

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 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 received updates from the following Department Heads:

Charlie Nichols, Planning & Development Dir. – budget is on track; fall budget amendments explained; fully staffed; Rental Program now includes Springville and Ely is continuing the process to enter into the program; Inspectors joining various professional organizations; struggling with funding for enforcement activities (example: abandoned dilapidated house that is a public safety issue); remodel has greatly increased productivity and morale; a few members of the clerical staff will be attending the third annual Iowa Permit Technical Assoc. Annual Conf. in November; a long time member of Zoning Commission resigned: Agricultural Experiences: After discussions with the Auditor's Office regarding several recent liquor license applications for events occurring at locations that are engaged in agricultural experiences, staff believes further consideration of the oversight of such events may be warranted. He will bring this topic back to the Board; establishment of the Dows Design Review Board; and permit activity.

Supervisor Rogers asked about fire hydrants at the Dows property and Nichols confirmed that there will be fire hydrants that will be served by the city of Cedar Rapids. He also noted that he is expecting a utility scale solar application any day now. The first step is to hire a consultant to review application and will take it to the Planning & Zoning Commission. The Board will conduct three readings and can decide if those meetings will be held offsite to accommodate the expected crowds.

Steve Estenson, Risk Manager – FEMA obligation funds expected in October; Employee Safety Fair in September (Harris Bldg.); and seeing more and more vandalism on weekends at the Harris Bldg. playground;

Supervisor Rogers asked about best practices and trainings after seeing that the City of Dyersville is suing Dubuque County for the release of ARPA funds to a bad actor. Estenson stated that the Auditor's Office is particularly vigilant with trainings and safeguards are in place. IT has also beefed up for those types of transactions. Risk has certain coverages if bad actors are involved.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt asked about trends in the county's worker comp. claims and Estenson responded that typically the summer months don't see a lot of injuries. They seem to happen more in winter/early spring.

Luke Fischer, Facilities Dir. –working with GIS on building documents; budget on target; fully staffed; Correctional Center Isolation Cell buildout; Engineering/Secondary Roads Main Shop project design meetings; moving to a cloud based Help Desk Ticket; Conservation Wikiup Geothermal expansion; Elections camera and security updates; Sustainability Office HVAC and design; Sheriff Dispatch Room cabling, carpet and furniture completed; Sheriff's Office roof replacement underway; reviewing building automation solutions vendors; talking to vendors re: retro commissioning/energy audit and B3 benchmarking energy use (software solution). Working on a Policy determining work parameters between Facilities and IT.

Joi Alexander, Communications Dir. – FY25 KPI's: increase website accessibility compliance to meet or exceed the industry average; editorial calendar; working with Planning & Development on Temporary Use Permits; writing style guide project is complete; QR codes for forms in lobby/hallway areas for Planning & Development and Treasurer; finished review of the first draft of Crisis Communications Plan; continuing outreach for the LIFTS Communications Plan; created sign for shared second floor lobby to help direct traffic for the Recorder and Elections; PAFR Award from GFOA; Monsido Analytics Tool; EMA training in September; 22 inquires in July from "Contact Us" forms; and Linn County's branding.

Adjournment at 9:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED BY:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT
Board of Supervisors