kirchner
Muscatine County Veterans Affairs Commission (ex-officio)	Mather
Muscatine County Solid Waste Mgmt. Agency	Chick
Region 9 Transportation Policy Board	Sorensen
Seventh Judicial District Dept of Correctional Services Board	Mather
WELEAD (West Liberty Economic Area Development)	Kirchner
Wilton Chamber and Development Alliance	Mather
Muscatine County Joint Communications Commission (standing appointments until Board resolution to change)	Kirchner
	Sorensen
Housing Council (standing appointment until changed)	Chick, Mather
Grant Collaborative (standing appointment until changed)	Mather
M.A.G.I.C. Board (2-year terms)	Mather – term ends 12/31/23
	Chick – term ends 12/31/24
	Sauer – term ends 12/31/24
River Bend Transit Board of Directors (2-year term) – 3 rd Wed each month – 10 am	
Lower Cedar Watershed Management Authority	Eric Furnas – primary
	Kirchner - alternate
Bi-State Regional Trails Committee	Chick and Curt Weiss
Examining Board (Assessor)	Sherry Seright

- * Board Chair typically serves on these Boards and Commissions
- ** Bylaws require Chair to serve on these Boards and Commissions

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board approved Resolution #01-09-23-01 Appointing Muscatine County Representatives to the Muscatine County Joint Communications Commission (MCJCC). Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

**RESOLUTION #01-09-23-01
APPOINTING THE MUSCATINE COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE
MUSCATINE COUNTY JOINT COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

In accordance with the terms of the Amended Articles of Agreement, Muscatine County Joint Communications Commission, as approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 15, 2015, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors hereby appoints the following representatives to the Muscatine County Joint Communications Commission:

Kurt Kirchner
Jeff Sorensen

The above-named appointments shall remain in effect until such time as the secretary of the Commission receives a resolution adopted by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors which appoints one or two new representatives.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 9th day of January, 2023.

ATTEST:

/s/Tibe Vander Linden
Muscatine County Auditor

/s/Scott Sauer, Chairperson
Muscatine County Board of Supervisors

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board approved Resolution #01-09-23-02 Authorizing the County Sheriff to Close Secondary Roads in Emergency Situations. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

**RESOLUTION #01-09-23-02
AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY SHERIFF TO CLOSE SECONDARY ROADS IN
EMERGENCY SITUATIONS**

Be it resolved by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors that the Muscatine County Sheriff is hereby authorized to close secondary roads or portions thereof in Muscatine County in emergency situations to safeguard the traveling public. Such road closures shall be confirmed by the Board of Supervisors at its next regular meeting.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 9th day of January, 2023.

ATTEST:

/s/Tibe Vander Linden
Muscatine County Auditor

/s/Scott Sauer, Chairperson
Muscatine County Board of Supervisors

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the Board authorized the Chair to sign an American Recovery Act (ARPA) grant agreement with the City of Muscatine for the Indoor Sports Complex. Ayes: Kirchner, Mather, Sauer and Sorensen. Nay: Chick. Chick stated he is not opposed to the project but has concerns as to what the operating costs and profits will be to the City of Muscatine. Chick stated he was unclear on the operating costs as the amounts changed during different presentations. Chick also stated he feels the ARPA funds could be used for another project and other funding options should have been reviewed prior to asking the Board for funding. Chick stated he felt the Board was rushed to make their decision.

Schreiber reminded the Board the FY23/24 budget process will start on Monday, January 16, 2023.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas notified the Board of a request from the Lower Cedar Watershed Management Authority to present to the Board the implementation of their watershed plan. Furnas stated the Lower Cedar Watershed Management Coordinator and field staff have been hired. Furnas proposed the presentation to be set for a February 2023 Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 A.M.

ATTEST:

Tibe Vander Linden
County Auditor

Scott Sauer, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors