

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, January 18, 2021

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

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

Discussion was held with Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission member Lisa Wertzbaugher regarding an application for a Historic Preservation Rural Revitalization Grant with a requested Muscatine County match of \$53,550 for the Historic Jail Project. Wertzbaugher stated the availability of the proposed grant presents an opportunity to move the Historic Jail project to near completion of Phase 1 with a functioning facility. Wertzbaugher stated completion of Phase 1 will be a catalyst to fund-raising. Wertzbaugher stated the grant application comes at a time when competition for grant money is weakened. The Board expressed confidence in Wertzbaugher's and the Commission's fiscal responsibility, accountability and prioritization of project sustainability. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Holliday, the Board approved a Historic Preservation Rural Revitalization Grant Application in the amount of \$178,000 which includes a 30 percent County match of \$53,550 for the Historic Jail Project. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the Board approved the following utility permit: Windstream Iowa Communications – bore and place two 1.25” ducts approximately 446’ in length and pull cable within on the east side of Douglas Ave, Nichols and place two cable pedestals. Ayes: All.

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

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, minutes of the January 11, 2021 regular meeting and the January 12, 2021 special meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Holliday and Saucedo reported an email from Eric Furnas updating the Sheriff's Office Building Addition Project.

Holliday and Saucedo reported an email from Christy Roby-Williams with an update on COVID-19.

All Supervisors received an email from Sheriff Riess outlining preparation for potential issues during the inauguration.

Sorensen reported correspondence regarding an Economic Development Administration grant for a levee improvement project.

Committee Reports:

Sorensen and Mather attended an electronic Mississippi Valley Workforce Area CEO Board meeting January 11th.

Sorensen and Mather attended the quarterly M.A.G.I.C. Board meeting January 11th.

Discussion was held with Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber, Sheriff Quinn Riess and Captain Matt McCleary regarding authorization to add one additional full-time Jail Nurse

position. McCleary stated an additional full-time Jail Nurse is needed to meet the federally mandated hours for medical coverage. Schreiber stated due to recent retirements and other staffing changes, there are adequate funds in the current budget to cover the expense of an additional full-time Jail Nurse. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board authorized one additional full-time Jail Nurse. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sorensen, the Board set a public hearing for Monday, February 8, 2021 at 9 a.m. on a request to rezone approximately 2.74 acres in Fruitland Township from R-1 Residential District to C-1 Commercial District. Ayes: All.

Emergency Manager Brian Wright updated the Board on Muscatine County COVID-19 statistics. Wright stated he has a stockpile of personal protective equipment due to early recommendations from various agencies regarding those supplies and he follows state guidelines for distributing PPE.

County Auditor Tibe Vander Linden stated there will be an Eastern Iowa Community College District (Merged Area IX) Special Election on March 2, 2021 in eight Iowa counties, including Muscatine County.

Director of Public Health Christy Roby-Williams addressed the Board regarding phasing of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. Roby-Williams stated once Phase 1A is complete, Phase 1B will begin. Roby-Williams stated 1B criteria includes three groups: essential work force, 75 and older individuals and those considered medically fragile. Roby-Williams stated her department is waiting for more guidelines on determining who is considered medically fragile.

The Board recessed at 10:16 A.M. and reconvened at 10:25 A.M.

Roby-Williams reviewed the FY21/22 budget requests for Public Health stating a three percent increase over the current fiscal year's budget is included.

The Board reviewed the Department of Human Services FY21/22 budget request.

Budget Administrator Sherry Seright reviewed the FY21/22 budget requests for Capital Projects stating budgeting for the Historic Preservation Rural Revitalization Grant would be included in the Capital Projects Plan. Seright reviewed the County debt stating at least two capital projects will be paid off within the next two years.

Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber reviewed the Non Departmental budget request stating an increase in legal fees are due to pending and on-going litigation.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 P.M.

ATTEST:

Tibe Vander Linden, County Auditor

Santos Saucedo, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors