

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, July 22, 2019

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

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

Stephen Brisker, 1824 Keokuk Avenue, requested the status of Keokuk Avenue. Brisker stated there are currently locked gates blocking access to Keokuk Avenue near his property. Sauer stated the Board is waiting for an assessment from the County Engineer and depending on the damage, the Board will have to contact the County Attorney. Brisker stated dirt has been removed since the gates were erected. Brisker expressed concern about a man made pond that is holding water back which fills the ditches. Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas stated the pond was a permitted project.

John Miller, 2306 Saulsbury Road, stated he has CRP ground bordering Keokuk Avenue that he cannot access to maintain due to the locked gates. Miller also expressed concern that if the road is closed permanently, it will become a dumping area. Saucedo suggested he get access when he needs to maintain the field through the County Engineer.

On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, the Board approved the Muscatine County Treasurer's Semi-Annual Report for the period of January 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019 for publication. Ayes: All

Discussion was held with Rebeckah Allgood in regards to the Muscatine County Freedom Rock/Veteran's Paver Project. Allgood stated Wilton has been awarded the Muscatine County Freedom Rock for which they have raised \$50,000 of the \$100,000 needed for the project. Allgood stated they are selling 1,000 engraved pavers to place in front of the depot where the Muscatine County Freedom Rock is located.

On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, the Board approved the following utility permit: Eastern Iowa Light and Power – boring an electrical cable under Burlington Road at 2294 Burlington Road. Ayes: All.

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

The Board reviewed variances granted by the Muscatine County Board of Adjustment on Friday, July 12, 2019. Case #19-07-02 is an application filed by Sherry F. Vanlaarhoven-Estrada, Record Owner. This property is located in Montpelier Township, in the NE ¼ of Sec. 1-T77N-R1E, Parcel F, east of Zale Avenue, containing approximately 3.10 acres and is zoned A-1 Agricultural District. This request, if approved, would allow the Zoning Administrator to issue a Variance in order to allow an outbuilding to remain that was built only seven feet from the front lot line instead of the required 50 foot setback. Case #19-07-03 is an application filed by Troy A. and Kelly Jo McKim, Record Owners. This property is located in Montpelier Township, in the SE¼ of Sec. 1-T77N-R1E, Auditor's Plat, Farm 2, 1655 Zale Avenue, containing approximately 9.50 acres and is zoned A-1 Agricultural District. This request, if approved, would allow the Zoning Administrator to issue a Variance in order for the Record Owners to build an outbuilding 25 feet from the property line,

instead of the 50 foot requirement and in front of the existing dwelling. Case #19-07-04 is an application filed by Willis J. and Kamella N. Harris, Record Owners. This property is located in Seventy-Six Township, in the NE ¼ of Sec. 34-T76N-R3W, Hillside Addition, Lots 10 & 11, south of US Hwy 61, 1960 Hwy 61, containing approximately 2.29 acres and is zoned R-1 Residential District. This request, if approved, would allow the Zoning Administrator to issue a Variance in order for the Record Owners to build a 40' X 96' shop on Lot 10 that would be in front of their existing residence on Lot 11. The Board of Adjustment approved all three variances because they were satisfied that there was a unique property situation that created a hardship and would not create a public safety issue, nor alter the character of the neighborhood. On a motion by Saucedo, second by Holliday, the Board accepted the variances. Ayes: All.

The Board reviewed a denial of a farm exemption by the Muscatine County Board of Adjustment on Friday, July 12, 2019. Case #19-07-01 is an application filed by Jeff M. or Elizabeth A. Hackett, Record Owners. This property is located in Seventy-Six Township, in the SE¼ of Sec. 2-T76N-R3W, south of 231st Street, containing approximately 41.50 acres and is zoned A-1 Agricultural District. This request, if approved, would allow the Zoning Administrator to approve the farm exemption appeal, that was previously denied by the Zoning Administrator, in order for the Hackett's to build a 60' X 96' shop for seed, fertilizer and farm equipment storage, with approximately a 1,400 sq. ft. residence attached for their son to live in on this property. The Board of Adjustment denied the variance because the applicant failed to prove that there was current, active, income producing agricultural activity occurring on the parcel on which the exemption was requested.

Discussion was held with Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas regarding the possible replacement of two trucks purchased in 2017. Furnas stated Krieger's quoted \$4,150 and \$3,650 respectively for two new trucks after trade-in. Furnas stated Billion Auto and Green Chevrolet did not respond to his request for quotes. Furnas stated the quotes do not include \$1,260 budgeted for a bed liner, tool boxes or floor trays. On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, the Board approved the purchase of two trucks for Zoning from Krieger's at a cost of \$7,800 after trade-in. Ayes: All.

Furnas updated the Board on his ongoing assessment of flood damaged properties in preparation for compiling a notice of interest to FEMA for a mitigation project.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Holliday, minutes of the July 15, 2019 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

No correspondence was noted.

Committee Reports:

Holliday attended a Wilton Development Corporation meeting July 17th.

Sauer and Sorensen attended a MAGIC meeting July 15th.

Sauer attended a Muscatine County Conservation Board meeting July 15th.

Sauer attended a Riverbend Transit Board meeting July 17th.

Sauer attended a Muscatine County Board of Health meeting July 17th.

Saucedo attended a West Liberty Economic Area Development (WeLead) Housing Committee meeting July 16th.
Saucedo attended a West Liberty Economic Area Development (WeLead) meeting July 18th.

Holliday, Sauer and Sorensen attended the Muscatine County Fair multiple days.

The Board reviewed the budget to actual FY19/20 beginning fund balances. Budget Administrator Sherry Seright stated the County ended with more dollars than expected in all of the main operating funds. Seright made the following fund transfer recommendations: Building Maintenance & Repair Fund – Transfer \$575,000 from General Basic for a balance of \$2,000,000; Capital Projects Fund – Transfer \$750,000 from General Basic to fund future projects; Capital Projects Fund – Transfer \$200,000 from General Basic to fund Conservation projects. Board consensus was to make the recommended fund transfers by Resolution at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 A.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Nathan Mather, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors