

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, May 1, 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 amended to add #3a. "Discussion and possible action to approve stamped warrants dated May 1, 2023 in the amount of \$2,613.38", the agenda was amended and was approved as presented. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board approved claims dated May 1, 2023 in the amount of \$587,928.71. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sorensen, the Board approved stamped warrants dated May 1, 2023 in the amount of \$2,613.38. Ayes: All.

Historic Preservation Commissioner Lynn Pruitt reviewed a contract between SPARK Consulting and the Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission in an amount not to exceed \$24,650.00 for consulting services for a survey of transportation development in Muscatine County, Iowa.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the Board approved a contract between SPARK Consulting and the Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission in an amount not to exceed \$24,650.00 for consulting services for a survey of transportation development in Muscatine County, Iowa. Ayes: All.

Pruitt stated a public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 12:00 P.M. at the Muscatine County Administration Boardroom, 414 East 3rd Street, Muscatine, Iowa, to present a nomination for the Fairport Biological Station Historic District (Fairport Fish Hatchery) to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Pruitt announced the 2023 Muscatine Historic Preservation Conference is scheduled for Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at the National Pearl Button Museum, 117 West Second Street, Muscatine, Iowa. Pruitt stated the Fairport Fish Hatchery trails were opened on Saturday, April 22, 2023.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board approved the following utility permit: Liberty Communications, West Branch, Iowa – repair damaged fiber, placing new 1.25-inch high-density polyethylene (HDPE) by means of backhoe dig up, placing two new vaults and 72 count fiber at 1427 Clark Avenue, West Liberty, Iowa. Section 28-T78N-04W. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Bryan Horesowsky held discussions with the Board regarding uncontrolled intersections throughout the County. Horesowsky presented Department of Transportation (DOT) guidelines and stated there are 109 three-way intersections and 14 four-way uncontrolled intersections on the secondary county roads. Horesowsky stated the county does not have a formal written policy as the DOT guidelines and Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) are followed and he is advising to continue following the DOT guidelines and MUTCD. Discussion was held regarding the required DOT traffic pattern study, geographic intersection lay out and

accidents occurring at uncontrolled intersections. County Attorney reviewed the legal standpoints of how to follow the process to evaluate the intersections. Mather stated he feels improving education is important and contacting the driver education program in our county may need to be addressed. Chick requested possible action of uncontrolled intersections throughout the County be placed on the next Board meeting agenda. The Board consensus was to place the action item on the next Board meeting agenda.

Horesowsky updated the Board on construction projects on secondary roads.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board approved the minutes of the April 24, 2023 regular meeting. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

All Supervisors received an email from Emergency Manager Chris Jasper regarding the flood conditions.

All Supervisors received an email from Rhonda Meredith regarding wind turbine information and concerns.

All Supervisors received an email from Vicki Bishop regarding concerns with industrial traffic safety on Pettibone Avenue, Muscatine, Iowa.

Sauer received a call from a resident regarding Mid-American gas shut off procedures.

Chick received a call from a resident regarding ATV/OTV regulations.

Mather received a call from Doug Norman to complement and thank Veteran's Affairs Director Eric Sanders on his outstanding work.

Kirchner received an email from Duane Rees with concerns on the maintenance of Brockway Cemetery in Orono Township.

Kirchner received a call from a resident regarding a West Liberty, Iowa rural cemetery.

Committee and Meetings Reports:

All Supervisors attended a Joint City/School District/County meeting on April 27, 2023.

Sorensen attended a Kent Feeds ground breaking ceremony of a new Muscatine based Manufacturing plant for Kent Pet Group's World's Best Cat Litter on April 27, 2023.

Sorensen attended a Bi-State Regional Planning Commission meeting on April 26, 2023.

Kirchner attended a meeting held by Liberty Power Company regarding wind turbines on April 27, 2023.

Kirchner attended a West Liberty Economic Area Development (WELEAD) meeting on April 27, 2023.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the Board approved Resolution #05-01-23-01 Approval of Second Replat of Original Lots 20-22 in Wildlife Estates Subdivision. Roll Call vote: Ayes: All.

RESOLUTION #05-01-23-01
APPROVAL OF SECOND REPLAT OF ORIGINAL LOTS 20-22 IN WILDLIFE
ESTATES SUBDIVISION

WHEREAS, there has been presented before the Board of Supervisors of Muscatine County, Iowa, a dedication and second replat of original Lots 20, 21 & 22 of the “Wildlife Estates” subdivision; and

WHEREAS, said plat has heretofore been approved by the Zoning Commission of Muscatine County, Iowa; and

WHEREAS, said dedication and plat fully conform with all laws of the State of Iowa and all ordinances of Muscatine County, Iowa, applicable thereto; and

WHEREAS, the platting of said subdivision is conducive to orderly development within Muscatine County, Iowa, is not in conflict with any extensions of the established road systems of Muscatine County, Iowa, and is in harmony with the comprehensive plan of zoning now in effect within Muscatine County, Iowa.

WHEREAS, the subdivision of said real estate and the plat thereof were accepted and approved by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors following a public meeting on April 10, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Muscatine County, Iowa, as follows:

- Section 1. The said subdivision is hereby designated as “Lots 20-22 in Wildlife Estates”, a subdivision in Muscatine County, Iowa, and that the descriptions of lots and parcels of land located therein shall be according to the number and designation thereof as set forth on said plat.
- Section 2. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and the Auditor of Muscatine County, Iowa, are hereby authorized and directed to certify this Resolution in order that the same and all other matters material to said subdivision may be recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Muscatine County, Iowa.

PASSED and APPROVED this 1st day of May, 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 approved a Muscatine County Disaster Declaration in regards to recent flooding. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board set a public hearing for Monday, June 5, 2023 at 9:00 A.M. on proposed amendments to the FY 22/23 Muscatine County budget. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board authorized the execution of the Wellmark third party administration documents for FY23/24. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board set the FY23/24 health and dental premiums as recommended. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the Board set the health insurance annual enrollment and dental insurance open enrollment periods for FY23/24 for May 15, 2023 to June 2, 2023. Ayes: All.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas updated the Board on the County Attorney's Office Furniture Project stating the furniture was installed last week and expressed his thanks to HNI for their efficient work with providing replacement parts for the installer.

Furnas stated the Grants to Counties Grant funding is available for residents who experience flooding of their well. Furnas stated residents should contact his office for more information.

Furnas stated he is working with Emergency Manager Chris Jasper regarding residential utility shut-offs due to flooding. Furnas reviewed the requirements utility companies have with accessibility to shut-offs.

Rhonda Meredith, 1174 Bay Circle, Nichols, Iowa stated her concerns with Liberty Power Company who conducted a public meeting on April 27, 2023 regarding wind turbine landowner interest in Pike Township. Meredith stated her concerns related to an outdated map used to contact residents by mail, a sales pitch with monetary incentives, proposal of 60 wind turbines (60 foot high), cement piling installation that may cause ground shaking for several miles, 254 foot turbine blades with speeds of up to 200 miles per hour, crop dusting concerns, rainfall and water table disruptions, possible gearbox hub fires, lost farm ground, required easements for adjoining landowners and requested the Board review the county zoning policies for wind turbines. Furnas stated the public meeting the company held is a typical part of the green energy process to determine if there is enough interest with land owners. Furnas stated wind turbine companies do not typically reach out to the county regarding zoning until they have enough land owner interest. Furnas stated if a company submits a wind turbine application, a public hearing is held.

Dane Meredith, 1174 Bay Circle, Nichols, Iowa stated his concerns with the proposed wind turbines in Pike Township with up to 200 miles per hour blade speed causing possible noise issues and potential harm to birds. Meredith stated the 600-foot-high turbines are a concern for distracting drivers.

Mather left the meeting at 10:41 A.M.

Dane Meredith continued to state his concerns with the proposed wind turbines stating the federal tax credits and incentives offered until the end of 2024 are driving the interest with companies. Meredith stated proposed techniques with geothermal energy may make wind power obsolete within the next 15 years.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 A.M.

ATTEST:

Susan Schnedler
2nd Deputy Auditor

Scott Sauer, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors