

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 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.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Rogers to approve minutes of April 1, 2024 as printed.

The Board received updates from the following Elected Officials:

Sheriff Brian Gardner – Jail construction on 4th and 5th floors (adding segregation cells); Jail video visitation remodel project is completed (added onsite video visit spaces); 19 patrol cars are on order (June/July delivery); and researching old Gazette articles on Jail from the early to mid-70's.

Supervisor Rogers thanked the Sheriff for the opportunity to job shadow at the Dispatch Center. It was very eye opening, and they are all an amazing bunch of people that have built an incredible culture. He also toured the Jail. Linn County has a lot of great people that do thankless hard work.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt also thanked the Sheriff for his leadership in Linn County, ISAC, statewide and nationally. She appreciates all his work and willingness at any time to communicate and work through issues.

Treasurer Brent Oleson – Property tax collections are robust; \$29,000 carried over from last year for phone project that has not been addressed. He plans to meet with the IT Director. He expressed his extreme frustration with the continued issues with dropped calls and how it reflects on the County for poor customer service; IT is talking about moving the Qmatic System off the server and into the cloud. This may change the terms of the contract, which could include additional costs; interviewing for a new Team Lead (who moved to a Deputy position) next week. When a retirement occurs in July he will go from 39 FTE's back to the 38 FTE's; they are close to finishing the ARPA funded window station construction project and the vehicle title bill seems to be moving forward.

Auditor Joel Miller – Elections: A handout was presented with information on the 2024 election cycle; there are no contested races in the Primary; accepting Absentee Ballot Request Forms; Satellite petition deadline is coming up; public test of voting equipment is slated for May 1st; absentee ballots for the Primary can be turned in by 8 p.m. on election day (current law); currently have 79 polling places for the Primary (planning on 84 for the General Election); expecting more in-person voting at the polls; expecting 6-8% turnout (in line with the 12 year cycle which does not include a US Senate or Gubernatorial race); draft ballots have been sent to candidates for review; Health Care Facility voting planned for week of April 29th; going back into some schools for polling places and hiring extra security when children are present; parties can nominate by convention (after the Primary) candidates for the General Election; non-party candidates can file during the August deadline; introduced new electronic polling pads at last special election (Deputy Warfield is meeting with vendor today); Precinct Election Official recruiting is underway. Will need 600 + to work the General Election and will have that many for the Primary for training purposes. Accounting Services and Real Estate: Property Tax Mailer went out at an approximate cost of \$65,000 (unfunded mandate by the legislature). Have had about 300 come back. Sorting through them based on public hearing dates; local entity budgets are due April 30th; and will need a budget amendment for Local Elections.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt stated that the Board has talked to folks, received emails and messages about the mailer. She had a small group of folks (6) who unfortunately thought it was a public hearing notice on their own personal property.

Adjournment at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED BY:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors