

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024 9:00 A.M.

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

Chairperson Running-Marquardt called the meeting to order.

The Board heard updates from the following Department Heads:

Brad Ketels, County Engineer – LC3 activities; budget update; two vacancies; discussions and planning for the new Secondary Road Headquarters is progressing; culvert replacement on Maple Grove Rd.; asphalt patching and leveling; Kenilworth Ct. road reconstruction; bridge rehab projects on Springville Rd. and Mount Vernon Rd.; rock overlays and calcium chloride on rock overlays; their busiest months are in the spring.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt expressed her appreciation for Garret Reddish and his expertise, time and effort with the three site visits in her neighborhood. She also added that Ketels has a great team and hopes he will use their expertise with the upcoming new building.

Supervisor Rogers added that Supervisor Running-Marquardt made great remarks at the Blue Bridge re-opening at the Indian Creek Nature Center noting that this is more important than just a bridge restoration. Rogers stated that dollars from the sale of the Fillmore Bldg. will be used for the new Secondary Roads Shop building.

Carter Baldwin, LIFTS Dir. – two vacancies; received two buses from the City of Cedar Rapids (in service next week) and two buses from ECICOG; paperwork has been submitted for the Medicaid project; exploring hybrid options for buses or compressed natural gas buses; working with Communications Dept. to implement a communication plan for 2024; community outreach in rural areas is going well; KPI.

Discussion continued regarding hybrid and electric buses as well as charging stations.

Lisa Powell, Human Resources Dir. – annual GAPM survey in early fall; C3 project on reducing crime in Linn County; staff member is participating in many interviews as more departments take advantage of the support she can provide them; START training is currently in session; new Core Values Academy II will be offered for the first time this fall; LC3 University classes have been popular this spring; provided the Board with a draft of the Nepotism and Personal Relationships in the Workplace Policy (approval in June); Wellmark final rates came out at the end of April and there were no changes to the preliminary renewal rates; Health Solutions program review and data analysis last month; Corebridge representative is on side for individual employee visits today.

Sara Bearrows, Budget Dir. – submitted an amendment to the budget due to health insurance changes; Learning Institutes; presented March 31, 2024 cash and investments.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt shared her appreciation for both Bearrows and Dawn Jindrich and thanked them for all the additional work they do outside of Budget and Finance.

Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy and Admin. – budget update; Administrative Specialist vacancy form is on the agenda tomorrow; KPI's; Vicious Animal Ordinance update; reviewing policies; helping Ashely Balias do a significant rewrite of an ordinance; working with the City of Cedar Rapids on a delinquent property tax reinvestment program identifying abandoned properties; attending trainings; Capital Projects: Courthouse expansion meetings; jail isolation cell project moving forward; Secondary Roads Headquarters design nearly finalized (significant piece is the sale of the Fillmore Building); Sustainability Dept. has asked for some office modifications; putting bid's together for repairs to the Homeless Shelter; proposed Juvenile Detention Center study.

Adjournment at 10:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED BY:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors