

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 10:00 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. Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Rogers to approve minutes of September 11, 2024 as printed.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve claims dated 09/13/24 for payroll deduction check #63000024 in the amount of \$2,016.49; claims dated 9/13/24 for payroll deduction checks #71015556-#71015561 in the amt. of \$619.78; ACH in the amt. of \$21,344.73; and EFT wire in the amt. of \$24,717.59 and a Ceridian ER Funds Trust Wire in the amt. of \$2,193,521.11 for a total of \$2,240,203.21.

Supervisor Zumbach read National Preparedness Month Sept. 2024 Proclamation.

Motion by Zumbach, seconded by Rogers to approve Proclamation: National Preparedness Month Sept. 2024.

Matt Warfield, Deputy Auditor, presented a request for the Board to order an administrative recount for Precinct 44, 45, and 48 for the Sept. 10, 2024 special election (Cedar Rapids Comm. School Dist. PPEL). He stated that they did not receive reports from the polling place and this will allow them to be generated accurately in an effort to prepare for tomorrow's canvas.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve ordering an administrative recount for Precinct 44, 45, and 48 for the Sept. 10, 2024 special election (Cedar Rapids Comm. School Dist. PPEL).

Andy Whiting, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, presented a letter of support for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library's (NCSML) application for Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Grant for the Orloj Clocktower Project.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Rogers to approve and authorize the Chair to sign a letter of support for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library's (NCSML) application for Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Grant for the Orloj Clocktower Project.

Charlie Nichols, Planning & Development Dir., presented a letter to the Iowa Economic Development Authority requesting an amendment to the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Housing Grant to extend the performance period for Dows Farms from Mar. 31 – Dec. 31, 2025. He stated that due to unforeseen difficulties (limestone deposits) they anticipate construction to begin in the Spring of 2025. to account for unforeseen issue.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve and authorize the Chair to submit a letter to the Iowa Economic Development Authority requesting an amendment to the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Housing Grant to extend the performance period for Dows Farms (Mar. 31 – Dec. 31, 2025).

Stephanie Lientz, Planning & Development, presented a Certified Local Government Grant Payment Certification for the Klinsky Farm National Historic Register Nomination.

Motion by Zumbach, seconded by Rogers to approve Certified Local Government Grant Payment Certification for the Klinsky Farm National Historic Register Nomination.

The Board discussed request for funding from Prospect Meadows.

Supervisor Rogers stated that he placed this item on the agenda today because it was a timing issue that needed the Board's attention and a decision needed to be made. This was an opportunity today when the full board would be present. He stated that during the last couple months, Linn County, Marion and Cedar Rapids have been engaged in discussions along with Prospect Meadows leadership. In those discussions, it was about how to shift Prospect Meadows into the future as it relates to funding challenges. As such, Marion, Cedar Rapids and Linn County along with private individuals are being asked to make a pledge for Prospect Meadows. What the Board has before them today is a request for County participation. This would mean a pledge (no true dollars obligated) with stipulations that any amount coming from Linn County would go to the retirement of all debt. Supervisor Rogers suggests \$250,000. Cedar Rapids is pledging \$300,000 of their hotel/motel tax and Marion is currently paying for another debt. This will help leverage quite a bit of money from the private sector. Rogers stated that Linn County has a vested interest in the success of this organization. Staff (Jindrich and Gage) have been keeping board members up to date on the meetings and they have reached a point in time where there is a limited window of time for the private fundraiser to identify funds to retire debt and other sustainability planning.

Dawn Jindrich, Finance Dir., stated that based on previous conversations, two items have been identified. 1) Money will only be paid out to retire debt and is to be used for no other purpose. 2) Updated positive cashflow statement that shows 10 years out to ensure sustainability long term.

Supervisor Zumbach stated that he and Jindrich have had multiple conversations and he has struggled with this. As a taxpayer and a Supervisor looking out for taxpayers, it comes down to what's the value for them and it's still Linn County's ground. The ball field is by the Secondary Roads shop that will be up for sale. If Prospect Meadows doesn't make it, will it turn into a brownfield site and thus lowers the value of the land. If it isn't a ball field, what does it become and what does that cost the county? Any other use will cost the county more money. He noted that \$250,000 does not go very far, therefore, he has been convinced that \$250,000 is not the end of the world but he wants the conditions stipulated in the motion up front.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt stated that this has been tough for her. She loves and supports baseball and Linn County needs things like this for families to be attracted to. She also supported two different pieces of legislation that provided financial support to Prospect Meadows. She also recently worked with Prospect Meadows (separately from Supervisor Rogers) trying to find solutions/resources with the State and USDA but no path was found. They also cannot use ARPA dollars for retiring debt. Looking back over the years since 2018, there has been a lot of public support (\$1/yr lease, crop rent they receive; and \$2.7 million from Linn County). She continued to say that the reason this is so difficult and the reason why she is voting no is only because the dollars they are able to spend on this comes from the general fund dollars that they put in a bucket of capital funds. That is where we pay for the Capital Improvement Plan for the county, ongoing phases for ADA projects; and the cuts they made the last two years and all of the unknowns for next year. Growth has been cut in half which ties their hands for budgeting going forward. She understands it is a pledge with constraints added, but for those reasons for her, it just does not make sense. She appreciates the conversations with Jindrich and Gage and this hasn't been easy because she does support Prospect Meadows. She believes that they have a chance to raise money on their own and she looks forward to seeing them prosper and raise funds.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to pledge \$250,000 to Prospect Meadows with the following stipulations: Money will be received if and only if they fully retire their debt; can only be used to retire debt and for no other reason; provide an updated positive cashflow statement that goes ten years out ensuring sustainability long term; and are the last dollars in. Pledge expires January 1, 2025.

VOTE: Running-Marquardt – Nay Rogers & Zumbach - Aye

Sonia Evans, Budget & Finance and Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin., continued discussions held last week regarding the reallocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from Linn County department projects that were not going to be obligated in time to meet ARPA deadline (Public Health and Sustainability & Resiliency Operations).

Supervisor Zumbach stated that there have been a couple changes from last Monday but he is okay with it.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Rogers to approve ARPA re-obligated funds as follows: Overflow Shelter Elevator and Hwy. 13 property buildout - \$550,000 and Correctional Center Isolation Cells - \$123,000.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Zumbach to approve Class C Retail Alcohol License for Dharma's, Troy Mills, noting all conditions have been met.

Public Comment: Supervisor Zumach stated that he had the opportunity to go to the Wanatee Farm (17 acres of Dows property that is Feed Iowa First). He was really impressed. He stated that often times the land is overgrown and out of control, however, this land is being run by a couple farmers doing an outstanding job. He stated that it is worth looking at and was thankful for the invitation.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Rogers to approve Employment Change Roster (payroll authorizations) as follows:

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Criminal Prosecutor I	Nathaniel Bennett	Termination/resignation 09/12/24
Criminal Prosecutor II	Molly Edwards	Transfer 09/14/24 Gr 30 \$143,943.10/annually –
Gr 29	\$129,125.46/annually	
Criminal Prosecutor III	Ryan Decker	Promotion 09/14/24 Gr 29 \$129,125.46 – Gr 30
\$135,581.83/annually	Replaces M. Edwards	

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Deputy Sheriff	Kimberly Schmitz	Step increase/contract 10/05/24 D3 \$38.21 – D4
\$39.65		
Deputy Sheriff	Kyle Kuennen	Step increase/contract 10/06/24 D5 \$41.18 – D6
\$42.39		

Deputy Sheriff \$36.81 Page 3 September 16,2024	Matthew Ruzicka	Step increase/contract 10/31/24 D1 \$35.39 – D2
Correctional Cntr Nurse Stacia Koontz \$40.27		End of probation 10/08/24 39A \$38.26 – 39B
Collections & Acctg Spec Ashely Hill \$26.09		End of probation 10/08/24 57A \$24.74 – 57B
Collections & Acctg Spec Amy Cornell Lieutenant \$134,479.28 - \$139,282.11/annually	Heather Lander	New hire – FT 10/14/24 57A \$24.74 Step increase on anniversary 10/21/24
<u>LIFTS</u> LIFTS Driver LIFTS Driver W. Dee	Wendy Dee Bradarie Djeugang	Termination/resignation 09/05/24 New hire – FT 09/30/24 55A \$21.24 Replaces
<u>ENGINEERING</u> Light Equip Oper \$25.34	Nathan Takes	End of probation 09/24/24 17A \$24.43 – 17B
Engineering Tech I 17C \$26.27	Michael Schirmer	Step increase/contract 10/16/24 17B \$25.34 –
Admin Secy 57C \$27.39	Renae Hines	Step increase/contract 10/21/24 57B \$26.09 –
Temp Rdwy Mtc Wrkr Temp Rdwy Mtc Wrkr Temp Rdwy Mtc Wrkr	Joe Carper Daniel Cook Cole Mollenhauer	Termination/temp position ended 09/13/24 Termination/temp position ended 09/20/24 Termination/temp position ended 09/25/24

Adjournment at 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED BY:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors