

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, July 6, 2020

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

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

A Public Hearing was called to order by Chairperson Sorensen at 9:01 A.M. on a request from Matthew Miller, Record Owner to rezone approximately 0.28 acres in Montpelier Township, Lots 7 & 8, Blk. 2, 1961 Tombstone Trail, from C-1 Commercial District to C-2 Commercial District in order to conduct motor vehicle sales and service on the site. Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas stated the Zoning Commission at a meeting on June 5, 2020 voted to recommend the Board of Supervisors approve this request. No one spoke against the rezoning. On a motion by Saucedo, second by Mather the public hearing was closed at 9:04 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Saucedo, second by Mather, the Board approved an ordinance rezoning approximately 0.28 acres in Montpelier Township from C-1 Commercial District to C-2 Commercial District on the first of three readings. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

A Public Hearing was called to order by Chairperson Sorensen at 9:05 A.M. on a request from Doyce J. Birkinbine, Record Owner and Michael J. and Dawn Birkinbine, Contract Owners, to rezone approximately 18.92 acres in Fulton Township in the SE ¼ of Sec. 36-T78N-R1E, North of 160<sup>th</sup> Street, from A-1 Agricultural District to R-1 Residential District. Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas stated the Zoning Commission at a meeting on June 5, 2020 voted to recommend the Board of Supervisors approve this request. No one spoke against the rezoning. On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, the public hearing was closed at 9:11 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, the Board approved an ordinance rezoning approximately 18.92 acres in Fulton Township from A-1 Agricultural District to R-1 Residential District on the first of three readings. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Mather, the Board approved the following utility permit: Liberty Communications – replace copper cable with fiber optic cable along portions of 100<sup>th</sup> Street, Hayes Avenue and 110<sup>th</sup> Street in Goshen Township. Ayes: All.

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

On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the Board approved the Muscatine County Sheriff's Office - Civil Department Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending June 30, 2020 in the amount of \$9,689.77. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, minutes of the June 29, 2020 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

All Supervisors received an email regarding vacation time awarded to a Sheriff's Office recently hired employee.

All Supervisors received an email asking for support for the Muscatine City Mayor's COVID-19 Proclamation.

Sorensen and Saucedo reported several contacts concerning stakeholders interested in the Muscatine Levee.

Sorensen reported a contact from a resident in the Funk's Hill area concerned with the possibility of restricted access for up to three days due to road work on County Road G-28.

Mather reported several contacts regarding the Muscatine City Mayor's COVID-19 Proclamation.

Committee Reports:

Sorensen attended a CEO meeting for the Mississippi Valley Regional Workforce Board June 26<sup>th</sup>.

Saucedo attended a Muscatine County Solid Waste Management Agency on-line meeting June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mather attended a Muscatine Community Health Association meeting July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Sorensen stated the next Board of Supervisor's meeting agenda should include discussion regarding the Muscatine Levee and Levee stakeholders.

Mather acknowledged the unofficial Fruitland July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration and stated his appreciation to the organizers.

Saucedo stated he performed the fiscal year end cash count on June 30<sup>th</sup> with the Treasurer's Office.

On a motion by Saucedo, second by Mather, the Board accepted an Office of Drug Control Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Grant awarded to the Muscatine County Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$18,031.00. Ayes: All.

Budget Administrator Sherry Seright reported a new Administrative Secretary will begin work with the County Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>.

Information Services Director Bill Riley reported he has ordered hardware to replace the IS infrastructure which will allow a move to a different virtualization platform which should help reduce some ongoing costs from the past as well as set up for some other possible features going forward. Riley stated there is an unexpected cost of replacing the cooling unit within the server room estimated at \$42,000 - \$43,000 to replace the current cooling unit with a new one. The current unit had a leaking valve and has been in use in the County Administration Building since 2006.

County Attorney James Barry stated he has asked the Iowa Attorney General for an opinion on the Muscatine City Mayor's proclamation and is waiting to hear back as to the ramifications to county offices, county employees and also to his office in terms of enforcement. Barry stated he does not know when a response from the Attorney General will be available.

County Treasurer Amy Zybarth stated the annual property tax sale has been extended to take place on July 25<sup>th</sup>. Zybarth stated since that timeframe falls within a new fiscal year, her office is waiting on clarification from the State on whether the County has the authority to cancel the tax sale, giving delinquent property tax owners until June of 2021 to pay their taxes. Zybarth stated this year's delinquent taxes totaled just over \$500,000, which in a typical year are closer to between \$800,000 and \$1,000,000. Zybarth stated given the cost of sending out tax sale notices, the required publication notice, and the confusion associated with which taxes are due, in her opinion, it will not put anyone in a huge financial bind if the tax sale is cancelled. Zybarth stated there is a shortfall which affects the cities and schools, but she has not heard of any major concerns.

The Board recessed at 9:52 A.M. and reconvened at 9:59 A.M.

Public Health Director Christy Roby-Williams, Public Health Clinical Manager Holly Barrett and Operations Manager Jacob Dornbush presented information regarding a budget amendment request for additional funding for COVID-19 mitigation activities through county public health services. The Public Health team presented a seven-page detailed report requesting a Muscatine County Public Health Budget Amendment to meet mandated public health expenditures from July 1 through September 30, 2020 in the amount of \$135,855. Dornbush outlined the report which detailed staff salaries with a general description of job responsibilities and estimated weekly time commitment, and included line item expenditures for employee benefits, travel, supplies and indirect costs totaling \$177,849. The report showed the current County fiscal budget has allocated \$41,994 for public health, leaving a balance for the requested amendment at \$135,855 to provide Incident Command Structure at Full Capacity through September 30, 2020.

Budget Administrator Sherry Seright stated the indirect costs line item totaling \$23,198 appeared to be double-dipping from the existing budgeted funds. Saucedo asked how much of the estimated budgeted salaries were considered overtime hours. Mather asked if any detail could be provided about the time spent on each case. Roby-Williams stated the average time could be determined by examining the numbers on the final page of the report which stated the number of cases from March 17 through June 30, 2020 and the number of hours spent by the COVID-19 Disease Investigation. Sorensen stated the tax levies have already been set for the current budget year and to provide additional funds for the Public Health COVID-19 Response would require a reduction in funds for some other county departments.

Roby-Williams stated her office would provide additional information which could help the Board with a decision regarding a budget amendment, and asked for clarification on what specific information was being requested. Roby-Williams asked if there were other funding options as a county. Seright stated a simpler report, a breakdown of how the current budgeted amount will be divided up and an indication of the least amount of money the county can give

would be helpful in a follow-up report. Sorensen asked how the state is helping with these funding issues.

Roby-Williams stated there is an unspent balance of grant money allocated for Public Health in the prior fiscal year amounting to \$37,106.89. Roby-Williams asked if that money is still available for July 2020 Public Health expenses. Board consensus was to request additional information from Public Health before making a decision.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 A.M.

ATTEST:

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Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

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Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors