

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, April 29, 2019

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

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

Darryl Sywassink, 1924 Vale Avenue, stated he has never seen gravel roads as bad as they are this year. Sywassink stated the County needs to reevaluate how they are maintaining roads by crowning the road instead of leaving it flat and observing how the roads drain into the ditches.

Discussion was held with Michael Nolan, Horizon Architecture regarding a change order for the Administration Building Elevator Replacement Project. Nolan stated the change order was due to completion of the entire project under the contracted amount. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, the Board approved CAR #1 – Administration Building Elevator Replacement Project with Myers Construction net credit for the project in the amount of \$1,389.00. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held regarding current zoning of the County-owned property bordering 5th Street, from Walnut Street to Mulberry Avenue. Nolan stated the property is currently zoned C-2 on the south side of the block, C-1 on the northeast corner and R-5 on the northwest corner. Nolan recommended rezoning the entire block to C-2. Sorensen asked if there was an agreement with the City to provide some parking. Budget Administrator Sherry Seright stated there was never anything official promising the city parking spaces. Nolan stated the goal is to preserve a good portion of parking on the west side of the block. Nolan stated he prefers the block be zoned as C-2 because there is no setback requirement on C-2 which he would prefer for future flexibility. Board consensus was for Nolan to proceed with the rezoning request on their behalf.

Nolan updated the Board on the Muscatine County Third Floor Courtroom Renovation Project.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, the Chairperson was authorized to sign a Receipt, Consent and Waiver of Notice related to a bequest of approximately \$43,738.00 from the Estate of Marilyn J. Irey to the Muscatine County Conservation Board to be used to promote wildlife conservation at the Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area. Ayes: All. Saucedo asked the possibility of recognizing the donor with the placement of a plaque or naming of an area or project at Saulsbury. Weiss stated the Muscatine County Conservation Board plans to place a plaque at both the Saulsbury and Discovery Center locations.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved the following utility permit: Interstate Power and Light – installing a 4” gas main from Country Ridge Road boring across North Isett Avenue and Bayfield Road, then west on Bayfield Road to an existing gas main near Peck Street. Ayes: All.

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

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, minutes of the April 22, 2019 regular meeting were approved as amended. Ayes: All.

No correspondence was noted.

Committee Reports:

Sauer and Sorensen attended a Muscatine Levee Stakeholders Commission meeting April 24th.

Mather attended a Bi-State Regional meeting April 24th.

Mather attended a Muscatine County Veterans Affairs Commission meeting April 23rd.

Mather attended an Eastern Iowa Mental Health Region meeting April 26th.

Saucedo attended a West Liberty Economic Area Development (WeLead) meeting April 25th.

Holliday attended a cleanup at the Muscatine County Fairgrounds April 27th. Mather attended an event at the Flickinger Learning Center April 24th. Mather attended the Leadership Graduation April 25th.

Discussion was held with Doug Hoag regarding a slag update. Hoag provided a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and cited an email from Dr. Askew that stated the QAPP is lacking in any type of quality and if followed as written will produce biased and inaccurate results both for the IDPH toxicologist Stewart Schmitz and the citizens of Muscatine County.

Doag Hoag expressed concern regarding waste at the County Engineer's Office stating rock is being stockpiled to be taken out to the road at a later time. Hoag stated the Engineer is getting rock from an Iowa City quarry questioning why the County is going so far for rock when Wendling Quarry is a local business and they can haul twice as much rock in a day from Wendling. Hoag stated the County hired an intern several years ago and bought a gator and enclosed trailer which has not been used. Hoag stated it bothers him that the County has three engineers drawing over \$300,000 and questioned how the County justifies that. Hoag stated it is time the County Supervisors get a handle on excessive spending at the County Engineer's Office. Hoag stated county roads are a mess and they are not improving because there is such a thin layer of base on the road in front of his house that it is down to mud. Sauer stated the roads are bad this year, but that he has driven in several other counties and their roads are just as bad if not worse.

Tim Keldgord asked for information on Bayfield Road and when the embargo was going to be lifted. Sorensen stated the contractor was supposed to go out to the engineer's office to get a permit, but has not done that. County Engineer Keith White stated the embargo will probably not be lifted anytime soon.

Saucedo asked White about the procedure for rock. White stated they normally do not like to handle the rock twice, but a couple weeks ago, when weather was unfavorable, they hauled rock to stockpiles throughout the County to put on roads in better weather. White stated River Products from Iowa City offered a very good price on rock which he is using only in the northwest corner of the County.

White addressed several concerns from earlier in the meeting stating he is confused by the gator which has been used every year since it was purchased for surveying and road project inspections. White stated many counties are saying roads are worse than they have ever seen. White stated Alex Anderson was added in January from Cedar County with 10 years of experience who was to replace a 36 year employee. White stated Anderson has already designed three bridges. White stated the other engineer is a project manager who also replaced a long time employee.

Roger Hargrafen, 758 260th Street, Letts, asked if equipment was leased or purchased. White stated they purchase all of their equipment. White stated the equipment stays under warranty so there are no major maintenance expenditures.

Emergency Manager Brian Wright updated the Board on flood related issues.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, the Board approved Resolution #04-29-19-01 Transferring \$975,000 from the Rural Services Fund to the Secondary Roads Fund. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

**RESOLUTION # 04-29-19-01
TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM THE RURAL SERVICES FUND TO THE
SECONDARY ROADS FUND**

WHEREAS, it is desired to authorize the Auditor periodically to transfer sums from the Rural Services Fund to the Secondary Roads Fund; and

WHEREAS, said transfers must be in accordance with Sections 331.429 and 331.432 of the Code of Iowa.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors that the Auditor is authorized to transfer \$975,000 from the Rural Services Fund to the Secondary Roads Fund.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 29th day of April, 2019.

ATTEST:

/s/Leslie A. Soule
Muscatine County Auditor

/s/Nathan Mather, Chairperson
Muscatine County Board of Supervisors

Discussion was held regarding the appointment of a committee to explore renegotiation of the current 28E agreement with the City of Muscatine regarding the formation and operation of MUSCOM. Sorensen stated there is no need for the Muscatine County Joint Communications Commission as there are already two other groups providing oversight of MUSCOM. Sorensen stated elected officials from all cities are already on the Emergency Management Commission which provides financial oversight. Sorensen stated the user group is made up of individuals that act on a day-to-day basis with the operations of the dispatch center. Sorensen and Sauer were appointed to a committee to renegotiate the 28E agreement for MUSCOM by Board consensus.

Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber updated the Board on upcoming vacancies on the Veterans Affairs Commission and Civil Service Commission.

White responded to a question from Mather regarding the forestry projects bill. White stated the Engineer's community is still concerned with favoring one industry, but the bill is better.

Mather thanked those that advocated on behalf of counties and cities for the bill that would have placed hard caps on their ability to levy, that now simply imposes a super majority requirement to raise taxes above a certain amount. Mather stated it still leaves power in the hands of local government.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 A.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Nathan Mather, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors