

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, May 17, 2021

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

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

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, the Board approved the claims dated May 17, 2021 in the amount of \$2,618,763.53. Ayes: All.

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission member, Lisa Wertzbaugher requested to authorize the Chair to execute a contract with Horizon Architecture to prepare construction documents for Phase II of the Muscatine County's Historic Preservation Commission's Old Muscatine County Jail Rehabilitation Project. Wertzbaugher stated that a request for proposal was sent out to three firms, as required by the State of Iowa and two bids were received. Wertzbaugher stated both bids were for the same bid amount of \$16,000. Wertzbaugher stated Horizon Architecture's bid included engineering services within their design and the second bid did not. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board accepted a bid with Horizon Architecture for Muscatine County's Historic Preservation Commission's Old Muscatine County Jail Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$16,000. Ayes: All. Wertzbaugher stated the Rural Revitalization Grant applied for was not awarded to the Muscatine County Jail Rehabilitation Project because of concern with the project time-line as well as other projects in the state had greater emphasis on Iowa rural heritage. Wertzbaugher stated another large grant application will be submitted and if awarded, funds will be allocated in place of the Rural Revitalization Grant that the Board has approved.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the Board approved the second of three readings of the ordinance Amending Title II of the Muscatine County Code of Ordinances.

- (1) add Chapter IX, Utility-Scale Solar Energy Systems, and
- (2) add Section 3.31 Utility-Scale Solar Systems as a special use to Chapter II, Article III A-1 Agricultural District, Section 3, and
- (2) add Section 2.8 Utility-Scale Solar Energy Systems as a permitted use to Chapter II, Article X I-1 Light Industrial District, Section 2.

Mather stated the Board received an email from a resident requesting consideration of acidic fences. Mather stated he feels this consideration is for each individual developer to handle. Roll call vote: Ayes: Sauer, Sorensen, Mather and Saucedo. Absent: Holliday.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved the following utility permits: Eastern Iowa Light and Power Rural Electric Cooperative, Wilton Iowa – install underground cable at the back of the right-of-way, retiring out overhead line on 180th Street, Section 10 and 11 –T77N- R02W and install underground cable on 171st Street between Yankee Avenue and Bill Sharp Boulevard for Muscatine County Project FM-CO70(55)—55-70, Section 11-T77N-R01E. Ayes: All.

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

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the Board authorized the Chair to sign a Statement of Election Costs for the March 2, 2021 Eastern Iowa Community College District Special Election, with County Auditor Tibe Vander Linden. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the minutes of the May 10, 2021 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

All Board members received emails regarding COVID-19 updates from Unity Public Health Director Christy Roby-Williams.

All Board members received an email from Muscatine Power and Water on renewable energy. Sorensen received an email from a resident in West Liberty on a civil matter.

Saucedo received a call from a resident in West Liberty on a civil matter and discussion was held with the West Liberty City Clerk.

Saucedo received a call from a resident in regards to a lift on their license and discussed with County Attorney Jim Barry.

Mather received a call about maintenance on 180th Street and referred the call to County Engineer Keith White.

Committee Reports and Meetings:

Sauer attended the Bi-State Region 9 Transportation Policy Board meeting on May 14, 2021.

Saucedo attended a Liberty Communications virtual meeting on May 11, 2021.

Saucedo attended a meeting with the City of Muscatine Administrator Carol Webb, Chief of Police Brett Talkington and Muscatine Mayor Diane Broderson on May 12, 2021.

Saucedo attended a Collaborate Muscatine meeting on May 12, 2021.

Saucedo attended a meeting with West Liberty Business Association quarterly update meeting on May 14, 2021.

Mather attended the Seventh Judicial District Department of Corrections meeting on May 14, 2021.

Sorensen attended the Region 9 Transportation meeting on May 14, 2021.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the Board approved Proclamation #05-17-21-01 Mental Health Month- May 2021. Ayes: All.

**PROCLAMATION #05-17-21-01
MENTAL HEALTH MONTH – MAY 2021**

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, Mental Health America reports that 9.7% of youth have severe major depression. This rate was highest among youth who identify as more than one race, at 12.4%. Even before COVID-19, the prevalence of mental health illness among adults was increasing, an increase of 1.5 million people over last year's data. In addition, Mental Health America, from January 2020 to September 2020, there was a reported 93% increase in anxiety screenings and 62% increase in depression screenings; and

WHEREAS, education is an effective way to reduce the stigma of mental health illnesses; and

WHEREAS, mental health illnesses are real and prevalent in our county regardless of socioeconomic boundaries; and

WHEREAS, we encourage our citizens to get help for mental health illnesses and to understand it is as important to treat as any other illness, such as diabetes or heart disease; and

WHEREAS, each business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, organization and citizen shares the burden of mental health illnesses and has a responsibility to promote mental wellness and support prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, through increased awareness, we can achieve our goal to abandon negative stigmatism and reinforce our acceptance of individuals seeking treatment.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors do hereby proclaim May 2021 as Mental Health Month, and call upon the citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools of Muscatine County, Iowa to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health, the steps our citizens can take to protect their mental health, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses at all stages.

ATTEST:

/s/Tibe Vander Linden
Muscatine County Auditor

/s/Santos Saucedo, Chairperson
Muscatine County Board of Supervisors

Discussion was held regarding a class specification and grade placement for Administrative Secretary position with Community Services. Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber stated this is the final of the reassignment of duties as recommended by Muscatine Community Services Director Felicia Toppert. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the Board approved a revised class specification and grade 8 recommendation for an Administrative Secretary position with Community Services. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held regarding the vacancy on the Civil Service Commission Board due to the passing of Paul Elshoff. Schreiber stated an advertisement was placed with a deadline and no applications were received. Schreiber stated one application has been received after the deadline. The Board consensus was the application may be brought to a future board meeting.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas updated the Board on various zoning projects. Furnas stated the Lower Cedar Watershed Management Authority and the Executive Committee have met and information was reviewed by Vira Engineering, the firm selected for the watershed grant project. Vira Engineering, presented an on-line survey regarding the interest on water testing and potential projects. Furnas updated the Board on the Muscatine County Jail Booking Expansion Project and Swanson Construction has been contacted on where materials and vehicles will be placed during construction.

Furnas stated materials are to be placed in a secured area. Discussion was held in regards to the Washington Street facility and the surplus equipment stored there by General Services and the Sheriff's department. Discussion was held that once the building is totally vacated, the property may be declared as surplus. Schreiber stated to declare the property as surplus requires a public discussion and decision. Saucedo requested Furnas confirm with the Board when the building is vacant for future public discussion so the Washington Street facility may be sold.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 A.M.

ATTEST:

Tibe Vander Linden
County Auditor

Santos Saucedo, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors