

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, October 10, 2011

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. with Furlong, Howard, Watkins, Kelly and Sorensen present. Chairperson Watkins presiding.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Furlong, the agenda was approved as written. Ayes: All.

Randy Grammens, President of Dartford Homeowner's Association, expressed concern about the downgrading of Tipton Road from a paved road to a seal coat. Grammens stated that the traffic on the road currently provides egress to 88 homes and 6 future homes. Grammens stated that Tipton Road has been paved for over 50 years and downgrading it could reduce property values. Grammens stated that the critical issue at this point is the dust in the air. Grammens stated he is disappointed the residents did not have an opportunity for public input before the decision was made to downgrade the road. County Engineer Keith White stated that Tipton Road was in the plan for chip seal roads and that more highly travelled roads like North Isett, Geneva Hills and Solomon are all seal coats. White stated a good rain is needed to get rid of the dust. White stated that the Board could consider an asphalt cover in the future, but that North Tipton Road was beyond the point of repair and needed something done to it right away. Howard asked when the road will start to get hard and what is the normal longevity of a seal coat road. White stated seal coats are renewed on a four year cycle and that weather and traffic are factors in how long it takes to pack down. White stated he viewed this as an upgrade because the road was in such poor condition and beyond repair, but that it now has a viable base on which to place an asphalt mat in the future should the Board choose. Watkins stated that when a property owner looks at taxes, they need to realize that a small portion actually goes to the County and what the Board is levying for rural taxes does not raise near enough for what they would like to do. Watkins encouraged Grammens to talk to his legislators about raising the gas tax to repair roads. Grammens stated that regardless of what has been said, the current road is a downgrade from asphalt to seal coat and that some seal coats hold up better than others, but if it does not hold up, there will be more gravel put on it and more dust. Grammens restated he is just asking the Board of Supervisors to consider paving Tipton Road.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Kelly, the following utility permit was approved: Windstream Communications – replace a telephone cable on Underwood Avenue in the vicinity of 120th Street. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Keith White presented the following bids for project L-(M11-5)—73-70: All American Concrete Inc. - \$95,247.05 and Heuer Construction, Inc. – \$120,024.53. On a motion by Howard, second by Kelly, the Board awarded a bid and approved a contract, bond and certificate of insurance with All American Concrete, Inc. in the amount of \$95,247.05 for L-(M11-5)—73-70 full depth PCC patches on Stewart Road X61. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Keith White updated the Board on road projects.

Discussion was held regarding access issues for properties acquired by the County through the FEMA flood-buyout program on Edgewater Road. White stated that 245th Street, which is sole access to the Edgewater area, goes under water every year and sometimes stays under water all year so it is difficult to maintain access and it is cost prohibitive to restore permanent access. White stated there is no inexpensive structure solution in that area and that the County may have to consider buying out the rest of the properties down there and closing the access. Howard asked if farmers utilize that road and White stated there is no farming down there. Watkins stated it is probably best to just seed and let the properties purchased through the FEMA buyout go to natural habitat rather than leasing them out.

Kelly asked White if the Weed Commissioner has jurisdiction to address weeds on property located within the City of Muscatine. White did not believe so but stated he will check.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, the Board approved the Muscatine County Auditor's Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending September 30, 2011 in the amount of \$244.22. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Howard, second by Furlong, the Board approved the Muscatine County Civil Department's Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending September 30, 2011 in the amount of \$28,893.23. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, the Board approved the Muscatine County Recorder's Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending September 30, 2011 in the amount of \$55,057.77. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Howard, second by Kelly, the Board approved the Muscatine County Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending September 30, 2011 in the amount of \$101,980.42. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Howard, minutes of the Monday, October 3, 2011 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Sorensen, Howard and Kelly received phone calls regarding Sheriff White's proposal to require smokers to sign a contract upon hiring stating that they will stop smoking.

Sorensen received a phone call regarding possible placement of a stop sign on Zachary Avenue at Old Hwy 61.

Kelly received a phone call regarding the dust on Lucas Road and wanting the Sheriff to know that vehicles are not stopping before entering Hwy 61 at Lucas Road.

Watkins received a phone call regarding Stewart Road.

Committee Reports:

Kelly attended a Muscatine County Health Association meeting October 5th.
Sorensen attended a Muscatine County Health and Safety meeting October 5th.

Kelly participated in the Health Initiative Walk on October 7th.

The Board reviewed the health/dental fund balance as of September 30, 2011.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Sorensen, the Board approved a letter to County employees regarding 2012 United Way contributions. Ayes: All.

Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber stated that John Oberhaus is not interested in serving another term on the Zoning Commission.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Furlong, the Board went into closed session at 9:57 A.M. pursuant to Chapter 21.5.1(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 Kelly, second by Howard, the Board returned to open session at 10:13 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

The Board walked through the Courthouse with Maintenance Supervisor Troy Sievert and met with Judge Strausser and Clerk of Court Jeff Tollenaer regarding space usage and future remodeling. Sorensen will attempt to locate a professional to give the County and State ideas for high density storage to better utilize space.

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

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

David H. Watkins, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors