

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
 MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 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.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve claims dated 12/6/24 for payroll deduction checks #71016347 - #71016351 in the amount of \$595.33, ACH in the amount of \$21,458.43, an EFT wire in the amount of \$26,725.57 and a Ceridian ER Funds Trust Wire in the amount of \$2,165,334.45, for a total of \$2,214,113.78.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Zumbach to move the following agenda item to the beginning of the meeting: Discuss funding requests for fiscal year 2025 Legacy and Community Attraction Grant.

Jessie Black, Admin. Specialist, presented Fiscal Year 2025 Legacy and Community Attraction Grant funding requests for discussion noting that in the past those with two votes or more move forward. The Board will approve Wednesday.

Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Conservation Dir., presented a Vacancy Form requesting one full-time Natural Resources Vegetation Management Specialist for Linn County Conservation noting that they are upgrading the Resource Technician job. The salary will be absorbed in the current budget and into their operations budget for the future.

Discussion continued regarding this position and whether it should be submitted as an offer or added to Conservation's operation budget. The Board will discuss further and decide on Wednesday.

Luke Fischer, Facilities Dir., presented a quote between Linn County and T&M Services for moving cubicles into the Sustainability office in the amount of \$795 with American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds. The Board will approve Wednesday.

Fischer also presented a quote between Linn County and Presentations, Inc. for Sustainability signs at the Public Service Center in the amount of \$1,450 with American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt asked if they are obligated to use the same company for signs.

Britt Hutchins, Purchasing Dir., stated that they try to maintain conformity and don't steer away from whoever got the original award. Presentations, Inc. has the font and materials for the building. They would have to bid it out and give the specs to the other companies.

Running-Marquardt state that there are other businesses in Linn County that perform the same signage, so she was curious if they had to abide by it. The Board will approve Wednesday.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Rogers to approve Employment Change Roster (payroll authorizations) as follows:			
<u>BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</u>			
Supervisor	Louis Zumbach	Termination/end of term 1/1/25	
Clerk Typist	Cara Hromidko	Step increase 12/12/24 53C \$20.43-53D \$21.58	
<u>TREASURER'S OFFICE</u>			
Auditor	Robert Jett	Termination/resignation 12/13/24	
<u>FACILITIES</u>			
Custodian	Aiden Djerf	New hire - PT 12/23/24 10A \$19.20+\$.25 20 hrs/wk Repl V. Niyonzima	
<u>JUVENILE DETENTION</u>			
Youth Counselor	Aubrey Backous	Promotion - internal applicant 12/7/24 55B \$22.28+\$.25-36B \$27.39+\$.25	
Youth Counselor	Paris Jones	Promotion - internal applicant 12/7/24 55B \$22.28+\$.25-36B \$27.39-\$.25	

The Board recessed at 10:14 a.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. to review the following proposed fiscal year 2026 budgets. Also present: Dawn Jindrich, Finance Dir.; Sara Bearrows, Budget Dir.; Rhonda Betsworth, Deputy Auditor; and Joel Miller, Auditor.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Zumbach to move Review of the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget for Auditor to the first budget.

Betsworth stated that Miller requested this meeting as a hand off and highlighted the functions, personnel and budget considerations.

Miller stated that he wanted to have this conversation face to face noting that he is available via text for the next 22 days. In fairness to his successor, he wanted to try to do a handoff so there are no surprises. Miller shared his thoughts on a new space for Elections noting that it is very disruptive to other operations

in the Public Service Center building, and they need to find another solution. He also discussed a Deputy Auditor promotion that was based upon another Deputy burning off vacation time between now and June 30, 2025. That Deputy worked very well and was a big success with the Election and it paid off in a number of ways with the process and early voting.

Supervisor Zumbach thanked Miller for his service over the years.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt thanked Miller for his years of service and the amazing team he has built. She appreciates Miller's service to the county and the voters ensuring that their right to vote is upheld. His staff and deputies are doing an amazing job with the transition.

Supervisor Rogers added that he is proud of the way Miller has served Linn County. The staff that are supporting Miller are of a world class caliber and that speaks to Miller. Rogers appreciates that they have been able to become allies in many ways. He looks forward to seeing how Todd Taylor can improve the office with the staff Miller has developed. Rogers deeply appreciates Miller's time and service for Linn County.

Miller added that he won a court case and has one official act left to complete. That case did not cost the county anything as it was pro bono. There was \$10,000 worth of legal fees and he is only charging one lunch to the county.

Finance & Budget – Jindrich stated that appropriations meets guidelines.

Jindrich highlighted her budget including participating in GFOA award programs and maintaining the "triple crown" designation; challenge of staff not reading budget emails that are sent; recent accomplishment of providing lots of training for budget software, grants, etc.

Supervisor Zumbach thanked Jindrich and Bearrows and their staff for all their help. It is a pleasure to work with them.

Supervisor Rogers stated that both Jindrich and Bearrows and their staff are the central nervous system for the Board. They are the decision makers, and the Board just happens to be the policy makers. Their level of expertise along with their staff are exceptional and they are lucky to have them.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt added that she is so proud of Linn County especially when talking about their budget. Both Jindrich and Bearrows work is above and beyond as they treat people with respect and professionalism and she appreciates that. With no trust, they don't have anything.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Rogers to approve Finance & Budget preliminary FY26 appropriations in the amount of \$905,609.

Medical Examiner – Bearrows stated that the budget meets guidelines.

Bearrows highlighted the budget noting that COVID had an impact on how this budget was prepared and as of 4/1/2023 the State has stopped requiring COVID deaths to be reported. Transport costs are increasing; however, the office is conducting an RFP for transport services that may lower costs by FY26 so no increase was built into the FY26 budget.

Supervisor Rogers added that they are sending a lot more of the autopsies out of county to Ankeny and Bearrows confirmed that is what Alisha Weber stated noting that there is not a set transport rate, and it can fluctuate.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Rogers to approve Medical Examiner preliminary FY26 appropriations in the amount of \$872,650 and revenues of \$70,000.

Adjournment at 2:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JOEL D. MILLER, Linn County Auditor
By: Amanda Hoy, Deputy Auditor

APPROVED BY:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors