

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, July 31, 2023

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

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

Discussion was held with the Board regarding Ordinance #07-31-23-01 Assuming Jurisdiction and Control of Certain Pioneer Cemeteries and/or Private Burial Sites located in Muscatine County, Iowa. David Bunker, Muscatine, Iowa, questioned the Board regarding the section which states relatives allowed to visit a pioneer cemetery or private burial site lists a great-grandparent as the oldest link to the deceased, which is outdated given the age of pioneer cemeteries and private burial sites. County Attorney Jim Barry stated the ordinance is written per the language in the Iowa Code and recommended Bunker contract state legislators with his concern.

Mather joined the meeting at 9:03 A.M.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board approved Ordinance #07-31-23-01 Assuming Jurisdiction and Control of Certain Pioneer Cemeteries and/or Private Burial Sites located in Muscatine County, Iowa on the third and final reading. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board approved the following utility permits: United Private Networks LLC, West Des Moines, IA (2 permits) -The first permit is to install one 1.25 software-defined radio (SDR)/13.5 high-density polyethylene (HDHP) conduit with a single 24 and 96 count fiber optic cable, Section 4- T77N-01W; second permit is to install one 1.25 (SDR)/13.5 (HDHP) conduit with a single 24 and 96 count fiber optic cable, Section 1-T77N-01E and Section 36-T78N-01E. The third permit is from Windstream Iowa Communications, LLC, Little Rock, AR – replace existing facilities like for like along 180th Street in rural Nichols, Section 12-T77N-04W. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the Board approved for publication the Muscatine County Treasurer's Semi-Annual Report for January 1, 2023, through June 30, 2023. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kirchner, second by Sorensen, the minutes of the July 24, 2023 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

No Correspondence was reported.

Committee Reports:

Sorensen attended an event held by U. S. Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks at the Mulberry Health Clinic, Muscatine, on July 24, 2023.

Sorensen and Sauer attended a Bi-State Regional meeting on July 26, 2023.

Sorensen stated the air emission elevated readings from Canadian wildfires were discussed with recommendations to exclude unusual air

quality event readings, such as when wildfires occur.

Chick attended an Iowa Workforce Development Finance Meeting on July 26, 2023.

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

Discussion was held with the Board regarding evaluating the use of a property's Corn Suitability Ratings (CSR) when determining suitable usage of land and possible amendments to the County's Commercial Wind Energy Conversion Systems and Utility-Scale Solar Energy Systems Ordinances. Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas stated the Muscatine County Comprehensive Plan will be updated in the near future which will require public hearings. The required public hearings will allow landowners and the public to express their concerns and recommendations. Furnas stated the "Guide to Country Living" is also valuable information to help landowners make an educated and informed decision when considering a purchase of rural land. The Board consensus was to keep the CSR determinations at the forefront when holding the public hearing to update the Comprehensive Plan.

County Auditor Tibe Vander Linden stated there will be a special election on September 12 for Louisa-Muscatine Community School District with two Public Measures.

Sheriff Quinn Riess thanked his department for their valuable work during the Muscatine County Fair and the Register's Annual Bicycle Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) which occurred over the past two weeks.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 A.M.

ATTEST:

Tibe Vander Linden
County Auditor

Scott Sauer, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors