

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, November 9, 2020

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

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

A Public Hearing was called to order by Chairperson Sorensen at 9:00 A.M. on a proposed ordinance allowing the use of all-terrain and off-road utility vehicles on portions of County roads. No one spoke for or against the proposed ordinance. On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, the public hearing was closed at 9:02 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Saucedo, the Board approved an ordinance allowing the use of all-terrain and off-road utility vehicles on portions of County roads on the first of three readings. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Saucedo, second by Mather, the Board approved 2020 Family Farm Credit Applications with one disallowed, as recommended by County Assessor Randy Spies. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with Chief Sheriff Deputy Ardyth Slight and Jail Administrator Matt McCleary on a request to approve an application for an Iowa Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program (CESF) grant. Slight stated the first grant was used to add an electronic courthouse at the jail for Federal and State inmates. Slight stated all of the equipment has been installed and the funds in the amount of \$18,000.00 have been spent. Slight stated funds from this second application will be used for a full time Registered Nurse, COVID testing kits and mobile vital monitoring stations. Slight stated adding medical personnel and COVID related items will keep the Jail in ACH (Advanced Corrections Healthcare) compliance. On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the Board approved a CESF grant application in the amount of \$90,952.71. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Saucedo, the Board approved the following utility permit: Eastern Iowa Light and Power – bore under the road to connect service to 2086 231<sup>st</sup> Street. Ayes: Sauer, Sorenson and Saucedo. Mather abstained stating this was a client.

On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, the Chairperson was authorized to execute the 2020 Weed Commissioner's Report. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with County Engineer Keith White regarding a request for direction from the Board on issues with Keokuk Avenue. Sorensen stated Keokuk Avenue is gated and closed due to washout and drainage issues. Sorensen stated the Board needs to make a decision on the road and give the Engineer direction on what to do with Keokuk Avenue. Sorensen stated a few landowners use the road as access to their property. Terry Holladay, 1791 Keokuk Avenue, expressed concern about delivery services coming from the wrong direction and not being able to reach the house; about whether emergency vehicles, if needed, would know which direction to

use to avoid the gates; about people trying to reach the County park and having to turn around; and, that his biggest issue is just getting out. Holladay stated he would like to see the road open back up. White stated the culverts are a constant maintenance nightmare, because they fill up with sand and other debris. White stated he feels the options are to keep the road closed or to put in a structure that will work for this area. White stated a 12' x 6' box culvert satisfies a ten year event, which is the minimum amount on gravel roads. White stated his recommended solution is a 12' x 6' box culvert at an estimated cost of \$150,000 to \$200,000 plus the purchase of an additional \$5,000 - \$10,000 of right-of-way. The Board expressed concern about the access to the park and the costs to place the 12' x 6' box culvert, which is not on the County's five year plan. Board consensus was to table a decision until further discussion during the Budget process.

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

On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, minutes of the November 2, 2020 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

All supervisors received an email from Emergency Manager Brian Wright about equipment

issues with the emergency weather sirens.

Saucedo reported a call regarding Keokuk Avenue.

Saucedo reported an email from the West Liberty City Administrator requesting an update on the proposed ATV/UTV ordinance.

No committee reports were noted.

Discussion was held with Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber regarding the disposition of a 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee. Schreiber stated the Jeep had been purchased by the previous County Attorney with Drug Task Force money. Schreiber stated the current County Attorney does not want to keep the vehicle, but because it was purchased with Drug Task Force money it must be used for law enforcement purposes. Schreiber recommended the County purchase the vehicle for the fair market value of \$13,000. Schreiber stated the \$13,000 would be put into the Drug Task Force fund and the vehicle would become part of the County fleet for use by all departments. On a motion by Mather, second by Saucedo, the Board approved the purchase of a 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee from the County Attorney's Office for the amount of \$13,000 to be used as a County Fleet Vehicle. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the Board affirmed the appointment of Jennifer Davis as a Medical Examiner Investigator for Muscatine County. Ayes: All.

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

Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas updated the Board on various building projects. Furnas recommended removing a small radio tower located on the backside of the Sheriff's Office during the renovations. Information Services Director Bill Riley stated the Board may want to leave the tower in place to use for a possible backup connection between the Sheriff's

Office and Secondary Roads buildings. Riley stated if there are issues at the site a wireless antennae could be mounted on the tower.

Mather thanked the Auditor's Office for a good job over the last two months leading up to the election. Sorensen said the polling sites were well organized and voter feedback was they felt comfortable and safe at the polls.

Saucedo recommended, since the new Maintenance Building is open, the Board discuss selling the Washington Street facility. Sorensen stated he has a meeting scheduled with the City of Muscatine and will ask if the City is interested in acquiring the property. Schreiber stated she would check if General Services or Search and Rescue still has a use for the facility. Board consensus was to place discussion to sell the Washington Street facility on a future agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 A.M.

ATTEST:

---

Susan J. O'Donnell  
Second Deputy Auditor

---

Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors