

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024 9:00 A.M.

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

Vice Chairperson Rogers called the meeting to order.

The Board received updates from the following Department Heads:

David Thielen, LCCS Exec. Dir. – starting to work on budget and MOU for Winter Overflow Shelter (looking for feedback on installation of sprinkler system required by the City); ERA funds (\$2.2 million has been spent); a Diversion Supervisor was hired; cameras are still not functioning; addressing concerns with the Courtyard (fencing, downspouts, etc.); Ryan White clients (214) and program financial assistance stats this quarter (\$58,828); Mental Health Access Center continues to work on the Withdrawal licensing; continue to work on the implementation of the Vocera Communications System; ECI/DECAT (Amy) will be a part of the State of Iowa visit on Sept. 6th; and Home Health clients (59).

Supervisor Rogers stated that they anticipate work being done at the Overflow Shelter during the day hours (September) in order to get sprinklers operational, ADA, etc. The lines of communication are open with the City.

Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir. – busy recreation and construction season; Morgan Creek Trail (section by Xavier High School) plans have been finalized and sent to IDOT; open house celebration of the Bird Preserve (a donation of 83 acres); putting in a Wanatee Park Mountain Bike Skills Area and Pinicon Ridge Mountain Bike Trail is underway; Grant Wood Trail from Paralta Rd. to Springville Rd.; getting close to paving northern section of Cedar Valley Trail (October celebration planned); Pinicon Ridge Park Campground expansion (all underground utilities are in); Dows Maniti Trail Underpass at Lakeside Drive (work should start first part of August); Morgan Creek Park Lodge grading is underway; Pinicon Ridge Park cabins are in place; Pinicon Ridge boat concession dredging is complete for 2023/2024 season; Memorial Day holiday camping was affected by flooding; persistent high water levels has resulted in only a couple of canoe shuttles being run so far this summer and there were some repairs required at the dam site following the high-water event (repairs are complete). Working on a couple easements with the City of Marion at Wanatee Park for sanitary sewer line.

Dustin Peterson, Veteran Affairs Dir. – budget is being impacted by services to veterans (first week of the new year has been extremely busy); four veterans and their families received county assistance in June; Cedar Valley Veterans Network (49 veteran jobseekers attended July 3rd event); started compiling data on where veterans heard about their services; will start to engage with recently discharged veterans in August; during his National Training, he had the opportunity to address issues with federal VA decision-makers (surviving spouse pension); recap of FY24 Key Performance Indicators; and FY25 grant will go from \$10,000 to \$13,000 (required to be used for state and national training).

Phil Lowder, IT Dir. – budget on target; kicking off Wi-Fi AP units; hardening security systems and enhancing through a number of programs and initiatives; incident last Friday with software vendor update (touched over 1,000 computers); will have a follow-up meeting with staff to discuss internal improvements.

Chairperson Rogers commended Lowder and his staff regarding the handling of the incident.

Supervisor Zumbach asked if there is a certain contact person in IT that departments could relay issues to.

Lowder explained their internal processes.

Cara Matteson, Sustainability Dir. – Mission Statement read; a recycling policy was discussed; Strategic Planning (main focus will be on natural resource management including stormwater management/flood, water resources, infrastructure needs and public-private partnerships for funding support; ARPA projects; office remodel; storm water retention projects (rural communities); EPA Government to Government grant for energy audits; EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program; working on getting an introductory training on LEED buildings; partner outreach with Fairfax, Bertram, Ely, City of Cedar Rapids and Marion; Linn County Master Gardeners have asked her to speak on a Podcast; attended Midwest Organic Field Day, Duane Arnold Solar Tour and Linn County Soil Conservation Field Day; Middle Iowa Watershed Management Authority (not an official member); planning to work with Iowa Rural Water Assoc.; professional licenses that she holds and professional memberships.

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Adjournment at 10:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED BY:

BEN ROGERS, Vice Chairperson
Board of Supervisors