

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, March 27, 2017

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

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

On a motion by Howard, second by Bonebrake, claims dated March 27, 2017 were approved in the amount of \$1,164,768.94. Ayes: All.

A Public Hearing was called to order by Chairperson Sorensen at 9:01 A.M. on a construction permit application to construct a manure storage tank adjacent to an existing confinement building at David Kundel Site, 1698 215<sup>th</sup> Street. Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas stated he scored the master matrix and concurs with the passing scoring submitted by David Kundel LLC. Furnas submitted a letter for Board consideration informing the Iowa DNR of the passing score. No one spoke against the proposed construction. On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the public hearing was closed at 9:04 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Bonebrake, second by Sauer, the Chairperson was authorized to sign a letter to the Iowa DNR recommending approval of the David Kundel Site permit application. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Howard, second by Bonebrake, the Board affirmed a grant application between the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Muscatine County Board of Health for Local Public Health Services in the amount of \$106,612. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with Friends of the Old Barn regarding the future use of the cottage. Sorensen stated the Board has not received results from the mold and asbestos testing so the Board is not prepared to make any decision on the cottage at this meeting. Sorensen stated he is concerned that bleach was used right before the testing that could alter the results. Sauer stated the tester told him that due to the high amount of contaminants in the air, the tester was not sure if the reading will be accurate. John Haskins, Friends of the Old Barn, stated he has personally hired his own tester who told him there is no significant mold or asbestos and that any mold present can be mitigated by washing with soap and water. Sorensen stated that after last week's Board meeting, someone entered cottage and bleached and painted the walls. Sorensen stated the Board is losing trust with Friends of the Old Barn and he does not know if the Board can continue to work with Friends of the Old Barn. Mather stated Haskins locked the taxpayers out of the cottage. Haskins stated he did not lock the taxpayers out of the cottage. Mather stated someone went in and bleached and painted the day before the County went in to do the testing. Mather asked Haskins if he was the one that bleached and painted the cottage. Haskins stated he does not know who did it and upon further questioning from Mather stated no comment. Mather stated Haskins' actions are jeopardizing the Board's ability to work with Friends of the Old Barn. Haskins stated the cottage is their approved ADA accessible restroom and should stay in place until the Board constructs new restrooms. Mather stated there are no sewer facilities or utilities connected to the cottage and since the Board offered at County expense temporary restroom facilities until permanent facilities are constructed, he does not understand what they are talking

about. Paul Carroll stated the County is ignoring the taxpayers in the room when they say that they want a long range plan for Friends of the Old Barn to have control of the Old Barn and cottage. Carroll stated they want assurance that five years down the road, a new Board will not be able to revisit whether or not to tear down the Old Barn. Mather stated no one has proposed tearing down the Old Barn and the Board has made itself clear that the cottage will not be there one way or the other. Carroll asked why the Board told Friends of the Old Barn 30 days ago to come up with a plan for installing the utilities, if the Board was just going to get rid of the cottage. Mather stated Friends of the Old Barn was asked to develop a plan to run utilities to the Old Barn, but Friends of the Old Barn chose to run the utilities through the cottage rather than directly to the Old Barn. Carroll stated there is nothing wrong with the cottage and the Board is not taking into consideration the meeting space and kitchen provided by the cottage. Howard stated this is about the historic Old Barn and he is sick of hearing about the cottage. Howard stated he wants to save the Old Barn, not the cottage. Howard stated the Old Barn and property is being given to the Conservation Department to better serve the public, but this has grown into something larger that this property cannot handle. Haskins stated it was on the agenda a month ago for the Board to consider demolishing the Old Barn. Gary Sebbert stated this arguing is not getting anybody anywhere and he would like a couple members of the Board to work with the Friends of the Old Barn to save the Old Barn and provide facilities. Sebbert stated he does not care about the cottage. Sauer stated the Board elected not to sell that property because they thought the value of the property was more beneficial to the residents as a park as opposed to a commercial operation. Sauer stated his personal position is that the primary usage of this property is for Discovery Park and if there is secondary usage that is wonderful, but the biggest issue on commercialization has not come up, which is parking and he looks forward to a plan from Conservation to see how the parking issue will be addressed.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Mather, the Board approved Resolution #03-27-17-01 Abating Taxes: Buildings on Leased Land. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Bonebrake, second by Sauer, the Board approved Resolution #03-27-17-02 Abating Delinquent Taxes, Interest, Fees and Costs on Parcels #0305300007, #0305300008, #0305300009, #0305400008, #0305400009 and #0305400010. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

County Engineer Keith White reviewed the Five - Year Secondary Roads Construction Program and FY2018 Secondary Roads Budget. White reviewed the projects currently in the Muscatine County Five -Year program. Mather stated he is troubled spending \$350,000 for the Lindle Avenue bridge to service a handful of properties. Howard stated he feels the Board should hold future discussion on the possibility of requiring properties adjacent to dead end roads to fund a portion of the maintenance of the roads or bridges. Sorensen stated he feels this could also apply to roads in the unincorporated towns around the County. Mather stated he would like to see something developed in the form of a scale to assess the utility of a road or bridge to the taxpayers to help the Board develop a unified policy to score a particular road or bridge. On a motion by Bonebrake, second by Howard, the Board approved the Five -Year Secondary Roads Construction Program and the FY2018 Secondary Roads Budget for submission to the Iowa Department of Transportation. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Keith White updated the Board on current Secondary Road projects.

On a motion by Howard, second by Sauer, the Board approved an application for an 8-month Class C Beer, Liquor, Sunday Sales and Outdoor Service Permit for The Chart House, Inc., DBA The Lighthouse, 2142 Water Street, Muscatine, Iowa. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, minutes of the March 20, 2017 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Mather reported a question regarding the proposed vacation on 140<sup>th</sup> Street.  
Howard reported emails regarding the Old Barn.

Committee Reports:

Mather attended an Eastern Iowa Mental Health Region meeting March 20<sup>th</sup>.  
Sorensen attended a Bi-State Regional meeting March 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
Sorensen attended a West Liberty Economic Area Development meeting March 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
Sauer attended a Muscatine County Fair Board meeting March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

On a motion by Howard, second by Bonebrake, the Board appointed Supervisor Mather and Chairperson Sorensen to an administrative committee with Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber and Community Services Director Mike Johannsen to plan for the replacement of the Director and possible transition of Targeted Case Management in Community Services. Ayes: All.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 A.M.

ATTEST:

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Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

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Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors