

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, December 9, 2019

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

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

Muscatine County Community Services employee Lori Wedekind, 15424 316th Street West, Illinois City, Illinois, stated her supervisor, Felicia Toppert, told her she (Toppert) was going to ask the Board today to reduce her (Wedekind's) weekly hours from 40 to 20 effective January 2, 2020. Wedekind stated she asked her supervisor about helping other staff with current duties, working hours in another County department, or reducing someone else's hours considering she has 41 years of seniority and was told no in each case. Wedekind stated she was given only a month's notice of the reduction in her hours which will cause her to lose all her benefits. Joe Wedekind, Lori's husband, spoke in support of his wife's full time position. Board Chairperson Nathan Mather stated the Board is not able to comment on personnel matters and stated staffing is within the discretion of the department head.

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commissioner Lynn Pruitt asked the Board to accept a Certified Local Government Grant in the amount of \$8,183 for Investigation of Muscatine County Historic Country Schools and Churches. Pruitt stated the original grant request was for \$9,750, but the State of Iowa has agreed to fund the request for \$8,183. Pruitt stated the project budget will be revised by a reduction in consultant fees and additional cash from the County Historic Preservation budget. On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sorensen, the Board accepted the Certified Local Government Grant in the amount of \$8,183 for Investigation of Muscatine County Historic Country Schools and Churches. Ayes: All.

Pruitt also updated the board on a future Historic Preservation Project involving a historic building at the Fairport Fish Hatchery.

The Board reviewed a Special Use Permit approved by the Muscatine County Board of Adjustment on Friday, December 6, 2019. Case #19-12-01 is an application filed by Carolyn K. Bierman and Robert D. Bierman Jr., record owners. This property is located in Bloomington Township, West of N. Mulberry Road in the SW ¼ of Section 5-T77N-R2W, containing approximately 31.82 acres and is zoned A-1 Agricultural District. This request would allow the Zoning Administrator to issue a Special Use Permit in order for Tanner and Lauren Gardner to build a one-family dwelling on approximately five acres after it has been split in the Southeast part of this parcel. The Board of Adjustment approved this request.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved Resolution #12-09-19-01 Suspending the Collection of Taxes. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

RESOLUTION #12-09-19-01
RESOLUTION SUSPENDING THE COLLECTION OF TAXES

WHEREAS, notice from the Director of Human Services has been received regarding the eligibility of Troy D Marshall, 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: 2426 Echo Ave, Letts, IA 52754
Parcel No: CELMT 1114100003
Legal Description: 14-76-4W Tract N of RD NE NW

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 9th day of December, 2019.

ATTEST:

/s/Susan J. O'Donnell
Second Deputy Auditor

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

On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sorensen, minutes of the December 2, 2019 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Holliday reported a call from a citizen regarding his wife's position with the County.

Mather reported a call from a citizen about the status of a road near Bayfield.

Saucedo and Sorensen reported inquiries about yard waste and recycling.

Committee Reports:

Holliday attended a Muscatine County Safety and Health Committee meeting December 4th.

Sauer attended a River Bend Transit Board meeting December 4th.

Mather attended a Muscatine Community Health Association meeting December 4th.

Sorensen attended a Regional Workforce Investment Board meeting December 3rd.

Muscatine County Engineer Keith White stated he was following-up on recent Board discussion of a road connecting to Bayfield Road. White stated Dennis Michael, of the Secondary Roads Department researched the history of the road going back to 1854 and illustrated the history on a map of the area, indicating a gate approximately 660 feet from the intersection with Bayfield Rd at the entrance to the Dennis Conway property and adjacent to Iowa Department of Natural Resources property. White stated it appears the lane beyond the gate to the north is private property and not a county road.

The Board recessed at 9:31 A.M. and reconvened at 9:37 A.M.

The Board reconvened to hold a work session to discuss mental health funding/membership in a Region. Muscatine Community Services Director Felicia Toppert presented the Board with a flow chart illustrating two options regarding membership in the Eastern Iowa Mental Health Region. The options, according to the chart, are to remain in the Eastern Iowa Mental Health Region through the end of FY2020 or leave the Region before the end of the current fiscal year. Toppert stated staying in the Region means Muscatine County may have to pay the additional \$311,000 assessment requested by the Region. Toppert stated at a recent meeting of the Eastern Iowa Mental Health Region, the Region Board failed to approve a recommendation to waive the assessment to Muscatine County. According to Mather, a vote to kick Muscatine County out of the Region also failed. Mather stated he told the Region Board he would go back to the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors for discussion and a possible vote on whether to pay the \$311,000.

Sorensen stated the Region Board has already put the County in a financial crisis and has been cutting services and he is not willing to cut services to Muscatine County residents. Mather stated he is not willing to cut services to Muscatine County residents, but if the County stays in the Region, Muscatine County does not have a choice as the Region makes the decision about cutting services. Sauer stated his concern regarding the Region's financial crisis and questioned why Muscatine County would pay \$311,000 to the Region knowing there are funding inequities.

Toppert stated she has already begun work on a plan to bridge mental health services until Muscatine County can join a different Region, specifically South Eastern Iowa Link (SEIL). The plan, according to the flow chart includes some staffing realignment, but also has the expectation that the Eastern Iowa Region would provide Mental Health

funding if Muscatine County remains in that Region. The flow chart also has an expectation for the Region to provide funding for bridging services if Muscatine County leaves before end of FY2020.

Saucedo stated he is not in favor of paying \$311,000 to the Eastern Iowa Region and the County needs to figure out how to survive during a transition period until a time when the County may join the SEIL Region. Toppert stated she could have Muscatine County Mental Health services mirror SEIL services by July 1, 2020 to allow time to integrate/transition with a goal of joining SEIL in time to plan a SEIL Region budget which would include Muscatine County.

Sorensen stated the County should move forward with the notion that the Eastern Iowa Region is going to kick us out, work on a financial scenario for that, and give up on the idea that the Region will continue to pay for Muscatine County Mental Health Services through the end of FY2020. Sorensen stated the County needs to get SEIL to allow us to join sooner.

Sorensen and Saucedo are scheduled to attend a SEIL meeting later this week. Saucedo stated he would like to be able to present a transition plan to SEIL in order to demonstrate Muscatine County's interest in and commitment to their program.

The meeting was adjourned at 10.55 A.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule
Muscatine County Auditor

Nathan Mather, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors