

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 9:00 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.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Rogers to approve minutes of September 23, 2024 as printed.

The Board canvassed votes of the September 10, 2024 Special Election 2nd Tier: North Linn Community School District Physical Plant & Equipment Levy (PPEL).

The Board received updates from the following Department Heads:

David Thielen, LCCS Executive Dir. – departments continue meeting with Terry Whitson for Learning Institutes; the new LCCS Finance Manager will start on Monday the 30th; budget is on target; General Assistance usage is slow right now due to the ERAP federal funding; continue to rewrite the General Assistance Ordinance; Juvenile Detention Center: census is up right now; some cameras are functioning and cameras are being added; looking at fixing current gaps in fence in courtyard. Ryan White program: wrapped up first quarter of reporting. Access Center: continue to work on the Withdrawal licensing as well as policies and procedures with Unity Point; working to train EMS in the local region about the Access Center. OPTIONS: fully staffed with a waitlist; serve about 100 individuals a day in their day habilitation program. East Central Region: RFP for ASO has been released and is due Oct. 18 and staff is working on job description analysis.

Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir. – Morgan Creek Trail from 42nd St. to Cedar River is set for bid in November; Wanatee Park Mountain Bike Skills Area completed and getting rave reviews; Pinicon Ridge Mountain Bike trail is under construction with completion in 2025; Grant Wood Trail Paralta Rd. to Springville Rd. bid late fall; Cedar Valley Trail paving of northern section (official opening Oct. 4th); Pinicon Ridge Campground and Cabins are two months behind; Pinicon Ridge boat concession dredging (cleanup over the winter); Dows Maniti Trail underpass at Lakeside Rd. paving mid next week; Morgan Creek Lodge grading close to completion and bid construction of lodge in January; in the process of hiring an assistant ranger (Sheriff's Office is assisting); and Next Era Energy has agreed to donate an all-terrain wheelchair to allow less mobile people to use the trails (will be housed at Wickiup Hill for most of the time). The weekend of Oct 4 & 5th at Pinicon Ridge is Spooktacular camping weekend.

Supervisor Zumbach asked if the Conservation Dept. was put in the same category as Secondary Roads as it relates to the Weather-Related Policy. After some discussion, it was decided that the plan is to be updated in November and Conservation's request will be addressed at that time.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt recognized the Gazette article a couple weeks ago featuring Randy Burke and how proud she is of the work that he has done. He is someone that can be trusted especially with working on the MPO and his knowledge and his ability to make projects work. He is flexible and collaborates and Linn County is fortunate to have Burke on their team. She also stated that while attending an ISAC meeting, it was communicated to her that Goemaat is recognized by many throughout that state as an amazing leader and they rely on him for his leadership and knowledge. Also as a testimony to his leadership is his ability to celebrate his employees and she thanked him for that.

Pramod Dwivedi, Health Department Dir. - Air monitoring site is moving forward; Iowa DNR is developing a contract for distribution of Inflation Reduction Act funding for a monitoring site in a census block with a high score; patient/client visits stats; staff completed the data triangulation for the Community Health Assessment; collaborating with the Univ. of Iowa's Inst. for Public Health Practice in preparing a workforce development survey; My Care Community case statistics; immunization (flu and COVID) available; Wastewater Surveillance Data; emerging infections (bird or avian flu); met with Health and Human Serv. representatives and the next joint meeting of the Board of Health and Board of Supervisors Oct. 23.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt noted that they have consultants working with the county on the Inflation Reduction Act.

Jon Gallagher, Soil Conservation Dept. Head – Indian Creek Soil Health Partnership (submitted application revisions); the Conservation Effects Assessment Project Survey is being performed by National Ag. Statistics Serv; Iowa Dept of Ag and Land Stewardship cover crop sign up closed for FY 24 (over 10,000 acres signed up); following up on some Derecho projects; site reviews to ongoing projects in Marion and Cedar Rapids for Derecho funding and proposed Urban Water Quality initiative Grant opportunities; Outreach to city of Ely for State Revolving Fund. Weed Commissioner: Poke Weed season (native plant that is a poisonous plant and avoid it).

Chairperson Running-Marquardt stated that she appreciates Gallagher's work with Cara Matteson, Sustainability Director, and advised him that Matteson participated in a phone call with Eide Bailly looking at different projects that could use the Inflation Reduction Act monies. She noted that there could be some reimbursement opportunities for a couple of Gallagher's projects.

Dustin Peterson, Veteran Affairs Dir. – budget is on target; five Linn County veterans and their families received county assistance in August; assisted in the submission of 71 applications for veterans or family members for Federal claims; back-to-school assistance (helped 32 children of low-income veterans); Kirkwood Veterans Club; attended Iowa Suicide Prevention Coalition Summit 2024; Cedar Valley Veterans Network; Five Seasons Stand Down (approximately 200 attendees); speaking at Linn County American Legion tonight in Central City; he is unsure how the IDVA Grant will disburse the additional \$3,000 for training that was approved last year; and attending the Fall School in Des Moines in October. He also shared a good news story about a veteran.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt stated that she appreciates the collaboration that Peterson had with the other county departments during the Stand Down.

Phil Lowder, I.T. Dir. – budget on target; one staff vacancy; KPI's tracking within limits; large number of projects in progress; looking to do some JCN equipment updates and the outage on Friday was due to a fiber cut.

Adjournment at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED BY:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors