

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 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 (via phone). 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 22, 2024 as printed.

David Thielen, LCCS Exec. Dir. – Budget amendment was submitted (vacancies in Child Care Development and Juvenile Detention Center); Overflow Shelter closed end of March (highly utilized); reviewing applications along with the city of Cedar Rapids for the Homeless Systems Coordinator; Alliance for Equitable Housing work continues (significant red tape with this grant); new Juvenile Detention Dir. doing a great job (new ideas for hire trainings in hopes of reducing turnover); Johnson County plans to remain with the same terms of contract for FY 25; Options has been nominated to receive a 2024 Governor's Volunteer Award; Options staff have gone through the Medication Management training (CARF benchmark); and ECI/DECAT has additional contracts added to responsibilities.

Supervisor Rogers thanked Thielen for the tour and introducing him to Home Health staff and learning more about the program.

Discussion continued regarding new bills that will impact Thielen's departments and the Region.

Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir. – May 17th is the reopening dedication of Buffalo Creek Park; progress report on Morgan Creek and Grant Wood Trails; bird preserve moving forward; Pinicon Ridge Mountain Bike Trail design is underway; Cedar Valley Trail paving; Pinicon Ridge Park campground expansion and park cabins; Pinicon Ridge boat concession dredging; and campgrounds opened April 12th.

Pramod Dwivedi, Health Dept. Dir. -Air Monitoring technical issues; city of Palo is appealing an invoice for emergency generator registrations; Preventing Violence Affecting Young Lives program (seven young men participated); Community Health Assessment/Community Health Improvement Plan (survey was completed by 35 area agencies); reportable diseases; immunization audits (religious exemptions has increased from 1.9% - 4.1%); Grants to Counties Program (\$60,000) available for private well owners; continue to work on racism as a public health crisis and his engagement with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Dustin Peterson, Veterans Affairs Dir. – submitted budget amendment and gave a budget recap; two Linn County veterans and families were assisted in March for financial burdens; submitted 70 requests for Federal VA programs and benefits; community outreach involvement (Cedar Valley Veterans Network; Veterans Comm. Alliance; VA's Community Resource & Referral Center Homeless Continuum; Iowa Governor's Challenge; and Suicide Prevention Coalition); staff training and accreditations.

Supervisor Rogers has been going dept to dept and met with his staff who are a remarkable group of people.

Phil Lowder, I.T. Dir. – budget is underspent; no vacancies; March was a trying time for cyber alerts and April is proving to be similar.

Charles Struck, I. T. Development Mgr. - Desktop group started going through list of department software installed on computers (will make more secure and improve streamlining); created an application store for the software center; looking to roll out a pass phrase list; by end of year will have computers upgraded to Windows 11; and a new IT helpdesk has been rolled out.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt commended Lowder for keeping the county safe and for going above and beyond to work with Facilities and the Auditor's Office. She sincerely appreciates that work.

Charlie Nichols, Planning and Development Dir. – Mercy EAP provided conflict resolution training to staff; budget is on track; no vacancies; working with Cornell for monitoring, stabilization and plan for repair of King's Chapel due to significant structural issues; risk category for solar projects changed from category I to category II (Nextera has been made aware); front office remodel is progressing; work continues on Linn County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan; Wind Ordinance Update (copy of draft language is available); Prairie Landing Subdivision (property annexed by city of Cedar Rapids); Community Rating System Recertification (maintaining Class 7 rating). Allows residents with flood insurance to receive up to a 1% discount; Ely Fringe Area Plan; National Planning Conference; Dows activities; and public hearing expected this summer for Nextera's next phase.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt stated that Linn County has been watching the pipeline court cases and she is still interested in looking at other county ordinances moving forward.

Public Comment – Chairperson Running-Marquardt stated that she wanted to take a brief pause and state her appreciation for Cara Hromidko for all of the work she does in getting the Board's agendas put together. There is a lot of work with timing involved and working with a lot of people. She works hard to make the Board look good. She is the point of information for Elected Officials and Department Heads across the county while keeping things moving smoothly.

Adjournment at 10:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED BY:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors