

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, February 20, 2017

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

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

On a motion by Howard, second by Sauer, the Board accepted a bid for LFM-(61)--7X-70 and for North/Muscatine St – PCC Projects for PCC paving on Fruitland Road and Muscatine Street/North Street, Fruitland, IA from Croell, Inc. in the corrected amount of \$2,575,004.78 as recommended by the County Engineer. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Keith White updated the Board on the water main project at 3610 Park Avenue West.

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Chairperson Lisa Wertzbaugher presented highlights from the Muscatine County Historic Preservation 2016 Annual Report. On a motion by Mather, second by Howard, the Chairperson was authorized to execute the Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission's Iowa Certified Local Governments 2016 Annual Report (January 2016 – December 2016). Ayes: All.

Discussion was held regarding quotes from Valley Construction for the following additional work items in conjunction with the building demolition at 3210 Harmony Lane: installation of a new water line to the Discovery Center - \$48,720.00; demolition of the Old Barn - \$21,780.00; demolition of the cottage - \$12,890.00; and removal of the sewer lift station - \$4,150.00. Sorensen stated the issue is that water, sewer and power lines are intermixed with the other facilities in that area including the Discovery Center so utilities will be lost when the DHS building is demolished. Sorensen stated the Board has supported the Old Barn in the past as well as other historic preservation endeavors. John Haskins, Friends of the Old Barn, stated there are alternate plans that can be done without destroying the Barn infrastructure. Sorensen stated there has been no discussion or decision made about demolishing the Old Barn. Sorensen stated the biggest question is what to do with the cottage which will not have electricity, water or sewer. Haskins asked the Board not to make a decision today until he has a chance to research and present his point of view to the Board. Sorensen stated they may not be able to hold up decision on this item in its entirety because they have a contractor on site and the Discovery Center will be without water. Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas stated Muscatine Power and Water helped locate the old water lines and there are a number of bad valves so there is no way to demolish the DHS Building without shutting off water to the Discovery Center, the Old Barn and the cottage. Sorensen stated it is a high risk for an organization to maintain the pumps in the lift station. Kas Kelly asked if the barn could be connected to a septic system. Furnas stated the City would require connection to city sewer. Sorensen stated the distance would require a lift station. Conservation Director Curt Weiss stated the Discovery Center was far enough from the City sewer to be able to connect to a septic system, but it is only large enough for their building and the Old Barn could not be added to that septic system. Paul Carroll stated part of the sustainability of the barn, is also the cottage. Carroll asked that demolition of the cottage and Old

Barn to be tabled until next week so that Friends of the Old Barn can return with plans and funding to restore utilities to the barn and cottage. Bonebrake stated he would like to see the barn moved to the Muscatine County Fairgrounds. Sharon Savage stated the location of the barn next to the Discovery Center is a beautiful setting. Anna Mack asked why the Board is discussing tearing down the barn when they can just run a water line to the Discovery Center. Sorensen stated the County has a demolition contractor on site that will remove the cottage for a very low price. Sorensen stated when the old lines are disconnected, the cottage will not have any utilities and if those are not restored, and it is demolished later, the price will be higher. Peg Gordon suggested the Board take the demolition funds and reallocate them to restore the utilities. Bonebrake stated why not put the barn where it is best utilized at the Muscatine County Fairgrounds. Haskins stated the difficulty is getting under all the power lines because of the height of the barn. Haskins stated moving the barn is cost prohibitive for the Friends of the Old Barn as well as the County. Dan Clark stated the park service does not like historic buildings moved and the Board should really think about that before deciding any building can be moved. Karen Cooney asked the difference in the bids for the demolition of the old care facility. Sorensen stated the low bidder was \$130,000 under the next bidder. Cooney asked the Board to give Friends of the Old Barn time to come back with a plan to restore utilities to the Barn. Mather suggested the Board approve installing the water main and disconnecting the water/electricity essentially putting the barn and cottage temporarily into moth ball status. On a motion by Mather, second by Howard, the Board approved installation of the new water main to the Discovery Center at a cost of \$48,720.00. Ayes: All. Carroll stated if the Board will give Friends of the Old Barn adequate time, they will come back with a viable plan to restore utilities to the barn and cottage. Don Fett stated he provided veterinarian service to the barn and the location is very important. Fett stated the County is only risking \$15,000 - \$20,000 to allow Friends of the Old Barn time to develop a plan for restoring the utilities. Carroll stated he feels they could raise money and have the work done by their May event. Haskins asked the County to give Friends of the Old Barn 30 days to develop a plan. Sauer stated he would like to see Carroll back at the next meeting with a progress report even if the Board allows 30 days. On a motion by Mather, second by Howard, the Board tabled action on demolition of the Old Barn and cottage. Ayes: All. On a motion by Howard, second by Mather, the Board tabled removal of the lift station. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Bonebrake, the Board approved a renewal application for a Class BB Beer (includes wine coolers), Sunday Sales and Outdoor Service Permit for the City of Muscatine, dba Muscatine Municipal Golf Course, 1820 Hwy. 38, Muscatine, IA 52761. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Howard, second by Bonebrake, minutes of the February 13, 2017 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

All Supervisors reported correspondence regarding the Old Barn.

Committee Reports:

Howard attended an E911 Commission meeting February 15th.

Howard attended an Emergency Management Commission meeting February 15th.

Sorensen attended a Wilton Development Corporation meeting February 15th.

Sauer attended a Riverbend Transit meeting February 15th.

Sauer and Bonebrake attended a Muscatine County Compensation Board meeting February 16th.

Sauer attended a Muscatine County Fair Board meeting February 16th.

Bonebrake attended an Ad Hoc Committee for the Muscatine County Conference Board February 15th.

Howard attended a Fruitland City Council meeting February 16th.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the Chairperson was authorized to execute a Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant application in the amount of \$2,012.52. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Bonebrake, second by Sauer, the County Sheriff was authorized to execute a Midwest HIDTA Sub Award Recipient Agreement in the amount of \$38,185.29. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Howard, second by Bonebrake, the Board approved a funding request from Mississippi River Parkway Commission in the amount of \$1,000.00. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber regarding the Muscatine County Compensation Board FY17/18 salary recommendations for elected officials. A letter from the Muscatine County Compensation Board recommended a 3.5% increase for the Board of Supervisors, Attorney, Auditor, Recorder, Sheriff and Treasurer effective July 1, 2017. On a motion by Bonebrake, second by Howard, the Board accepted the salary increases as recommended by the Compensation Board. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held regarding the proposed FY17/18 Mental Health and General Supplemental tax levies. Sorensen proposed reducing the Mental Health levy by 12 cents and adding six cents to the General Supplemental levy resulting in lowering the countywide levy by 6 cents. Sorensen stated it is a conservative number that gives a message to the State, but does not risk service. Mather stated the County will be encouraging the Legislature to take action to allow the Counties, which have not been able to levy enough, the ability to increase their levy so the Region is funded more equally by the Counties. Sorensen stated the reason he wants 6 cents to go back to General Supplemental is because of the possible loss of State funding in the future for E911. Bonebrake stated he would like to reduce the Mental Health levy by 15 to 16 cents with the General Supplemental levy increased by 6 cents. Mather stated this is a step in the direction of a gradual decrease in funding to the Region assuming the Legislation becomes law and Scott County may need to gradually increase their levy. Bonebrake stated his position is more aggressive. Sorensen stated if everyone does a lot it will draw down the Region's funding a lot faster and the Region may not have the fund balance to provide core services. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Howard, the Board lowered the proposed FY17/18 Muscatine County Budget levy for Mental Health by 12 cents and increased the levy for General Supplemental by 6 cents. Ayes: All.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 A.M.

ATTEST:

Betty L. Wamback
First Deputy Auditor

Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors