

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Tuesday, September 8, 2020

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in special session at 7:00 P.M. with Holliday, Sauer, Sorensen, Mather and Saucedo present. Chairperson Sorensen presiding.

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

Discussion was held regarding allowing use of all-terrain and/or off-road utility vehicles on portions of Muscatine County roads. Terri Buhman 1450 Penn Avenue Road, Atalissa, stated that 759 citizens of Durant signed a petition to allow golf carts and UTVs and the city council is moving forward to allow golf carts and UTVs in the City so she would like Muscatine County to allow the use of them in the County. Buhman stated the City of Wilton issues 80 permits per year to golf carts and UTVs to allow their use in the City of Wilton and they have never revoked a permit or had any issues. Don Briggs, 125 Emerald Lane, Fruitland stated the City of Fruitland allows golf carts and UTVs and he is in favor of allowing their use in the County. Mark Henning, 2779 150th Street, stated he uses UTVs extensively to go to different properties around him for hunting and fishing so he is in favor of allowing their use in the County. Sorensen stated 43 of 99 counties are allowing UTVs in some form. Gerald Hart, 2271 Saulsbury Road, stated he is in favor of it because it is nice to take the UTV out to go to the neighbors or the back of his farm. John Kramer, 1670 N. Mulberry Road stated it is a useful tool to get from property to property. Jon Eads, 1883 Anna Mae Drive, stated by phone that he is in favor of golf carts and UTVs on the roads, but would also be in favor of requiring safety items such as lights or turn signals. Troy Fridley, 2601 Country Ridge, stated he supports allowing UTVs as it is more fun to ride in a UTV when the weather is nice. Information Services Director Bill Riley stated Ben Eagle, Jordan Egger and Nicole Newcomb-Baker all posted in the chat room that they were in favor of allowing UTVs on County roads. Sauer asked if anyone present or on the phone was not in favor of allowing UTVs on County roads. No one responded.

Sorensen expressed concern about the safety factor for UTVs encountering high speed vehicles on high traffic roads such as Pettibone Avenue or Stewart Road near Deep Lakes Park. In response to a question, Sorensen stated some Counties do a permit, but he is only interested in being sure they are registered with the DNR and have proof of insurance. Mather stated he is not interested in policing any farther than what the DNR requires. Sorensen stated most counties require lights, turn signals, 30-35 mph speed limit, DNR registration and proof of insurance which is what he would go along with. Jeff Daufeldt, 2323 Box Car Road, stated UTVs can sometimes run the ditch and stay off busy road for safety. Sauer stated not all machines are equipped with turn signals. John Kramer stated if you restrict UTVs from using busy roads, then why not bicycles. Don Briggs stated snowmobiles can go about anywhere in the ditches, but he cannot drive a UTV on the road.

Saucedo stated he would like to require headlights and taillights if driving a UTV after dark with older models not being able to drive after sunset. Saucedo stated he would also like feedback from the County Engineer on higher traffic count roads. Daufeldt stated he runs produce in a UTV down Stewart Road and has had no problem with the traffic. Saucedo stated he would also like input from the County Sheriff. Mather detailed the following items that should be considered

in the drafting of an Ordinance: possible time restrictions, types of equipment requirements, types of vehicles, possible road restrictions, DNR registration requirement and proof of insurance requirement. Will Tomah 1401 Moscow Road, stated Dubuque County started last October with some roads open to UTVs and are continually opening more roads with businesses on those roads getting a lot of business from UTVs, so he would prefer UTVs not be restricted to certain roads. Buhman stated an 11:00 P.M. time restriction rather than 10:00 P.M. would be better because some people like to drive their UTVs to football games. Mather stated dark is dark, so he really does not think a time really matters. Mike Fridley, 1882 Iron City Avenue, stated it may be good to stay consistent with surrounding Counties. Mather stated he would not want to change the rules every six months and he does not want to write an ordinance that covers every possible contingency. Sorensen thanked everyone for coming stating the next step is for the Board to develop a draft ordinance.

On a motion by Saucedo, second by Mather, the Board affirmed a request from County Auditor Leslie Soule to the Iowa Secretary of State's Office for \$24,400 in CARES Funds via the Vote Safe Iowa Initiative. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Holliday, minutes of the August 31, 2020 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

All Supervisors received emails from Steve Shield and Casey Hudson in support of allowing the use of all-terrain and off-road utility vehicles on Muscatine County Roads.

Saucedo reported an email from Bi-State regarding SILOS Dissolutions regarding economic development for affordable housing.

Committee Reports:

Saucedo attended a West Liberty Economic Area Development work session with the West

Liberty City Council September 1st.

Sorensen attended a Region IX Transportation meeting September 8th.

Sauer attended a Muscatine County Conservation Board meeting September 3rd.

Holliday, Sauer, Mather and Saucedo attended the unveiling of the Freedom Rock in Wilton September 6th.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Holliday, the Board accepted the August 2020 payroll claims. Ayes: All.

Information Services Director stated several people in the chat room expressed support for ATV/UTV use on County roads.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 P.M.

ATTEST:

Susan J. O'Donnell
Second Deputy Auditor

Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors