

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024 9:00 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.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Rogers to approve minutes of March 24, 2024 as printed.

The Board heard updates from the following Department Heads:

David Thielen, LCCS Executive Dir. – budget update; General Assistance: overflow shelter plans to close at the end of the month (highly utilized this year); ARPA dollars will be invested to make permanent shelter; signing MOU for Homeless Systems Coordinator position with the City of Cedar Rapids and the Housing Fund for Linn County; EPA grant; running over budget; looking at full repeal and replacement of code; Juvenile Detention: continues to have staff openings; interim director has been doing a great job; implementation of new gym supervision policy went into effect the week of March 4th; licensing visit on February 27th went well; Access Center: celebrated third birthday; part of a writing a bill that would allow EMS to bill for transport to access centers; Child & Youth Development: unannounced licensing visit last week by state of Iowa; ECI/DECAT: continues to monitor the state legislation regarding the alignment process;

Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir. – various park and trail project updates; preserve should be finished summer of 2024; hazard tree removal is nearly complete for the year (over 500 removed); opened Matsell shooting range in February due to an early thaw; solar arrays installed in 2023 are eligible for a federal rebate; awarded \$200,000 CDBG funds for tree planting and will take place over next 3 years; opening campgrounds the first 2 weeks of April; working with Central City on potentially placing a well at Pinicon Ridge Park.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that she appreciates his department leading in safety and collaboration with other departments.

Jon Gallagher, Soil Conservation – presented a PowerPoint highlighting ag and soil health; total resource management, wildlife habit and soil health practices; and Conservation Reserve Program.

Dustin Peterson, Veterans Affairs Dir. – budget update; services to veterans; served 96 local veterans in February, 2024; began conducting education and outreach events at local nursing homes; involved with the Veterans Community Alliance; Cedar Valley Veterans Network event on April 3rd; working on spring budget amendment; 3,323 veterans received \$5,691,860 in federal benefits.

Phil Lowder, IT Dir. – budget update; fully staffed; launching new Cybersecurity awareness focus (piggybacking from the State); biweekly emails about strong passwords; removing unused programs on desktops; going to be visiting departments and emphasizing reading IT's emails.

Supervisor Rogers thanked Lowder for the communication that came from his office adding that it needs to be reiterated that local governments just like private businesses get hacked too.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt thanked Lowder for his help with updating policies and his willingness to be a leader and part of that appreciates it.

Public Comment: Dustin, Linn County, stated that he is responding to what Supervisor Rogers said last week about the fourth amendment of the United States Constitution and not stating his name and address. Dustin handed Rogers a picture of a plaque that is outside the courthouse in Des Moines Iowa and read what the plaque says. A lot of people would view the Board of Supervisors requirement for people to state their name and address as a fourth and first amendment violation. Dustin can get thousands of Linn County residents to sign a petition saying that they feel intimidated to speak at these meetings and they fear retaliation. The Board spent the last half an hour talking about veterans but there was no discussion about PTSD or why veterans are homeless. Dustin shared a story about a veteran who gave the ultimate sacrifice and he fought for the first and fourth amendments noting that this veteran is currently in the Black Hawk County jail and his rights were taken away. Dustin stated that he confirmed that Brody Hartwig is Jeff Hartwig's son noting that covering up a sex crime against a child is utterly despicable. There is a double standard there. The guys that hold cameras go to jail and the sex offenders go out in the street and that is not what the veterans died for. Since the beginning of time everyone has had their papers with their name and address on it. The definition of secure means you do not have to show that paper to anyone. People think they are going to lose their house or kids if they come and speak to the Board about things going on in the county.

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Adjournment at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JOEL D. MILLER, Linn County Auditor
By: Amanda Hoy, Executive Assistant

APPROVED BY:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors