

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, August 24, 2020

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

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

On a motion by Sauer, second by Saucedo, claims dated August 24, 2020 were approved in the amount of \$669,568.79. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the Board approved an ordinance rezoning approximately 6 acres in Seventy-Six Township from C-2 Commercial District to R-1 Residential District on the second of three readings. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with Deputy Assessor Delaine Clark, Muscatine County Assessor's Office, regarding 2020 homestead tax credits and/or military tax exemptions. On a motion by Mather, second by Holliday, the Board disallowed previously allowed homestead tax credits and military tax exemptions originally approved in a prior year, but no longer qualified as recommended by the Assessor. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, the Board allowed 2020 homestead/military applications with the exception of four disallowed as recommended by the Assessor. Ayes: All.

Mike Nolan, Horizon Architecture, updated the Board on County building projects. Nolan stated the occupancy hold up at the new General Services Maintenance Building is with the paperwork for the fire alarm agreement with the fire alarm vendor and the additional railing required for the ramp. In response to a question from Mather, Nolan stated the cost of the railing will be paid by the general contractor, not the County. Saucedo questioned the quality of workmanship specifically, inadequate filter access to the A/C units over the bathroom and storage unit. Saucedo felt that better oversight would have seen those items earlier. Saucedo stated the building was supposed to be completed in April and if caught sooner, there would not have been punch list items delaying the occupancy now.

Nolan discussed his definition of a project manager stating his service has been more of a hands off level in the past. If the Board wants to negotiate for a higher level of construction administration, then he could arrange to be on site once a week instead of bi-weekly. Saucedo would like the documented process Nolan is proposing for improving communication and a higher level of oversight of projects submitted to the Board for review. Sorensen stated he is satisfied with the design process, but there could probably be some improvement on the construction management process.

On a motion by Saucedo, second by Holliday, the Board approved the following utility permit: Muscatine Power and Water – replace a section of water main on North Mulberry from near the driveway of 1973 Mulberry to near the southeast corner of 2441 Hummingbird Lane. Ayes: All.

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

On a motion by Sauer, second by Mather, minutes of the August 17, 2020 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Saucedo, Mather, Sauer and Holliday reported an email from Judy Howard, Wilton, requesting the Board not defund the police.

Saucedo attended a meeting with the City of West Liberty and Muscatine County Fair Manager Kelsie Morris August 19th in order to build a better relationship.

Saucedo attended a QC Homeless Shelter for the Healthy and Safety of Foster Kids electronic meeting August 21st.

Saucedo reported an email from Nathan Mather regarding coronavirus information.

Saucedo reported an email thanking the Board for supporting a bridge be renamed to honor

Chuck Geertz.

Saucedo reported a letter from the Iowa Pork Producers regarding challenges with over population of pork due to Coronavirus.

Saucedo reported visiting the Muscatine County Maintenance Building August 17th to review areas of concern regarding the need for an additional hand railing.

Saucedo reported an email regarding the Freedom Rock located in Wilton.

Committee Reports:

Holliday attended a Wilton Development Corporation meeting August 19th.

Holliday attended a Muscatine County Fair Board meeting August 20th.

Sauer attended a Muscatine County Conservation Board meeting August 17th.

Sauer attended a River Bend Transit Board meeting August 19th.

Sauer attended a Muscatine Board of Health meeting August 19th.

Sorensen attended Eastern Iowa Mental Health Region electronic meetings August 17th and 24th.

Mather attended a Muscatine County Veterans Affairs electronic meeting August 18th.

Saucedo attended a West Liberty Economic Area Development (WeLead) meeting August 21st.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the Board approved an Ordinance Adopting the 2020 Muscatine County Code of Ordinances on the second of three readings. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

The Board directed Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber schedule a public meeting regarding the possible use of ATV/UTV vehicles on secondary roads for September 8th at 7:00 P.M.

Emergency Manager Brian Wright updated the Board on COVID-19 in Muscatine County.

County Attorney Jim Barry updated the Board on court trials during COVID-19.

Don Briggs, Fruitland, thanked the Board for setting a meeting to discuss the possible use of ATV/UTV vehicles on secondary roads and requested how to find out about attending the meeting electronically. Sorensen stated the agenda for that meeting will include information for connecting to the meeting electronically. In response to a question from Saucedo, Briggs stated other communities have ATV/UTV ordinances. Sorensen stated he will attempt to get information from area agencies regarding local ordinances for ATV/UTV vehicles.

The Board recessed at 10:15 A.M. and reconvened at 10:24 A.M.

On a motion by Mather, second by Saucedo, the Board went into closed session at 10:24 A.M. pursuant to Chapter 21.5(c), Code of Iowa, to discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent. Roll call vote: Ayes: All. On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, the Board returned to open session at 10:40 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors