

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 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 November 18, 2024 as printed.

The Board received updates from the following Department Heads:

Charlie Nichols, Planning and Development Dir. - Working on improving communication with homeowners and contractors; budget is on track, however, revenues are over projections; planning on several budget Offers for FY26; State of Iowa is moving forward with adopting 2024 building codes (Linn County is on the 2021 versions); Linn County's Building Official has been elected the President of the Iowa Association Building Officials; every year the International Code Council holds hearings relating to code change proposals submitted by entities with a vested interest in construction standards (Linn County's Building Official attends hearings every year); Clerical Staff have been attending trainings and conferences geared toward their areas of expertise; City of Center Point is interested in working on a Fringe Area Agreement with the County to help guide development within the two-mile area outside their city boundaries (Palo, Bertram & Springville are also interested); working on United Development Code text amendments; Phase II of Duane Arnold Solar project is near completion; Phase III and IV was to be applied for this year, however, the CEO of NextEra has expressed interest in restarting the Nuclear Power Plant; and permit activity. He will update the Board on the parcel project on December 2nd.

Discussion continued regarding whether Alliant would still need the Phase I & II solar sites if the Nuclear Plant is reopened. Would decommissioning come early and land turned back to its previous state? Nichols stated that he would be surprised if it was decommissioned early, noting that it is his understanding that more power is needed than they thought and would possibly need to use both solar and nuclear.

Steve Estenson, Risk Management Dir. – Working with Darrin Gage on setting date and time for bids to demo the barns at County Home Road and Dows.

Supervisor Zumbach stated that he has been asked by several people about salvage rights and Estenson responded that salvage rights are the responsibility of the demolition contractor.

Joi Alexander, Communications Dir. – Editorial Calendar; working with Planning & Development on their handouts and website; working with the Road Dept. with winter weather readiness information; contacted Larson Const. regarding a potential groundbreaking date of the Secondary Roads Headquarters; working on the PAFR; signed up for a webinar regarding website accessibility; will follow up with departments that are not following ADA accessibility requirements on the website; partially activated the EOC on November 5th (election day) where PIO's from Cedar Rapids and Marion participated; change to Chapter 21, Open Meetings law (government bodies must provide some kind of electronic access for board members to attend a meeting remotely); sat in on interview for a Public Health Communication Specialist; and continue to work with departments on clothing orders.

Public Comment: A member of the public stated that he will be exercising his right under the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution. He read from documents provided by Linn County, the Courthouse, Cedar Rapids Gazette and other public records regarding Chad Pelley, Twenty40 Building Concepts. He stated that Linn County has a business relationship with Pelley (Dows Property) which includes paying him large amounts of taxpayer's dollars. He continued to read from documents dating back to 1993 regarding Pelley's sexual abuse of a 15 yr. old girl as well as kicking and punching a woman in the face. He noted Pelley's involvement in children's organizations and his history of violence against women and children. He also alluded to conflicts of interest with Pelley and a member of the Board.

The Board canvassed votes of the November 5, 2024, General Election 2 tier for Center Point-Urbana Bond measure. Results are on file at the Auditor's Office.

Adjournment at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED BY:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors