

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 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 November 25, 2024 as printed.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve claims accounts payable – PEO checks dated 11/26/24 #71016187 to 71016215 in the amount of \$9,818.23; and PEO ACH in the amount of \$236,599.25; for a total of \$246,417.48; accounts payable checks dated 11/27/24 #71016217 to 71016276 in the amount of \$62,942.14; and ACH in the amount of \$1,391,746.13; for a total of \$1,454,688.27; payment to Rebecca Orth – Meals for Racial Equity Training - \$1,265.79; claims dated 11/29/24 for payroll deduction check #71016216 in the amount of \$24.45, ACH in the amount of \$80.46, an EFT wire in the amount of \$763,878.25 and a Ceridian ER Funds Trust Wire in the amount of \$211,168.31, for a total of \$975,151.47.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Rogers to approve Consent Agenda as follows:

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Preconstruction Agreement 2025-C-036 with the Iowa Department of Transportation for a hot mix asphalt (HMA) resurfacing project on U.S. 151/ Iowa 13 from U.S. 30 to Mount Vernon Road (southbound lanes). Linn County has requested Portland cement concrete (PCC) patching to be completed at the intersection with Mount Vernon Rd and will be responsible for 100% of the costs estimated to be \$188,690.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the grant contract for the Water Quality Initiative Program between Linn County Soil Conservation and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for the Linn County Agriculture and Watershed Sustainability Initiative.

Approve and authorize the chairperson to sign Change Order No. 5 with Garling Construction to increase the contract sum for the Linn County Correctional Center Isolation Cell Buildout Project by \$3,054.49.

Approve and authorize the chairperson to sign Change Order No. 6 with Garling Construction to increase the sum for the Linn County Correctional Center Isolation Cell Buildout Project by \$13,387.50.

Approve and authorize the chairperson to sign Change Order No. 1 with Larson Construction to increase the contract sum for the Secondary Road Headquarters project by \$13,538.38.

Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin., recapped the revised Weather-Related Delays or Closings Policy which was discussed in detail yesterday.

Motion by Zumbach, seconded by Rogers to approve revised Weather-Related Delays or Closings Policy, Policy Number PM-016.

Luke Fischer, Facilities Manager, presented contract between Linn County and Unzeitig Construction Co., for the completion of the Sustainability office construction.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve contract between Linn County and Unzeitig Construction Co., for the completion of the Sustainability office construction in the amount of \$28,288.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve contract between Linn County and Unzeitig Construction Co., for carpet and vinyl base for the Sustainability office in the amount of \$5,137.

Fischer also presented contract between Linn County and Seico, Inc., regarding the purchase of a night depository safe for the front vestibule area at the Jean Oxley Public Service Center.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve contract between Linn County and Seico, Inc., regarding the purchase of a night depository safe for the front vestibule area at the Jean Oxley Public Service Center for the amount of \$13,599.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve contract between Linn County and Tricon Construction Group to install the night depository safe at the Jean Oxley Public Service Center for \$9,140.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Zumbach to remove the following agenda item from the agenda: Discuss and decide on fiscal year 2025 funding requests for the Linn County Legacy and Community Attraction Grant.

Sara Bearrows, Budget Dir., summarized the following FY 26 budget initiatives and guidelines:

1. 4% increase for non-bargaining unit employees (place holder).
2. Include contractual salary increases for bargaining unit employees (place holder will be put in for PPME & IBEW).
3. 10% increase in health rates & 0% increase for dental
4. No increase in operational line items other than unavoidable contractual or utility increases (includes postage).
5. General Fund ending balance of 25% of budgeted expenditures (in line with financial policies).
6. Additional requests will be funded through Offer process.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Rogers to approve the above stated FY 26 budget initiatives and guidelines.

Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin., gave a presentation on options for the completion of duties previously performed by the County Compensation Board. He stated that legislation dissolved all county compensation boards effective July 1, 2024. The Supervisors have two options 1) reestablish the county compensation board or 2) take no action and assume the duties of the compensation board themselves. A simple motion by the majority of the Supervisors would reestablish the compensation board and they would follow the previous rules they operated under plus new provisions, and he explained. Seven new members would need to be appointed. If the Supervisors choose not to reestablish the compensation board, they would assume their duties with new provisions (show documentation and justification of their decision and the Sheriff's salary shall be set comparable to other law enforcement professionals).

County Atty. Nick Maybanks stated that he will advise the Supervisors from a legal standpoint. If they choose not to establish a compensation board, those duties transfer to them, and he is not sure why they would want to saddle themselves with that duty. If they choose to assume those duties, they would also be required to document and justify their recommendations. He continued to refer to various Code of Iowa sections.

Sheriff Gardner stated that he does not agree with Maybanks on this issue today. He stated that he appreciates all of the hard work that all members of the compensation board put into the process, noting that through his observation it was a complicated chess match. Ultimately the Supervisors decide what happens within the parameters of the budget. Most all of the Elected Officials prepared comparable information for the compensation board, and they can just give that to the Supervisors. He stated that he does not see any disadvantage for the Supervisors to take over those responsibilities. This uncomplicates the process.

Supervisor Rogers stated that county governments are the only form that has a compensation board make the salary recommendations (city councils and state legislators set salaries themselves). He is pleased that the legislators gave counties a choice. He stated that the Supervisors have navigated difficult waters and have tried as a Board to make the best decision based on budget realities and the economy. This feels like it is taking one step out of a process that ultimately comes to the Supervisors. He has always wanted the option for the compensation board structure to change as they were not charged with looking at the state of the budget.

Supervisor Zumbach stated that Supervisor Rogers hit most of his target points. The Supervisors already go through steps with Human Resources and Budget & Finance. The compensation board did not take the budget into consideration at all which is the biggest reason not to have it. He agrees with no action being taken.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt stated that she appreciates both the Sheriff and County Attorney speaking on this topic today. She felt that it was fair to place on today's agenda to be fair and respectful to the other Elected Officials. She had a good conversation with Human Resources about comparables and getting access to that material (which had previously been provided). She is also open to the other Elected Officials bringing them comparables. She believes that by not reinstating the compensation board that it removes a layer of bureaucracy that they don't need at this time. The compensation board was handpicked by Elected Officials and they stood before them asking for the raises. They have to take into consideration the budget and the compensation board did not have to do that and that is the number one reason to not reestablish the compensation board. This is a more efficient way with smaller bureaucracy. Elected Officials were also concerned about their deputies who are tied to their salaries. She stressed that the Supervisors take into consideration the entire workforce of the county.

Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin., presented a Resolution awarding the Linn County Winter Weather Shelter project to Kingj-Knutson Const. Co. in the amount of \$1,011,450. This is just under budget and he has discussed using the Facilities budget for any change orders.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to adopt Resolution 2024-11-182

A RESOLUTION AWARDDING CONTRACT FOR THE
LINN COUNTY WINTER WEATHER SHELTER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

WHEREAS, pursuant to a Notice to Bidders duly posted as prescribed by Resolution 2024 –11–169 of the Linn County, Iowa Board of Supervisors (“Board”), and as required by Iowa law, the Board received sealed bids for the Linn County Secondary Road Headquarters (“Project”); and WHEREAS, each bid submitted for the Project received careful consideration, and it is now necessary and advisable to award the contract for the Project. BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Board as follows:

1. The sealed bid for the Project submitted by the contractor, and in the amount set out below, is the lowest responsible bid received for the Project, and is fully responsive to the plans and specifications for the Project.

Contractor Bid Amount

King-Knutson Construction Co. Inc. \$1,011,450

1380 Stoney Point Road

Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

2. The Board hereby awards the contract for the Project to such contractor, and for the total estimated cost set out above, with final settlement to be made on the basis of the unit prices set out in said contract, and on the actual final quantity of each class of material(s) furnished, and said contract is subject to the Notice to Bidders, the plans and specifications for the Project, and the terms of the bidder’s written proposal.

3. The Board hereby fixes the amount of the contractor’s performance and/or payment bonds at 100 percent of the amount of the contract.

Public Comment: Chairperson Running-Marquardt recognized Board staff member Cara Hromindko for her stressful and complicated job of making sure that the Board’s agenda is done right which crosses over various county departments. Today happens to be her birthday and she wanted to send her appreciation to Hromindko for all of her hard work to make the agenda and meetings go smoothly.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Rogers to go into a closed session to discuss pending litigation, pursuant to Code of Iowa 21.5(1)(c).

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

Motion by Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Rogers to go out of closed session.

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

Adjournment at 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED BY:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors