

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2024 10:00 A.M.

The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center. Present: Chairperson Running-Marquardt, Vice Chairperson Rogers and Supervisor Zumbach. Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Rogers to approve minutes of Jan. 19 & 22, 2024 as printed.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve Claims for payable checks dated 1/24/24 #71013453 - #71013493 in the amt. of \$121,717.47 and ACH in the amt. of \$586,178.28, for a total of \$707,895.75.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Rogers to approve Consent Agenda as follows:

Resolution 2024-1-12 to approve revision 1.3 of the 2024 Secondary Road Five Year Construction Program with the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Resolution 2024-1-13 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING POLICY PROHIBITING THE USE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE AGAINST INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED IN NONVIOLENT CIVIL RIGHTS DEMONSTRATIONS WHEREAS, Linn County has received federal funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program; and WHEREAS, Section 519 of the Department of Veteran Affairs and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act of 1990 requires that all CDBG recipients adopt and enforce a policy to prohibit the use of excessive force by law enforcement agencies within the recipient's jurisdiction against any individuals engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations; and WHEREAS, all recipients of CDBG funds are further required to follow a policy of enforcing applicable state and local laws against physically barring entrances or exits to a facility that is the subject of a nonviolent protest demonstration; and WHEREAS, the Linn County Sheriff endorses a policy prohibiting the use of excessive force and will inform all law enforcement agencies within its jurisdiction of this policy, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Linn County hereby prohibits any law enforcement agency operating within its jurisdiction from using excessive force against any individuals engaged in nonviolent civil rights demonstrations. In addition, the Linn County Sheriff agrees to enforce any applicable state or local laws against physically barring entrances or exits from a facility or location that is the subject of a non-violent protest demonstration. Linn County further pledges enforcement of this policy within its jurisdiction and encourages any individual or group who feels that the Linn County Sheriff has not complied with this policy to file a complaint. Information and assistance relative to excessive force complaints shall be provided by the Linn County Sheriff's Office, which may be contacted at 319-892-6100.

Resolution 2024-1-14

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING POLICIES REQUIRED AS A CONDITION OF RECEIVING FEDERAL FUNDING THROUGH THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM WHEREAS, Linn County has received federal funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program; and, WHEREAS, all recipients of CDBG funds are required to adopt policies that 1) minimize the direct and indirect displacement of people from their homes, 2) provide equal opportunity to all employees, applicants, and program beneficiaries in a manner that does not discriminate against any person because of race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, familial status, political affiliation, citizenship, or sexual orientation 3) advise the public it will administer program and activities relating to housing and community development in a manner that prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or familial status 4) ensure sound business judgement is utilized in all procurement procedures, and 5) ensure no conflict of interest, fraud, waste, or abuse arises from officers, employees, or agents of the Linn County. WHEREAS, the Linn County endorses policies that 1) minimize the direct and indirect displacement of people from their homes, 2) provide equal opportunity to all employees, applicants, and program beneficiaries in a manner that does not discriminate against any person because of race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, familial status, political affiliation, citizenship, or sexual orientation 3) advise the public it will administer program and activities relating to housing and community development in a manner that prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or familial status 4) ensure sound business judgement is utilized in all procurement procedures, and 5) ensure no conflict of interest, fraud, waste, or abuse arises from officers, employees, or agents of the Linn County. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Linn County hereby adopts the following policies: 1) Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan (RARA) 2) Equal Opportunity Policy 3) Affirmative Fair Housing Policy 4) Procurement Policy 5) Code of Conduct.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the US Department of Transportation Standard Title VI/Non-Discrimination Assurances form.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign a one-year Statement of Work Agreement with recurring one-year renewals between Linn County and Civic Plus for printed supplementation and online hosting of the

Linn County Code of Ordinances in the amount of \$5,620.60 for the first year with each additional year subject to a 5 percent increase.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Subaward Grant Agreement between Linn County and Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for Linn County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update in the amount of \$40,500 (\$30,375 federal, \$4,050 state, \$6,075 local).

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign a Service Agreement between Linn County and the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) for hazard mitigation planning services in an amount not to exceed \$40,500. Approve and authorize the Chair to sign a contract between Linn County and the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Services for the Conservation Tree project for an amount not to exceed \$20,000.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign a contract between Linn County and the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Services for the 3rd Fire District Generator project for an amount not to exceed \$3,000.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Signature Authorization for CEO change forms for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign a form Authorizing Alternate Signatories for Section 106 Compliance for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

Erin Foster, MHAC Dir., presented the Linn County Mental Health Access Center (MHAC) Fiscal Year 2024 Quarter 2 Report. She also introduced members of her staff.

Supervisor Rogers commented on why this service is so critical and he is monumentally grateful for the behind the scenes work that they do.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt noted her appreciation for Foster's expertise, and she brings a lot to the table. She also thanked her staff and stated that they are saving people's lives and pointed out the positive impact that they have.

Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy Admin., presented and discussed Board of Supervisors and staff Appointments and Committee Liaisons for 2024.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve Board of Supervisors and staff Appointments and Committee Liaisons for 2024.

Deputy Auditor Matt Warfield presented purchase order PO542 for \$14,875 to Election Systems and Software LLC for dual unit cases for flip stand configuration for the Auditor's Office Public. He noted that this is an addendum to the ARPA grant.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve purchase order PO542 for \$14,875 to Election Systems and Software LLC for dual unit cases for flip stand configuration for the Auditor's Office Public.

Supervisor Rogers presented a letter of request to the US Department of Agriculture regarding a USDA nutrition program known as the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Program for Children. He stated that he wrote the letter after Polk County took a lead on requesting the funds since the state declined to accept federal funds for the summer food program for children.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt stated that there are children where these are the only meals that they receive. This does not solve everything but it will help. This is Linn County saying that they are going to do what they can, even in a tight tough budget year, to feed the children. She is supportive of the letter and looks forward to signing it. It may be a long shot but at least they are trying.

Supervisor Zumbach stated that he understands that the hearts of his colleagues is in the right place, but they may want to look at the bigger picture. He stated that this may not be the best road for Linn County to go down, noting that Polk County has already been denied. He stated that this might not be received in the right way and is not in the best interest of Linn County. He continued to say that he cannot sign onto something that is dead in the water. He asked David Thielen, LCCS Dir., to speak regarding the infrastructure and resources it would take.

David Thielen stated that from his viewpoint, if they do get the money, they need to be careful noting that the infrastructure needs to be in place in order to serve 4,000 kids. It would be great to get the money but they need to do it correctly.

Supervisor Rogers stated that his primary concern is that if there is even a remote chance that dollars are received and with the robust non-profit sector, they could create a program to make sure that children from food insecure families receive the food. It is worthy and deserving of the hard work it will take.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve letter of request to the US Department of Agriculture regarding a USDA nutrition program known as the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Program for Children with signatures from Supervisors Running-Marquardt and Rogers.

VOTE: Running-Marquardt & Rogers – Aye Zumbach - Nay

Public Comment:

Nelson Baethke, 1276 Ivanhoe Rd., stated that he too does not want to see children starving to death in Linn County but is the Board addressing the symptom as opposed to the problem. Why are they food insecure? Are the parents not taking care of them? If that's the case, shouldn't Linn County help those parents and figure out ways to smooth the path for jobs. Are the parents on drugs, alcohol or do they gamble? He continued to say that parents have the first responsibility to take care of the kids and not the taxpayers. Fix the problem rather than the symptom.

Kirsten Running-Marquardt, 3515 Field Stone Pl. SW, Cedar Rapids, stated that she appreciates the opportunity for the letter to be signed today. There are children that suffer because of poor decisions of their families. She feels it is worthy of an ask. It is worthy of a response, and it is worthy of a letter. Even if there is a 1% chance that they can bring better food security to kids in Linn County during summer months. It's about doing the right thing to at least make the attempt to ask to see if food insecure children can be given a small opportunity for a couple summer months.

The Board recessed at 10:47 a.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. for FY 25 Budget review and discussion.

Sara Bearrows, Budget Director, presented the following items to be discussed today:

- Decide on the Board Other budget.
- Discuss a new wage placeholder for everyone.
- Levy Rate preliminary discussion.

Board Other – FY 25 appropriations of \$23,161,615 and revenues of \$18,234,344. The Board's budget is over guidelines by \$334,530 due to the inclusion of FY 24 reduction.

Discussion continued regarding the SET Task Force line item in the amount of \$50,000 and the fact that it is moving forward in a different direction, and they are not expecting Linn County's \$50,000.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve the Board Other FY 25 appropriations of \$23,161,615 and revenues of \$18,234,344.

Bearrows stated that currently there is a 3% placeholder in the budget for wages. She would like to plug in the most accurate estimates.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Rogers to change the placeholder for wages from 3% to 4% for all.

Supervisor Zumbach suggested that they keep the Elected Officials and Managers at 3% and then 4% for bargaining unit contract employees.

VOTE: Running-Marquardt & Rogers – Aye Zumbach - Nay

Discussion continued regarding the Levy Rate and a possible 10 cent increase. The Board is faced with the challenge of reducing the FY25 budget by \$983,000 to \$2,300,000.

Deputy Auditor Rhonda Betsworth wanted to clarify that any cuts would not be a one-time cut this time unlike last year. It would be permanent.

Discussion continued regarding how next year's budget will be impacted.

The Board indicated to those Elected Officials and Department Heads that were present to offer any ideas or suggestions on permanent reductions that will help close the FY25 budget gap. They asked that those suggestions be submitted to the Board by noon on Thursday to discuss in further detail at 1:30 p.m. on Friday the 26th. A final decision will be made the following week.

Auditor Miller stated that he presented his budget last Friday and it was noted at the time that everything in that budget is a statutory requirement. He stated that when looking at cuts, the Board needs to consider what is a statutory requirement (which is something that Supervisor Zumbach has mentioned in the past). He doubts that any department is going to fall on a sword and say that they don't need the budget that they asked for.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt responded to Auditor Miller that he has had good ideas in the past that are fair and reasonable and anything he can suggest would be appreciated.

Adjournment at 2:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JOEL D. MILLER, Linn County Auditor
By: Rebecca Shoop, Deputy Auditor

APPROVED BY:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors