

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 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.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Rogers to approve minutes of Aug. 5, 2024 as printed.

The Board received updates from the following Elected Officials:

Nick Maybanks, County Attorney – Intern program and recognized Elyse Weillbrenner, Univ. of Iowa law student; hired two new attorney's and are now fully staffed; had 8 homicide prosecutions from January – May, 2024; have a number of high profile violent crime cases and presented statistics; Courthouse expansion anticipated and working with the Judicial Branch; and staff working on solar issues.

The Board expressed their appreciation for Maybanks and his staff, especially Asst. County Atty. Lisa Epp.

Carolyn Siebrecht, County Recorder – also kudos to Lisa Epp; the office has been pretty steady over the past few months and presented statistics (vital records; real estate, DNR and passports); Federal interest rate; and excited about new real estate software (go live Sept. 3rd).

Discussion continued regarding the Recorder changing office hours with little notice and closed until 10:00 a.m. on the 2nd Wed. of the month (in conjunction with Treasurer's Office). Continue to work with the Communications Dept.

Joel Miller, County Auditor – Deputy Matt Warfield stated that there are three elections on Sept. 10th; Republican candidate (through convention) for Auditor filed papers - Terry Chostner; 13 weeks until Presidential Election and most critical preparations are complete; running Penny Saver ad; Lindale Mall lease has been signed (26 days rent \$1,800.00) for satellite voting.

Auditor Miller stated that he is encouraging in person voting because of postal service being questionable and Penny Saver ad hopefully will help with those that are shut ins.

Deputy Auditor Rhonda Betsworth - finished tax list during several software updates which made it challenging (signing off today) and tax bills will follow; starting valuation list and will have allowances and disallowances later this month for the Board to approve; Auditor's department budget is quite a bit under (\$300,000 & Elections \$150,000). Planning on a request for carryover; have talked about security concerns that may require additional funds. About a year ago the Board approved upgrading a position in the Auditor's Office and she wanted to express her appreciation noting how much it has helped.

Auditor Miller stated that an IT representative has reached out to him to consider assisting with funding for security devices (may need to pay out of carryover). Considering a mailer to go to households with the new enthusiasm in the election that was not anticipated and asked Warfield to explain.

Warfield explained that they are sending a letter to all households in Linn County that do not have a registered voter living there. The intent is to be proactive with removing the burden on election day of same day registration/address changes. They are also sending a confirmation letter that their absentee ballot request form was received (can't send ballot until 20 days before the election). There is a group in Linn County that actively challenges voter registrations.

Auditor Miller pointed out that in the media it has been stated that there are all kinds of non-citizens registering to vote. He wanted to assure everyone that his office validates and authenticates all registrations.

Adjournment at 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED BY:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT
Board of Supervisors