

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, March 20, 2017

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

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

Discussion was held with Jenna Wagner, Prevent Violence Coalition, regarding their request to place blue pinwheels and signs in the Muscatine Courthouse flower planters for April's Child Abuse Awareness Month. On a motion by Sauer, second by Bonebrake, the Board approved a request from Mississippi Valley Child Protection to place blue pinwheels and signs in the Muscatine Courthouse flower planters for April's Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the Board approved a contract, bond and certificate of insurance for LFM-(61)—7X-70 for PCC Paving on Fruitland Road/G38 with the apparent low bidder Croell, Inc. in the amount of \$2,575,004.78. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Keith White updated the Board on Secondary Road projects. White stated it may be better for the County to consider hiring a graduating engineer instead of an engineering tech to replace Dean Beranek who is retiring as there has been no interest by anyone in the engineering tech position.

On a motion by Mather, second by Bonebrake, the Board approved Resolution #03-20-17-01 Approval of Combined Preliminary and Final Plat of Farvue Farm Subdivision. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Bonebrake, second by Mather, the Board approved Resolution #03-20-17-02 Approval of Combined Preliminary and Final Re-Plat of Lots 25-29 of Elder Ridge Subdivision. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

The Board reviewed a variance granted by the Muscatine County Board of Adjustment on Friday, March 3, 2017. Case #17-03-01 is an application filed by Douglas M. or Kari E. Green, Record Owners. This property is located in Pike Township, in the NE¼ of Sec. 23-T77N-R4W, 1911 Elder Avenue, containing approximately 4.98 acres, and is zoned A-1 Agricultural District. This request, if approved, would allow the Zoning Administrator to issue a Variance in order to remodel the existing detached outbuilding into a second dwelling for his brother's residence. Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas stated the Record Owners started remodeling the existing detached outbuilding into a residential structure without approval, building permits or inspections. The Board of Adjustment approved the Variance with stipulations that this residential structure can be lived in by Mr. Green's brother only; and that when he no longer resides in this structure that it be arranged so that it no longer meets the definition of a dwelling, such as, it cannot have both a sleeping and a dining/kitchen area; that it cannot have a separate

911 address; and it cannot become a rental unit. On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the Board accepted the variance. Ayes: All.

Information Services Director Bill Riley updated the Board on help desk tickets for January and February. Riley stated the new Administration Building phone system is being installed and employees trained this week with a go live date of next Tuesday, March 28th.

On a motion by Bonebrake, second by Sauer, minutes of the March 13, 2017 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

No correspondence was noted.

Committee Reports:

Sorensen attended a West Liberty Economic Area Development meeting March 17th.

Sauer attended a Riverbend Transit meeting March 15th.

Sauer attended a Muscatine Board of Health meeting March 15th.

On a motion by Bonebrake, second by Sauer, the Board accepted a quote from Valley Construction in the amount of \$950.00 for removal of four fire hydrants in connection with the building demolition at 3210 Harmony Lane. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Bonebrake, the Board accepted a quote from Valley Construction in the amount of \$4,150.00 for removal of the sewer lift station in connection with the building demolition at 3210 Harmony Lane. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held regarding utilities for the cottage. Sorensen read a statement from Supervisor Sauer clarifying Sauer's vision of the Board's position on the cottage. Sauer's statement said the cottage's current location, condition and limited use potential is inconsistent with future park plans, nor is it deemed an adequate restroom facility for the events proposed by the Friends of the Old Barn or park enthusiasts. Sauer's statement said he believes it is the intent of the Board of Supervisors to withdraw from the lease agreement for the cottage on or before December 31, 2017, but that he hopes that by mutual agreement, the Friends of the Old Barn and the Board can sever the lease agreement immediately. Sauer's statement proposed funding portable restroom facilities until a public restroom can be constructed to serve both the Old Barn and the park. Sorensen stated the Board has hired a professional to test the cottage for asbestos and mold and pending those results will decide whether to demolish the cottage or possibly allow Friends of the Old Barn to have the cottage relocated offsite. Shelley Maharry, representative for Friends of the Old Barn, stated their goal is to try to make this space the best it can be for the Muscatine County residents. Maharry stated there is potential for a Community Action and Tourism grant to assist with the funding of a restroom site. Sauer clarified if asbestos or mold is found at the cottage, then the County will demolish the cottage. Maharry stated there may be interest in placing a facility that has a food prep area for professional caterers as well as restrooms. Sauer expressed concern that a restroom structure that is ideal for the park may not be in the same location that is ideal for the Old Barn. Sauer stated events at the Old Barn would have a higher likelihood of catering and the best position for the food prep area may not be in the same location as the restroom. Sorensen stated the Board wants something developed that is well

used and an asset to the community. Mather stated he can see the value to the County of funding restrooms for the park, but does not necessarily see the value to the County of a food prep area and he would like to see how that would be beneficial to the County. Sauer stated parking is still going to be a huge issue. Conservation Director Curt Weiss stated his presentation to the Conservation Board will include two new shelters and a playground utilizing existing parking. Mather stated it makes sense for the Conservation Board to develop a plan for the Conservation Board's best use and then see how everything else fits in. Sorensen stated time is of the essence with the cottage which he does not believe has a long term use. Bonebrake stated it appears to him that the cottage will either be torn down or the Friends of the Old Barn would be allowed to have the building moved off the property. Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber stated the Board is giving notice that the County will not renew the lease on the cottage on January 1, 2018 and would like to terminate the lease early. Board consensus was that if the inspections come back negative, they will allow Friends of the Old Barn 90 days to move the cottage. John Haskins stated he will pay for the cost of turning the area into green space after moving the cottage. Sauer stated while he appreciates Haskins willingness to fund returning the area to green space, he would object to that offer because he feels it is not fair to Mr. Haskins to bear that burden.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:19 A.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors