

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 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 met with Elected Officials and Department Heads to discuss the following:

Lisa Powell, HR Dir., summarized several revisions and clarifications to the Telework Policy. She stated that Linn County had a lawsuit that they settled and were advised by legal to tighten up the policy. This is a good balance that meets legal and liability issues. The revised policy is effective January 1, 2025 and it was stressed that new Telework Agreements will need to be submitted. Lengthy discussion continued between Powell, Elected Officials, Department Heads and Managers regarding various clarifications.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt Kirsten stated that she appreciates Powell letting everyone know that these revisions address legal liability issues. They chose not to end Telework all together which was a possibility. For the 25% in the county that qualify for Telework, she believes that these are fair modifications. She also stated that there is an "exceptions" piece in the new policy.

Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin. summarized revisions to the Winter Weather Policy that has been in effect for 15 years. Lengthy discussion continued between Gage, Elected Officials, Department Heads and Managers regarding various clarifications.

Joi Alexander, Communications Dir., stressed that if Elected Officials choose to close their offices early to coordinate communication between each other and her office so that one message is sent in order to not confuse the public. Her office would appreciate a reasonable amount of notification prior to closing.

Sara Bearrows, Budget Director, gave a couple reminders regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. She stated that the P91 no longer exists, and FY 26 salaries are now in OpenGov. The Offer pot depends on the valuation report, that is where the funding numbers are available. The quarterly department goals and KPI's are also different this year. The Board held a Public Forum last evening. She summarized the FY 26 budget initiatives and guidelines which are scheduled to be approved on Wednesday.

Supervisor Zumbach introduced his oldest daughter, Brandy, who will replace him on January 1st. He encouraged everyone to talk to her.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt stated that counties throughout the state look at Linn County and the level of excellence when it comes to their budget. Linn County will definitely be impacted by a reduction due to HF718 and as a team, they will work through it and do the best for Linn County residents. She is looking forward to working with everyone as a team and listening to their best advice.

Public Comment: Supervisor Zumbach stated that this is likely the last time he will be in front of everyone and wanted to take the opportunity to thank Department Heads and Elected Officials. He stated that it was an honor to serve on the Board of Supervisors and an honor to work with all of them. There were some rough patches but some of those turned into the best relationships. He pointed to some accomplishments such as ARPA funds going to small towns in Linn County and the new Secondary Roads Headquarters. He also stated that one of the best days was after exchanging different ideas with fellow board members, Rogers and Walker, the ideas came to fruition with Ashely Balias and Cedar Rapids Bank to help low income people who had difficulty finding housing. He emphasized that he always represented the taxpayers who he truly works for. He thanked everyone for making his job easier in the end.

Adjournment at 10:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED BY:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors