

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, May 3, 2021

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

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

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, claims dated May 3, 2021 were approved in the amount of \$498,118.63. Ayes: All.

A Public Hearing was called to order by Chairperson Saucedo at 9:01 A.M. on a proposed amendment to the Muscatine County Comprehensive Plan to add language encouraging the creation and use of alternative and renewable energy resources. In discussion with the Board, Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas reviewed the amendment. Jerry Anderson, Muscatine County Farm Bureau, stated that while his organization is not in favor of conversion of prime farm ground as there is no ability to make more, they also believe that private property rights are paramount and owners should have the ability to do what they prefer with their land, so they encourage adoption of the proposed amendment. Jessica Brackett, 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, #4, Progress Muscatine, asked the Board to table both this item and the following item on the agenda for one week to allow the public time to review the language since the full text of the proposed amendments was not included in the public hearing notices. On a motion by Mather, second by Sorensen the Board moved to continue the public hearing on the proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Plan and to delay the public hearing on the proposed amendments to the Title III of the Muscatine County Code of Ordinances to Monday, May 10, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. The Board requested that Schreiber publish the full text of the proposed amendments on the website for public review. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

Saucedo asked if the entire Board packet could be placed on the website prior to each meeting for public review. Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber stated that she will work with the Information Services Department to include the packet on the county website and stated that the public can also request to be placed on the agenda packet distribution list to receive all Board agenda packets by email.

In discussion with the Board, Mike Nolan, Horizon Architecture and Steve Swanson, Swanson Construction reviewed the Muscatine County Jail Booking Expansion Project bid, addressing concerns the Board had due to prior project completion delays and construction errors with Swanson Construction. Swanson stated that the project progress will be carefully monitored and the project manager and superintendent will be a dedicated team. Swanson stated the projected completion dates for Phase 1 of the project will be late November 2021 and Phase 2 as late February 2022. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, the Board approved the contract with low bidder, Swanson Construction, in the amount of \$1,675,000.00, for the Muscatine County Jail Booking Expansion Project. Ayes: All.

In discussion with the Board, Mike Nolan, Horizon Architecture reviewed the contract with Spectra Build for the Muscatine County Attorney's Office Remodel Project. On a motion by

Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board authorized the Chair to execute a contract with Spectra Build in the amount of \$308,780.00 for the Muscatine County Attorney's Office Remodel Project. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved the following utility permit: Eastern Iowa Light & Power REC – install underground cable at 1543 Kelly Avenue with a 2” duct location 1 to location 2, Sections 34 and 35 – T78N-R03W. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Holliday, the Board approved the following utility permits: Liberty Communications – bury fiber optic cables for fiber to the home southeast of West Liberty as described on attached maps in Sections 16-21, 28-30- T78N-R3W; bury fiber optic cables for fiber to the home southwest of West Liberty as described on attached maps in Section 21-23, 26-28, 33-36 – T78N-R4W. Ayes: All

County Engineer Keith White presented the contract and bid for BROS-SWAP-707(68)-SE, for a bridge replacement on Douglas Avenue northeast of Nichols, Iowa. White stated he recommends rejecting the bid due to the high cost and only receiving one bid. White stated that delaying the project for one year may result in lower cost and more bids received. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board moved to reject the bid for BROS-SWAP-707(68)-SE, a bridge replacement on Douglas Avenue northeast of Nichols, Iowa. In response to a question by Saucedo, White stated that the bid process will start again in one year. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Keith White updated the Board on secondary road projects.

In discussion with the Board, Community Services Director Felicia Toppert reviewed the County's process for issuing payment to/for Trust consumers. Sorensen thanked Toppert for presenting the information on the cost of providing trust services as it has been requested by the Board for several years with no report. Toppert reviewed the advantages to change to the True Link Independence Visa Prepaid card program for issuing payments for Trust consumers. Toppert presented a report showing projected savings with postage and check costs and reduction of Community Service staff hours. In discussion with the Board, Toppert reviewed client advantages to change to the card program instead of issuing and mailing checks to Trust consumers. Toppert stated she is also reviewing the Guardianship and Conservatorship fees as compared to the actual costs to provide those services.

In discussion with the Board, County Auditor Tibe Vander Linden reviewed the requirement to appoint a Temporary Redistricting Commission with a deadline of May 15, 2021. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the Board approved establishing a five member Temporary Redistricting Commission. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved the minutes of the April 26, 2021, regular meeting. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

All Supervisors received an update from Sheriff Riess regarding ongoing inmate intake policies at the Jail.

All Supervisors received an update from Christy Roby-Williams regarding COVID-19.  
All Supervisors received an email from Travis Glenn, Muscatine Chapter of Iowa Engineering Chapter regarding engineering projects.  
Saucedo received an email from Iowa Rural Heritage Revitalization stating the application submitted for a Historic Preservation project was not approved.  
Saucedo received an email from Strategic Sourcing and responded to inquire on how their system works.  
Saucedo received an email from Emergency Manager Brian Wright about the Countywide Test of the outdoor warning system on May 3, 2021 at 11:00 A.M.

Committee & Meeting Reports:

Sauer and Saucedo attended a Bi-State virtual meeting on April 28, 2021.  
Saucedo and Sorensen attended a Housing meeting on April 28, 2021.  
Saucedo attended West Liberty Economic Area Development meeting on April 29, 2021.  
Sauer attended a Courthouse Security meeting on April 30, 2021.  
Mather attended a Mississippi Valley Workforce Authority Finance and CEO meeting on April 28, 2021.  
Sorensen attended a meeting in the Quad Cities with Community Services Director Felicia Toppert with a service provider in the mental health region.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board set a Public Hearing for Monday, June 7, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. on proposed amendments to the FY20/21 budget. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved the hiring of Shawn Vollmer as an Engineering Technician for the County Engineer's Office at \$24.42/hour (Grade 13, Step 1) with a proposed start date of May 10, 2021. Ayes: All.

In discussion with Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber, the Board discussed an inquiry from the Mississippi Valley Workforce Area Board about the County's willingness to serve as the employer of record for a possible second employee. Board consensus was to for Schreiber to respond affirmatively and work with MVWFA on the steps necessary to accomplish this.

Schreiber requested Board direction regarding continuing the option to join the Board meeting virtually. Board direction was to return to in person participation only effective June 1, 2021.

County Treasurer Amy Zybarth notified the Board that the Notice of Tax Sale for 1,600 delinquent parcels have been mailed and that she anticipates all but about 500 parcels to be brought current by the June tax sale.

Cheryl Plank, 1700 Devitt Avenue, Muscatine, Iowa, stated she is in favor of the bank card program that Toppert presented for Trust consumers and encourages the Board to continue the virtual option to listen to the meetings by phone instead of attending in person.

The Board recessed at 11:00 A.M. and reconvened at 11:10 A.M.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sorensen, the Board approved to move into Non-Public session at 11:11 A.M. pursuant to Chapter 20.17(3), Code of Iowa, to discuss strategy in union negotiations. Roll call vote: Ayes: All. On a motion by Mather, second by Sorensen, the Board returned to open session at 11:59 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

The Board recessed at 12:00 P.M. and reconvened at 12:08 P.M.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the Board approved to move into closed session at 12:09 P.M. pursuant to Chapter 21.5.1 (i), Code of Iowa, for a performance evaluation. Roll call vote: Ayes: All. Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas had requested a closed session. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the Board returned to open session at 1:38 P.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:39 P.M.

ATTEST:

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Tibe Vander Linden  
County Auditor

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Santos Saucedo, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors