

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, August 25, 2014

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 7:00 P.M. with Furlong, Sorensen, Howard, Sauer and Kelly present. Chairperson Howard presiding.

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

Steve and Julie Ehrecke, 2254 Funks Hill Road, expressed concern regarding garbage being dumped even after "No Dumping Allowed" signs were posted, lack of speed limit signs, the need for a new guardrail at the corner, water eroding the shoulder and the culvert in his driveway, diversion of traffic for the Burlington Road bridge project and whether any federal money could repair Funks Hill Road. Steve Ehrecke also expressed concern that there was no mention of his emails to any Board members in any meeting after July 2013 or a walk-thru performed by Robert Howard. Ehrecke stated he has an opportunity to get several loads of fill and wondered if he could start building up the shoulder for the County. Howard stated Steve and Julie have tried everything to work this out and even offered to help back in 2013. County Engineer Keith White stated that the signs have not stopped the dumping. White stated the signs advertise the area to those that don't know it is a dumping spot. White stated he does not view it as an enforcement issue for the highway department, but rather a law enforcement issue. White stated the County needs to cut the edges of the road off to try to get the water back in the ditch to keep it off the road. White stated there is a box culvert under the road. Julie Ehrecke stated that the water does not get to that culvert and goes over the road. White stated they have occasionally allowed property owners to do things on their right-of-way in the past and could possibly work something out with Steve and Julie Ehrecke. The Board suggested Steve and Julie Ehrecke get together with the County Engineer to work out a plan. Sorensen stated the Board should probably talk to the Sheriff about the enforcement issue with the dumping.

Discussion was held with County Attorney Alan Ostergren regarding his request to add one additional Assistant County Attorney position. Ostergren stated the City of Muscatine agreed to pay the County \$40,000 to prosecute criminal violations and other offenses for the City. Ostergren stated the position would also attempt to divert mental health commitments by seeking outside treatment when appropriate, rather than being fully committed. Ostergren stated he has also had an inquiry from another community asking for the same services. Howard stated he wanted to make it clear that if the cash flow was not positive, the Board could eliminate the position. Ostergren stated he would track the diversion of mental health commitment cases and the inflow of funding from other municipalities and he is optimistic that it will be financially successful. In response to a question from Kelly, Ostergren stated the cost of the position is approximately \$72,000 of which the City of Muscatine would fund \$40,000 plus he would reallocate the \$10,000 budgeted for an intern to this position. Ostergren stated the balance of \$22,000 would be made up through cost saving efficiencies with the commitment diversion

process. On a motion by Furlong, second by Sorensen, County Attorney Alan Ostergren was authorized to add an Assistant County Attorney position. Ayes: All.

Kelly asked Ostergren about the car he bought for the County Attorney's Office. Ostergren stated that no tax money was used to purchase the vehicle as it was bought by the Muscatine County Sheriff with Muscatine County Drug Task Force forfeiture funds. Ostergren stated the maintenance and fuel will be paid out of the same fund. Ostergren stated that it saves the County money in not having to reimburse him for mileage. Ostergren stated he takes the vehicle home in case he is called out for an emergency. Ostergren stated he did not come before the Board because he does not need to ask their permission to spend his line items. Furlong stated he feels for the sake of transparency, the Board should have known about the vehicle. Ostergren stated it is not uncommon amongst County Attorneys to have a County vehicle. County Auditor Leslie Soule confirmed that the personal usage portion for commuting to and from work in the vehicle is added as a taxable benefit to Ostergren's W-2 to satisfy IRS regulations.

Muscatine County Joint Communication Commission (MCJCC) members Tom Furlong and Scott Sauer updated the Board on activities of the Commission. Furlong stated the MUSCOM equipment is reaching the end of its life and they are considering getting new equipment and possibly moving their facility due to lack of space. Furlong stated MCJCC hired an outside consultant to look at other alternatives, the cost of moving and issues with performance of some of the current radios. Furlong stated the consultant looked at the lower level of the Public Safety Building and the DHS Building. Furlong stated that neither the basement, nor the third floor, of DHS had the desired 11 foot ceiling, but that the Public Safety Building meets the requirements. Furlong stated it would cost approximately \$200,000 to move MUSCOM to the basement of the Public Safety Building plus approximately \$100,000 for wiring. Sauer stated he believes the stations would run \$200,000 a piece and they need four stations which he felt was quite costly. Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber stated there has been discussion about changing the structure of the Commission. Schreiber stated a portion of E911 funds was intended to pay for the communication center's cost, but that is not how that has been used in the past. Furlong stated E911 funds are decreasing because of fewer land lines. Furlong stated the County needs to consider all options and may have to go to the voters for approval, but in the short term they need to try to fix what they have. Sorensen stated there was no system design done when the current system was installed. Sorensen stated he would rather have someone who was not selling something design the system. Furlong would like to have a meeting with the City of Muscatine and other users to discuss all of the options. Kelly stated she does not agree with keeping MUSCOM at the Public Safety Building due to lack of enough space and will not support keeping MUSCOM in that facility. Sauer stated this is a complex situation and will take a long time to work through all of the information to get something that will work for everyone. Schreiber stated that is why they are trying to work with the structure first to get the right players to the table. Furlong asked everyone to be open-minded when looking at all of the options.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, minutes of the Monday, August 18, 2014 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

The Board received a letter of resignation from Jeff Benton from the Veterans Affairs Commission.

The Board received an invitation to the Limestone Bluff's RC&D Board of Directors Annual Picnic on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

Furlong received a call regarding a zoning issue.

Furlong received a call regarding the Funks Hill Road issues.

Howard received a call regarding a disallowed homestead exemption.

Howard received a call regarding the bid process for the Sheriff's new storage building.

Committee Reports:

Furlong attended a West Liberty Economic Area Development meeting August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Furlong attended a Muscatine County Veterans Affairs Commission meeting August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Sorensen attended a Wilton Development Corporation Board meeting August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Sauer attended a Muscatine County Fair Board meeting August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Sauer attended a Muscatine County Conservation Board meeting August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Sauer and Furlong attended a Muscatine County Joint Communications Commission meeting August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Kelly attended a Mental Health Regional meeting August 18<sup>th</sup>.

All Supervisors attended the Farm Bureau Annual Steak Fry August 20<sup>th</sup>. Sorensen, Howard, Sauer and Kelly attended the Wilton Founder's Day Parade August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sauer attended a Nature Conservancy informational meeting August 21<sup>st</sup> regarding ground owned by the Conservancy in the Cedar River bottoms.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, the Board approved Resolution #08-25-14-01 Transferring \$200,000 from the General Basic Fund to the Building Maintenance and Repair Fund. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kelly, the Board approved Resolution #08-25-14-02 Transferring \$550,000 from the General Basic Fund to the Debt Repayment Fund. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, the Board authorized the issuance of a Request For Proposal for an evaluation of the current Salary Administration Program. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held regarding proposed adjustments to sick and vacation accrual rates to coincide with current payroll and timekeeping software. Administrative Services

Director Nancy Schreiber stated that one adjustment effective immediately would be to reduce sick and vacation accruals to two decimal places from three decimal places. Schreiber stated the current payroll system only allows for two decimal places. Schreiber stated new timekeeping software requires changes in accrual rates to occur the first day of the pay period that includes the employee's anniversary. Schreiber stated prior County policy was to change the accrual rate on the first day of the pay period following the employee's anniversary. Schreiber stated the changes have an approximate cost to the County of \$935 per year. On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, the Board approved an adjustment to sick and vacation accrual rates to coincide with current payroll and timekeeping software. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Furlong, the Board accepted August 2014 payroll claims. Ayes: All.

Furlong stated that the Board directed Zoning Administrator Jodee Stepleton to setup an informational meeting regarding hog confinement operations. Furlong stated Stepleton scheduled the meeting for September 16<sup>th</sup> to educate the public regarding rules and regulations to setup up confined animal feeding operations. Howard stated the meeting may be cancelled and he is unsure the Zoning department understands what they are doing with that issue. Kelly stated she is in support of this as an informational meeting. Howard stated he is not sure the County can adequately facilitate this meeting. Sorensen stated he is agreeable to the meeting as long as the Board is involved in the creation of the agenda and facilitating the meeting. Sorensen stated the meeting is not for public input and needs a facilitator who will keep the meeting on track. Sauer would support the meeting if it is handled in the fashion described by Sorensen, but not if it is handled in the freestyle method like the last meeting. Board consensus was that if the meeting has not already been cancelled, then they will proceed with Kelly as the facilitator of the meeting and Sorensen will begin creating an agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

ATTEST:

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Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

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Robert E. Howard, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, September 8, 2014

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

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

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, claims dated September 8, 2014 were approved in the amount of \$474,946.88. Ayes: All. Discussion was held regarding the purchase of a computer by the County Attorney. Board consensus was that they should have a discussion with the County Attorney about utilizing Information Services for future purchases. Furlong stated he does not think the County should be purchasing e-cigarettes for sale through the Commissary. Board consensus was to have a discussion with the County Sheriff regarding whether e-cigarettes should be allowed in the County Jail.

Discussion was held with Jim Nepple, Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission, regarding their request for a grant to do a historical planning study for Muscatine County. Nepple stated the grant requires a 40% match which will be made up of \$1,136 cash and \$864 of time by the Commission. Nepple stated the cash portion of the match will come from funds already allocated to the Muscatine County Historical Preservation Commission and tax credits received from a Courthouse project. On a motion by Furlong, second by Kelly, the Chairperson was authorized to sign a letter to the State Historical Society and a Certified Local Government FY2014 Application for Historic Preservation Fund Grant-In-Aid. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Sorensen, the Board authorized the Chairperson to execute a Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau Impaired Driving Countermeasures Grant Contract in the amount of \$28,150.00. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with Information Services Director Bill Riley regarding wireless connections to the County Engineer's Office and Community Services. Riley provided a price sheet from Muscatine Power and Water regarding dedicated circuit pricing. Riley stated that any wireless solution would detract from the appearance of the Courthouse. Kelly suggested sharing the tower with MUSCOM. Riley stated that fiber optic would have to be run across the alley. Riley stated that they are currently running wireless at the County Engineer's office and Community Services at 5 mbps, but the signal is not strong enough. Riley stated that Muscatine Power and Water supplies everything, including repair in a timely manner so there would be no maintenance on our part. Howard expressed concerned about wireless connections due to interference. Riley stated he personally likes the idea of owning the equipment, but that would require purchase of a backup unit. Riley stated the approximate cost for the dish would be \$10,000 plus \$2,000 installation. Riley stated the Muscatine Power and Water would cost \$3600 per year for 10 mbps with a 5-year commitment. Riley stated it would also cost approximately \$42.50

per month for Muscatine Power and Water to run fiber optic into the building. Sorensen stated he is a proponent of dedicated connection versus wireless. On motion by Sorensen, second by Kelly, the Board authorized Information Services Director Bill Riley to move forward with a 10 mbps Machlink dedicated circuit through Muscatine Power and Water for the County Engineer's Office. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kelly, the Board authorized Information Services Director Bill Riley to move forward with a 10 mbps Machlink dedicated circuit through Muscatine Power and Water for Community Services. Ayes: All.

Howard asked about the help desk report provided. Riley stated the report will mean more as future data is collected. Howard asked if there is any way to note if one department has more than their share of issues. Riley stated he could try, but it is difficult to pull information from the free solution that the County is using for tracking help desk tickets.

Riley notified the Board that the County has been able to access a free program through Homeland Security that scans all of our systems for known security issues. Riley also reported that there will be a Website Redesign meeting on Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> with CivicPlus regarding issues with design of the new website.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Furlong, the following utility permit was approved: Eastern Iowa Light and Power – cable replacement on Tucker Avenue from Hwy 61 to New Era Road. Ayes: all.

County Engineer Keith White updated the Board on secondary road projects. White reported that research done on Saulsbury Road near the Lindle property has resulted in no culverts found on maps dating back to 1927. In response to Howard, White stated he has not been contacted by Steve or Julie Ehrecke on Funk's Hill Road. Furlong stated that he has communicated with Chief Deputy C. J. Ryan regarding dumping on Funk's Hill Road and they will look into the situation and contact Steve and Julie Ehrecke. White stated the County has written permits to allow individual property owners to work on the right-of-way within certain parameters, but it is normally incumbent on the property owner to contact Secondary Roads to ask for the permit. White stated the County would be performing some repair work Burlington Road and on Funk's Hill Road now that the weather is cooling down, but that FEMA will be their priority over the next few months.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, minutes of the Monday, August 25, 2014 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Sauer reported contacts regarding road issues.

Howard reported contacts regarding concern over the purchase of a County vehicle by the County Attorney.

Committee Reports:

Howard attended a Milestones Area Agency on Aging meeting August 26<sup>th</sup>.  
Sorensen attended a Muscatine County Safety Committee meeting September 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
Sauer attended a Muscatine Island Levee Improvement Project Stakeholders  
meeting August 28<sup>th</sup>.  
Kelly attended a Muscatine County Health Association meeting September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Sorensen, the Board approved Resolution #09-08-14-01 Transferring \$1,150.39 from the General Basic Fund to the Conservation Youth Corps Fund. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

The Board reviewed applications received from Kimberly Dickens, Brandy Wedekind, Allen Kilberger, Pamela Snider, Tamara Wagner and Paula Williamson for three July 1, 2014 vacancies on the Veterans Affairs Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 A.M.

ATTEST:

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Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

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Robert E. Howard, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, September 15, 2014

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

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

Greg Lindle, 1705 Lindle Avenue, reported that the unknown owner parcel acquisition is moving forward, but due to requirements for a survey, will probably not happen until the beginning of the year. Lindle stated the drainage problem on Saulsbury Road was caused by the County and the County needs to take care of it. Lindle suggested the County spend approximately \$10,000 to dig out the ditches and install a culvert. Lindle also asked the County to send a letter to the Iowa DOT asking them to remove the rip rap. Kelly asked if Lindle has looked at developing a drainage district. Lindle stated he does not feel a drainage district is needed if the County would just fix the problem it caused.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, claims dated September 15, 2014 were approved in the amount of \$1,608,983.17. Ayes: All.

Bi-State representative Gena McCullough presented a brief overview of the Muscatine County Comprehensive Plan Update. McCullough stated two public meetings were held with about 40 people in attendance and 77 responses were received to an online survey. McCullough presented a draft of the Muscatine County Comprehensive Plan to the Board stating that the Zoning Commission will make recommendation for approval by the end of October. McCullough stated they would look for approval towards the end of November in order to allow time for public input. Howard stated he was concerned with the low attendance at the public meeting in West Liberty. McCullough stated there was better attendance at the Muscatine meeting and the online survey had good response. Furlong asked if there were any significant changes from the last plan. McCullough stated most of the changes were refinements in areas of drainage issues, stormwater, revisiting zoning ordinances and other ordinances. McCullough stated changes were made in environmental health adding quite a few items regarding partnering with other organizations and looking at the potential for green building conditions and energy conservation measures within building codes and County facilities. Furlong stated the Board has discussed not allowing subdivisions on roads that are not hard surface and asked where that would fit into the Comprehensive Plan. McCullough stated that would be part of the next step when ordinances are reviewed as to whether or not they meet the needs of the County.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, the Board approved an Amendment to the Muscatine County Comprehensive Plan Update Agreement for Services Between Bi-State Regional Commission and Muscatine County. Ayes: All.



The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met as a Board of Canvassers for the Louisa-Muscatine Community School District Physical Plant and Equipment Levy Special Election held on Tuesday, September 9, 2014. The Board certified the following results to be a true and correct abstract of the votes cast in the election: Yes Votes: 182; No Votes: 187; Total Votes: 369. The measure was not adopted.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, the Board approved a renewal application for a Class C Native Wine (WCN), Sunday Sales and Outdoor Service Area Permit for Ardon Creek Vineyard & Winery, LLC, 2391 Independence Avenue, Letts, IA 52754. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, minutes of the Monday, September 8, 2014 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Howard and Furlong reported contacts regarding road issues.

Howard reported a contact from a property owner concerned about property taxes.

Howard reported a contact from a citizen regarding vacancies on the Veterans Affairs Commission.

Kelly, Sauer and Howard reported a contact from a Veterans Affairs Commission member discussing their recommendation for filling vacancies on the Commission.

Committee Reports:

Kelly attended a Seventh Judicial District meeting September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Furlong and Howard attended a Muscatine County Landfill Finance Management Committee meeting September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Kelly, Sauer, Howard and Sorensen attended the Farm Bureau Annual Meeting September 11<sup>th</sup>. Howard attended a Fruitland City Council meeting September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Information Services Director Bill Riley updated the Board on website redesign reporting that CivicPlus is offering another training session on September 18<sup>th</sup> from 1PM - 5 PM to help users. Riley stated that CivicPlus is making recommended changes, but that for now Muscatine County Conservation is going to stay on their own website.

County Engineer Keith White reported that FEMA came last Wednesday for the kick off meeting and will be back this week to work on the 2014 event.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Furlong, the Board approved Resolution #09-15-14-01 Authorizing and Approving a Loan Agreement with Central State Bank and Providing for the Issuance of a \$1,500,000 General Obligation County Purpose Note, Series 2014, and Providing for the Levy of Taxes to Pay the Same. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

Discussion was held regarding applications received from Brandy Wedekind, Allen Kilberger, Pamela Snider, Tamara Wagner, Paul Williamson and Kimberly Dickens for

three vacant positions on the Veterans Affairs Commission. Paul Wedel, Commissioner, stated that these appointments are important because they are possibly replacing three of the five commission members. Wedel stated they had the Veteran Affairs Director Jennifer Watkins-Schoenig participate in the interview process of the candidates. Wedel stated he, George Alt, Veterans Affairs Commission Chairperson, and Jennifer Watkins-Schoenig, Director, recommend Brandy Wedekind, Allen Kilberger and Paula Williamson for the positions. Furlong stated he has an issue with appointing members that do not live in Muscatine County as they do not vote or pay taxes here and historically, most organizations appoint members that live within the County. Wedel stated he understands the issue, but they want members that support the Veterans and are interested in serving. Furlong stated he still disagrees. Howard stated he wants members that will be best suited for the Commission. Sorensen stated he would love to see a Muscatine County representative, but he is interested in supporting the Commission if the Commission feels these are the best candidates for the position. Sauer stated anyone in the State of Iowa can apply, the Commission interviewed every single applicant and selected the applicants they thought were best and although he would like to see Muscatine County residents, he will support what the Commission has recommended. Kelly stated she would like them to all be Muscatine County residents, but that one is just across the street from Muscatine County and she could support the one that is in Muscatine County and the one across the street from the County. George Alt, stated the third candidate that also lives just outside the County is the Adjutant to the VFW here in Muscatine and is also an American Legion member. Furlong stated that the Muscatine County candidates are also well qualified. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, Allen Kilberger, Brandy Wedekind and Paula Williamson were appointed to the Veterans Affairs Commission for a 3-year term ending June 30, 2017. Ayes: Kelly, Sauer, Howard and Sorensen. Nay: Furlong.

The Board reviewed the health/dental fund balance as of August 31, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 A.M.

ATTEST:

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Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

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Robert E. Howard, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors