

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 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.

The Board received updates from the following Elected Officials:

County Attorney Nick Maybanks – Currently have two vacancies (Receptionist and Asst. Co. Atty.); case statistics (picked up Iowa Workforce cases); training police officers on writing & filing complaints; training prosecutors on child abuse at Fall Conference; teaming with KCRG on high profile cases; attended County Attorney's Assoc. Legislative Conference (priorities identified); and getting closer to forming a committee for Courthouse anniversary celebration next year.

Brian Gardner, Sheriff – 911 funds to operate system have stagnated while costs have gone up (surcharge has been \$1 for quite some time). Discussion followed regarding the possibility of putting some costs back on the agencies; re-establishing conversations with the Marshall Service for an agreement to house federal prisoners; jail holding cell project is moving forward (having an issue with a contractor that has been going on since May); and working with the County Attorney on writing & filing complaints.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt expressed her deepest appreciation to the Sheriff for his leadership role in ISAC as well as internally at Linn County. His leadership is invaluable, and she relies on it as well as the entire county and she appreciates his cooperation with many other departments.

Carolyn Siebrecht, Recorder – switched software to Fidar and went live Sept. 3. Already have seen benefits of the new system and receiving positive feedback; revenue for August is down (typical this time of year); mortgage rates; off-road vehicle renewals began September 1st and hope to have online renewals ready for boat renewals beginning January of next year.

Joel Miller, Auditor – Kudos to Gail Tenney, Accounting Mgr., for covering while Deputy Betsworth has been on vacation for the month of September (they have bench strength and can back each other up). Preparing for a transition with his departure. Both Auditor candidates (Terry Chostner and Todd Taylor) worked the school election in September as PEO's. Both have since visited the office for a tour in the last week as well and met staff. They have been invited to the budget meeting on December 7; have hired 570 Precinct Election Officials and temps to process ballots and will probably get overrun with early voting; hiring roving patrols and very visible law enforcement personnel; preparing for the worst and hoping for the best and plan to be Iowa Nice on election day and expect no less.

Matt Warfield, Deputy Auditor – He has three focuses: mailed ballots, mail ballot requests and early voting which starts October 16. Voting at the Public Service Center will be held in the basement. He noted that the request for mail ballots is significantly down most likely because of the shortened timeframe and mistrust in the postal serve. A lot of prep. is going into early voting in the office and satellite locations. He received notice from the Secretary of State this morning that they have processed their monthly felon file update resulting in 405 registered voters being cancelled; and today is the first day of public testing of voting equipment (one week to complete). Warfield also noted that there are multiple departments in the county that have gone above and beyond with requests from his office (Facilities and IT). It's really gratifying to be part of everyone recognizing the importance of what is happening in five weeks.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt expressed her enormous appreciation for Auditor Miller and his staff who have time and time again done everything to uphold the integrity of elections in this county and she cannot image the stress and extra hours worked trying to make sure that elections integrity is in place. She offered any support that the Board can provide to support these efforts.

Adjournment at 10:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED BY:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors