

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, May 6, 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.

Daryl Sywassink, 1924 Vale Avenue, stated he, Doug Hoag and Dr. Askew accompanied the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to sample the slag on roads. Sywassink expressed concern about the process the DNR used for collecting the control sample from Yellow Avenue which was not supposed to have slag, but did. Sywassink stated the other two roads sampled were to have slag on them to be tested against the control sample. Sywassink stated he and Hoag took his own samples separate from the DNR's in the same quadrants to have tested. Sywassink stated the DNR is only testing 15% out of 100 samples collected and the DNR employee told him he wanted some to come out good and some to come out bad which Sywassink felt was cherry picking. Sywassink stated he is concerned that they are going to be comparing the slag roads with another road that had slag instead of a road that does not have slag and that their method of picking the samples was not random. Sywassink stated he was going to try to get a sample of a road without slag from another County. Mather asked why Sywassink did not do a split sample from the DNR's sample. Sywassink stated because the DNR was just taking a surface sample off the road rather than a core sample and their samples were going to the DOT to sift which would then be out of the DNR's control.

Doug Hoag, 3171 180<sup>th</sup> Street, stated of the three locations (Yellow Avenue, 155<sup>th</sup> Street and 130<sup>th</sup> Street) given to the DNR that were not supposed to have slag, two of the locations actually had slag on them. Hoag stated the locations that had slag were supposed to have gotten slag in 2018, but he was told by Brant Bohling that he thought the site on Trolley Avenue had slag placed on it 3-4 years ago, not in 2018. Hoag stated the shovel used by the DNR was not cleaned properly from site to site. Hoag stated he warned the Board last week that the DNR was not going to use proper procedure and it showed in the way they took their samples. Sauer asked if Hoag thought the information from the County Engineer's office to the DNR was not truthful and Hoag replied yes.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, claims dated May 6, 2019 were approved in the amount of \$619,597.34. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with Mary Beveridge, 1416 Mulberry Avenue, regarding a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine to help fund the Muscatine County Historic Jail Restoration Plan. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, the Board accepted a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine in the amount of \$1,300.00 to help fund the Muscatine County Historic Jail Restoration Plan. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with Captain Jeff Mullen regarding a Ballistic Vest 50/50 grant application. Mullen stated 37 ballistic vests would be purchased for the Sheriff's Office and 3 ballistic vests would be purchased for Conservation with the grant. Mullen stated the County pays the entire

amount up front and the Department of Justice refunds 50% to the County. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved a Ballistic Vest 50/50 grant application in the amount of \$20,054 of which the County would receive 50% reimbursement from the grant. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Holliday, the letting date was set for June 10, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. for L-(GO-2)—73-70 for grading for a road to replace a structure on Iron City Avenue. Ayes: All.

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

Mather asked County Engineer Keith White how many different sites were identified as having slag versus not having slag for the DNR. White stated he gave the DNR a list of every section of road that had slag placed on it in 2018 which he believed was about 100 segments of road. White stated later he gave the DNR roads that did not have slag. White stated County records show slag was placed on Trolley Avenue almost every single year in the last several years. White stated County records did not show any slag placed on Yellow Avenue or 155<sup>th</sup> Street, two of the roads that Hoag stated had slag on them when they went with the DNR for sample collection. White stated the DNR did not want every road that did not have slag so they provided what they asked for which he believes was six locations.

Discussion was held with County Engineer Keith White regarding opportunities for cost savings on County roads. Mather stated the County has had discussions about roads that are high in cost, but low in use and asked if White sees any way of cost savings with regard to these roads. Sorensen stated he received an email from Polly Geurink stating residents on 152<sup>nd</sup> Street spent \$34,000 on taxes, but he explained that only 45% goes to the County and 8.6% goes to the roads so less than \$3,000 is going to the roads from that area which means other areas are contributing to the maintenance of 152<sup>nd</sup> Street. Mather stated the reality is that the rest of the County is subsidizing roads that have limited use. Mather stated the County needs to figure out how to prioritize roads. Sorensen asked if the County experimented with low water crossings where would the money come from. White stated it comes out of the maintenance budget which means it comes from the funds used for rock, pavement patching, crack sealing, bridge maintenance, equipment purchases, etc. Sorensen asked about reclassifying roads to Class B or abandoning roads. White stated there are about six miles of roads that the County has considered reclassifying, but has not as of this point. White stated there are 400 miles of rock roads in the County. White stated he opted to run the motor graders on Saturday because of the improvement in the weather that was to turn bad again this weekend. Sauer stated the general perception that the public has on where taxes go is that over 50% of their dollars go to the roads and in reality, less than 5% understand that only about 8.6% go to the roads. Sorensen asked White if he has seen any new emerging trends in other counties. White stated several years ago Washington County bonded for \$12,000,000 to fix a few roads, but it wasn't a tremendous success. Sorensen stated there are three to four areas that are a constant source of pain every time the Cedar River rises and he does not know if there is work than can be done to those roads to minimize the damage from flooding. Sorensen asked about traffic count. White stated he has DOT traffic counts on all the roads.

Discussion was held with County Engineer Keith White regarding stockpiled rock. Sorensen would like to see if White can quantify the savings. White stated they worked from stockpiles all the time in the other counties he worked in and that if the weather would have stayed good, this practice would have stopped, but the County is in for another round of bad weather this week.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Holliday, the Board approved Resolution #05-06-19-01 Approval of the Combined Preliminary and Final Plat of Clear Mist Subdivision. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

**RESOLUTION #05-06-19-01**  
**APPROVAL OF THE COMBINED PRELIMINARY AND FINAL PLAT OF**  
**CLEAR MIST SUBDIVISION**

WHEREAS, there has been presented before the Board of Supervisors of Muscatine County, Iowa, a dedication and plat of the proposed subdivision "Clear Mist Subdivision"; and

WHEREAS, said plat has heretofore been approved by the Zoning Commission of Muscatine County, Iowa; and

WHEREAS, said dedication and plat fully conform with all laws of the State of Iowa and all ordinances of Muscatine County, Iowa, applicable thereto; and

WHEREAS, the platting of said subdivision is conducive to orderly development within Muscatine County, Iowa, is not in conflict with any extensions of the established road systems of Muscatine County, Iowa, and is in harmony with the comprehensive plan of zoning now in effect within Muscatine County, Iowa.

WHEREAS, the subdivision of said real estate and the plat thereof were accepted and approved by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors following a public meeting on May 6, 2019.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Muscatine County, Iowa, as follows:

Section 1. The said subdivision is hereby designated as "Clear Mist Subdivision", a subdivision in Muscatine County, Iowa, and that the descriptions of lots and parcels of land located therein shall be according to the number and designation thereof as set forth on said plat.

Section 2. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and the Auditor of Muscatine County, Iowa, are hereby authorized and directed to certify this Resolution in order that the same and all other matters material to said subdivision may be recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Muscatine County, Iowa.

PASSED and APPROVED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019.

ATTEST:

/s/Leslie A. Soule  
Muscatine County Auditor

/s/Nathan Mather Chairperson  
Muscatine County Board of Supervisors

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board set a public hearing for Monday, June 3, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. on a request to rezone approximately 15.92 acres in Seventy-Six Township from C-1 Commercial District to R-1 Residential District. Ayes: All.

Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas updated the Board on flooding. Furnas stated the river is going down, but weather this week will determine whether or not it will rise again. Furnas reminded residents that experienced high water in a flood plain that once the river goes down, he will be doing some preliminary assessments and a minor damage permit is required for any kind of repair. Furnas stated residents with damage should contact the Zoning Office for a damage inspection.

Furnas informed the Board rezoning encourages development and the Board may want to consider whether or not they allow development on a gravel road when they are looking at cost savings in connection with road maintenance.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, minutes of the April 29, 2019 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Saucedo, Sorensen and Mather received a letter from Polly Geurink regarding 152<sup>nd</sup> Street

and how tax money is spent on County roads.

Saucedo received a contact regarding the language the Treasurer uses in the Notice of Delinquent Taxes.

Saucedo talked to Senator Lofgren about a lack of funding for recently passed legislation.

Committee Reports:

Holliday attended a Muscatine County Safety Committee meeting May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Sauer attended a Muscatine County Conservation meeting May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Saucedo attended a West Liberty Economic Area Development (WeLead) goal setting Meeting May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved Resolution #05-06-19-02 Suspending the Collection of Taxes. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

**RESOLUTION #05-06-19-02**  
**RESOLUTION SUSPENDING THE COLLECTION OF TAXES**

WHEREAS, notice from the Director of Human Services has been received regarding the eligibility of Yacoub Dabit, Muscatine, Iowa, (the 'recipient') for medical and facility care; and

WHEREAS, as such recipient of such assistance is deemed to be unable to contribute to the public revenue pursuant to Section 427.9, Code of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, the recipient is the owner of property described as follows:

Address: 30 Coventry Ln. Apt #4, Muscatine IA 52761  
Parcel No: MCMUU 0824377004  
Legal Description: W Lincolnshire Village Pt 1 Unit B4 8 Pl 57-61

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors:

1. That the County Treasurer is hereby ordered to suspend the collection of all taxes, including special assessments, rates or charges, interest, fees and costs for the current year and those unpaid from prior years. As long as the petitioner is authorized by DHS no interest accrues during suspension but payments can be made.
2. If the parcel is sold, passes by bequest or inheritance to any person other than the spouse or minor child of the petitioner, all taxes and special assessments become due and payable by the next semi-annual installment date. Interest at the rate of 1 ½% per month will start on the next delinquency date after the suspended taxes become due.

Passed and approved this 6th day of May, 2019.

ATTEST:

/s/Leslie A. Soule  
Muscatine County Auditor

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

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, the Board accepted the April 2019 payroll claims.  
Ayes: All.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 A.M.

ATTEST:

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Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

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Nathan Mather, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors