

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, February 7, 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.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, claims dated February 7, 2011 were approved in the amount of \$1,132,189.26. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Sorensen, the Chairperson was authorized to sign Applications to the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Council to be Certified to Carry Weapons for Reserve Officers Jeff Staley and Joe Vogel. Ayes: All.

Project Manager Stu Willits updated the Board on the Jail expansion and Courthouse geothermal projects stating that the cancellation of a trial is going to help the schedule for the geothermal at the Courthouse. Willits stated geothermal should be in the basement of the Courthouse and ready to zone in about three weeks with project completion in the middle of April. Willits stated that geothermal has been running in the Jail expansion for about three weeks and that all doors should be online through master control by the end of this week. Willits stated that construction of the new kitchen in the Jail is completed, but the manufacturer is still working on a couple of water heaters that did not work. Willits stated there will be a lot of old kitchen equipment to dispose of. Willits stated that he believes the new Jail expansion will be open by the middle of March. Willits stated there is some old slate and marble in the Historic Jail boiler room that needs to be either moved or disposed of. Watkins stated the items should be temporarily moved and that the Infrastructure Committee should determine their value to the County and what to do with them.

Discussion was held regarding the placement of the cannon in the Courthouse with Stu Willits. Willits stated the cannon should stay under the steps as it fits perfectly in the space and could have lighting appropriately placed to highlight it. Willits stated that on the battle field at Gettysburg and in most museums, cannons face in all directions. Willits stated that after 150 years we should be the first to forgive our neighbors to the South. Willits stated that he is looking into the cost of accessory pieces for the cannon. Furlong stated he would like to eventually see the cannon placed outside as he thinks more people would see it and he believes there is a way of preserving it. Board consensus was to leave the cannon under the steps in the Courthouse.

On a motion by Howard, second by Kelly, minutes of the Monday, January 31, 2011 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Furlong received calls regarding road conditions.

No committee meetings were reported.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Howard, the Board approved Resolution #02-07-11-01 fixing Monday, February 21, 2011 at 9:00 A.M. for a Public Hearing on Issuing General Obligation Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the purpose of financing improvements and repairs to County buildings. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, the Board approved Resolution #02-07-11-02 Suspending the Collection of Taxes. Roll call vote: Ayes: All. Watkins stated that he would like the Treasurer's Office to update the Board annually on the status of the property.

On a motion by Howard, second by Kelly, the Board authorized the Chairperson to sign the Certification Statement for the Muscatine County FY2010 Cost Allocation Plan. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Furlong, the Board approved the following promotion/step placements in conjunction with the Jail Expansion project: Janet Reed – Corrections Lieutenant – Grade 12, Step 9; Sid Terry – Corrections Lieutenant – Grade 12, Step 7; Matthew McCleary – Corrections Lieutenant – Grade 12, Step 6; Beth Sperstad – Corrections Sergeant – Grade 10, Step 16; and Brian Baars – Corrections Sergeant – Grade 10, Step 14. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Sorensen, the Board accepted the January 2011 payroll claims. Ayes: All.

The Board reviewed the health/dental fund balance as of January 31, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 A.M.

ATTEST:

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Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

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David H. Watkins, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, February 14, 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.

The Board reviewed a variance granted by the Muscatine County Board of Adjustment on Wednesday, February 9, 2011. Case #11-02-01 is an application filed by Steven J. or Kirk D. Parizek, Record Owners and Richard I. or Patty J. Fridley, Proposed Purchasers of Property. This property is located in Pike Township, in parts of the NW ¼ and the NE ¼ of Sec. 20-T77N-R3W, Southwest of Hwy. 22, containing approximately 250 acres, and is zoned A-1 Agricultural District. This request, if approved, would allow the Zoning Administrator to issue a Variance to grant a Waiver of the Subdivision Ordinance in order to split the property. The Board of Adjustment approved the request. On a motion by Howard, second by Kelly, the Board accepted the variance. Ayes: All. Case #11-02-02 is an application filed by Max L. Kemp, Nancy L. & T. Jeff Carey, Record Owners and Rick Ayers, Proposed Buyer. This property is located in Orono Township, in parts of the SW ¼ in Sec. 15-T76N-R4W, East of Edgewater Road and West of the Cedar River, containing approximately 0.49 acres, and is zoned A-1 Agricultural District. This request, if approved, would allow the Zoning Administrator to issue a Special Use Permit in order for Mr. Ayers to build a four (4) bedroom Seasonal Recreational Cottage on this property, and a Variance due to the fact that the buildable property contains less than the minimum square footage and less than the required frontage along the road. The request was denied by the Board of Adjustment because there was not enough space to allow a four bedroom Seasonal Recreational Cottage; a well; and a septic system, including at least 506 feet of drain field; since at least half of the property is located in the Cedar River.

Zoning Administrator Jeremy Underwood updated the Board on zoning violations. Underwood stated that he does not have the staff or resources to actively go out and look for violations, but that he does follow up on citizen complaints and violations that he sees on his way out to a site. Watkins stated he would like to know what steps are needed and how do they get to the end result of getting the violations resolved. Underwood stated he documents violations, sends a letter, follows up with two or three more letters, then proceeds with the County Attorney. Underwood stated he can pursue charging the property owner with a simple misdemeanor with a \$250 per day fine. County Attorney Alan Ostergren stated if the violation cannot be resolved through multiple letters, then he would suggest going to court for enforcement for the few flagrant violators. The Board asked Underwood to continue to keep them updated on zoning violations.

The Board reviewed updated FEMA floodplain maps with Zoning Administrator Jeremy Underwood. Underwood stated the old maps were from 1986 and the new ones will take effect July 18, 2011 at which time the Muscatine County Floodplain Ordinance will need to be updated.

Discussion was held with Zoning Administrator Jeremy Underwood regarding the potential annexation of Heatherlynn Condominiums by the City of Muscatine. Underwood stated that the annexation is a good thing as the condominiums really need to be connected to City services. Underwood stated that Irish Ivy Subdivision will also be included in the annexation.

Zoning Administrator Jeremy Underwood updated the Board on the status of revisions to the subdivision ordinance to address subdivisions on County roads. Howard asked if the ordinance is written to make for an easier transition in the event of annexation. Underwood stated that newly created subdivisions will have to follow City road standards. Sorensen asked if the ordinance includes a plan for inspection and enforcement. Underwood stated the developer is required under Article IV to provide a construction bond. Watkins stated the County should get away from relying on perk tests. Underwood stated that soil analysis is a much more accurate test and that this issue could be addressed in the Onsite Septic Ordinance. Underwood stated he feels there are certain instances where a soil analysis could be required. Furlong stated he would like more accurate figures on the cost of a soil analysis versus the perk test. Watkins stated he feels someone needs to inspect the process during the construction of new subdivision roads with the developer charged for the inspection. County Engineer Keith White stated road inspections could take a lot of time and resources. Furlong suggested hiring a private firm to perform the inspections. Watkins asked Underwood to work on some language to handle inspection of the roads. Kelly would like to see a better definition of an adequate interval between fire wells and water hydrants. Watkins stated he is concerned about basements in some areas of the County, but Board consensus was to leave that decision to the homeowner. Watkins stated he would like to see flexibility on the requirement for a parks in subdivisions. Underwood will look into green space requirements. Underwood will return with a final document for Board approval at a future meeting.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kelly, minutes of the Monday, February 7, 2011 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

The Board received a letter from IMWCA stating the County's appeal was approved so there will be no loss of discounts on our workman's compensation premium.

Sorensen received a call from a resident that missed a deadline regarding a property tax exemption.

Howard received an email from a County resident about the Hwy 61 Riverfront Corridor Project. Howard informed the resident that the County has no jurisdiction regarding Hwy 61 so they should contact the State Department of Transportation.

Furlong received an email from Bi-State about a drainage district wanting to apply for a grant. Furlong told Bi-State the drainage district is their own separate taxing authority.

Furlong received a call regarding snow pushed on a farmer's fence by the road crew.

Committee Reports:

Furlong attended a West Liberty Economic Area Development meeting February 10<sup>th</sup>.

Kelly attended an Emergency Food and Shelter Program meeting February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Kelly attended a Muscatine County Compensation Board meeting February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Furlong, Howard, Watkins, Kelly and Sorensen attended a Muscatine County Conference Board meeting February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Kelly attended a Seventh Judicial District meeting February 11<sup>th</sup>.

Sheriff Dave White provided the Board with a proposal for Advanced Correctional Healthcare to provide inmate medical services to the Johnson County inmates to be housed in the Muscatine County Jail at a cost of \$211,266.61 per year versus the current contract of \$135,720.63 per year. White will forward the contract to the Board for approval at a future meeting. White stated he is very happy with their service.

Discussion was held regarding the Muscatine County Compensation Board FY11/12 salary recommendations for elected officials and deputies. Sorensen stated he applauds the increase to the Sheriff for his additional work, but has an issue with the long list of employees tied to his salary that would also all get 4%. Furlong stated that the deputies tied to the Sheriff's salary have nothing to do with the Jail. Watkins stated that most departments only have two deputies. Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber stated that the logical place to put the deputies would be into the County's Salary Administration Program. Sheriff Dave White stated that some of the Sergeants currently have people they are supervising that earn more than them. Sorensen stated there are a lot of benefits in placing six deputy positions in the Salary Administration Program. Furlong stated that over the long run placing them in the Salary Administration Program would be better. Watkins stated they could make a decision later on whether to move the six employees. On a motion by Kelly, second by Howard, the Board accepted the Muscatine County Compensation Board FY11/12 salary recommendations for elected officials resulting in a 2.5% increase for the Supervisors, Attorney, Auditor, Recorder, and Treasurer and a 4% increase for the Sheriff. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held regarding finalization of a proposed job description for a Maintenance Supervisor position. Howard stated he felt there were some contradictions throughout the job description. Sorensen stated he has some suggestions that he will give to Nancy for inclusion in the final job description. Board consensus was for the position to report directly to the Board of Supervisors. County Auditor Leslie Soule stated that she feels the position reporting directly to the Board will put enough administrative work onto the position that the person hired will be in the office more than handling work orders which will mean the current maintenance staff will not see much help. The Board will consider the job description for approval next week.

Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber asked if the Board would like to meet with the Durrant Group and Project Manager Stu Willits on warranties connected with the new jail expansion. The Board asked Schreiber to try to schedule a meeting in the next two weeks with a short tour and discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 A.M.

ATTEST:

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Laura Perley, First Deputy Auditor

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David H. Watkins, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors