

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, November 24, 2014

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 7:00 P.M. with Furlong, Sorensen, Howard, Sauer and Kelly present. Chairperson Howard presiding.

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

Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce & Industry President & CEO Greg Jenkins presented a request from Monsanto for an industrial tax exemption for a new project. Jenkins stated Monsanto is proposing a \$73,900,000 capital investment creating 51 new jobs which will result in approximately \$180,000 of increased assessed value. Jenkins stated the County is being asked to provide an industrial tax exemption on a sliding scale over five years as a local match which will result in a total match of \$9,000. Jenkins stated this is just one step in the process for Monsanto to make a determination whether or not to proceed with the project. On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, a public hearing was set for Monday, December 8, 2014 at 9:00 A.M. for consideration of the request for an industrial tax exemption for Monsanto. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Sauer, the Board approved the FY2014 Annual Urban Renewal Report for Muscatine County. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kelly, claims dated November 24, 2014 were approved in the amount of \$591,450.64. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, minutes of the Monday, November 17, 2014 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Howard reported a call regarding the condition of Vanatta Avenue.

Committee Reports:

Furlong attended a Muscatine County Historical Society meeting November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Furlong attended a West Liberty Economic Area Development meeting November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Furlong and Sauer attended a MUSCOM meeting November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Sorensen attended a Wilton Development Board meeting November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Sorensen, Howard, Sauer and Kelly attended the Muscatine County Conference Board meeting November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Sorensen attended a Regional Workforce Investment Board meeting November 24<sup>th</sup>.

Howard attended a Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce & Industry Executive Board meeting November 21<sup>st</sup>.

Sauer attended a Muscatine County Conservation Board meeting November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Sauer attended a Riverbend Transit meeting November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Sauer attended a Board of Health meeting November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Kelly attended an Eastern Iowa Mental Health Regionalization meeting  
November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Kelly attended a Decategorization Board meeting November 21<sup>st</sup>.

Howard and Sorensen attended the Muscatine School Progress Breakfast November 18<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

ATTEST:

---

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

---

Robert E. Howard, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, December 1, 2014

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

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

County Engineer Keith White opened the following bids received for Project LFM-(62)—7X-70, Culvert repairs and Subdrains on G28 (231<sup>st</sup> Street): Peterson Contractors Inc. - \$485,326.20; Brandt Construction - \$445,269.20; DeLong Construction Inc. - \$481,560.30; and Manatt's Inc. - \$343,266.50. White will review the bids and return later in the meeting for approval.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Sorensen, the Board approved Iowa DOT Agreement No. 05-14-HBP-S-041, an agreement to utilize approximately \$400,000 of federal bridge funds for a bridge replacement on 180<sup>th</sup> Street over Pine Creek. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Keith White updated the Board on Secondary Road projects.

Muscatine Convention & Visitors Bureau Chairperson Chuck Van Hecke introduced recently hired Muscatine Convention & Visitors Bureau Director Nick Cusick. Cusick updated the Board on current CVB activities.

Discussion was held with Wilton Development Corporation Executive Director Becky Allgood and City Manager Chris Ball regarding a request for \$16,000 funding towards Wilton's Downtown Revitalization Plan. Ball stated they have been conducting a façade program for five years which they would like to combine with Wilton Development Corporation's plan to turn downtown Wilton into a historic district. Sorensen stated the facade improvement program has been a low cost way to clean up the downtown. Howard stated he does not see funding in the current budget. Furlong stated the County has not funded these in the past, but he would consider it at budget time. Kelly asked if there was a timing issue precluding the project from waiting until budget time. Ball and Allgood stated they would like to get started on the project right away. Sorensen stated the County has used the Revolving Loan Fund in the past for housing and this project has a housing aspect. Ball stated the plan revitalizes apartments above the businesses in the downtown. Sauer stated he would prefer to wait until budget time to consider this project. Board consensus was to wait until budget time to consider this request.

Discussion was held with Zoning Administrator Jodee Stepleton regarding compliance with Iowa Code Chapter 103, Electrical Certification Requirements. Stepleton stated the County has to either have an electrical inspector on staff or have an agreement with the State of Iowa or City of Muscatine to permit and inspect residential electrical in the County by January 1, 2015. Stepleton stated she has contacted the City of Muscatine and they would be willing to take over not only permitting and residential inspections, but

also the entire building department. Stepleton stated the County would still have a Zoning and Environmental Department with vehicles to maintain creating a duplication of expenses. In response to a question from Furlong, Stepleton stated the State of Iowa charges higher fees. Sorensen stated contractors prefer the City or State inspectors because they can do their payment and permitting online, but there is a 72-hour turn around on inspections through the State so contractors have to plan ahead. Howard stated he would like to see a financial comparison of handling the residential inspections between the County, City and State before making a decision. Furlong stated he would also like to see what additional training might be required if the County contracts with the City of Muscatine. Board consensus was for Stepleton to compile the additional information requested regarding handling of residential inspections and return to the Board for more discussion as soon as possible in order to meet the January 1, 2015 deadline.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sauer, minutes of the Monday, November 24, 2014 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

No correspondence was noted.

Committee Reports:

Furlong attended a Muscatine County Solid Waste Management meeting November 25<sup>th</sup>.

Information Services Director Bill Riley informed the Board that the tentative go live date for the new website is December 16<sup>th</sup>. Riley also stated he will be looking for a new help desk system due to inconsistencies with the current free solution. Riley reported that the fiber connection for the Sheriff's and Secondary Roads Departments should go live within two weeks with Community Services going live within a month. Riley reported the Zoning Department Bad Elf mobile device used for mapping septic systems is providing inconsistent data. Riley stated Zoning is waiting for updates from the company to see if that corrects the issue.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Kelly, the Board approved a request to hire Kathy Bloomfield as Accountant/Human Resources Assistant for the Administration Office at \$46,808 (Grade 12, Step 5) and placement at five years of service for purposes of vacation accrual effective January 6, 2014. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held regarding proposed revisions to the Muscatine County Purchasing Policy. Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber reviewed proposed revisions with the Board stating the level for acquiring three bids was increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000 and goodwill expenditures for honoring 20 year employee retirements with plaques and cakes was increased from \$50 to \$100. On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, the Board approved the proposed revisions to the Muscatine County Purchasing Policy. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Furlong, the Board accepted a bid from apparent low bidder Manatt's Inc. in the amount of \$343,266.50 for Project LFM-(62)—7X-70, Culvert repairs and Subdrains on G28 (231<sup>st</sup> Street). Ayes: All.

County Engineer thanked the County for 16 years of support while he was a reservist with the Navy Reserve stating he has now officially retired as a Navy Reserve Officer. White presented the Board with a unit coin in appreciation of their 16 years of support.

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

ATTEST:

---

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

---

Robert E. Howard, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors