

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 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 Department Heads:

Charlie Nichols, Planning and Development Dir. – Budget is on track (revenues are up); working on updating checklists in permit software; Building Div. staff working with Assoc. Combination Inspector to get certified; also working on cross training program with Code Compliance Officer; office remodel coming to conclusion; vacancies on Commissions and Boards; met with NextEra and Alliant yesterday and discussed restarting Duane Arnold Nuclear Plant (will start researching new zoning code language). Dows Farm: Developer has expressed interest in purchasing the farm once barn is gone; and permit data.

The Board discussed the restarting of the Nuclear Plant, noting that they all met individually with NextEra and Alliant as well yesterday. The Board will have the responsibility of zoning approval. Discussion continued regarding if NextEra will get capped out with both Nuclear and Solar power (Phase I & II). It was clarified that NextEra is "looking into it" and there has been no set decision made. They are gathering information and are looking at all of their options.

Supervisor Zumbach stated that it has been a pleasure working with Nichols, noting that he has grown into his position and has taken his department a long way. He believes it is a user friendly department to work with now.

Steve Estenson, Risk Management Dir. – FEMA projects (barn demolitions, window repairs at Sheriff's Office & Wickiup, Wanatee & Morgan Creek Park projects); injury report; and weekend ice storm (no incidents reported).

Supervisor Zumbach stated that Estenson was one of the first department heads to welcome him to the county and it's been a pleasure working with him.

Luke Fischer, Facilities Dir. – strategic planning quarterly goal; budget on track; benchmarking energy and water use; budget presentation preparations; ARPA fund quotes; Courthouse projects (plaza reconstruction and tuckpointing); involvement in 100-year Courthouse celebration; preventative maintenance; new helpdesk ticket process; weekend ice storm event and 24-hour operations; and tree planting locations.

Supervisor Zumbach stated that he has seen three different department heads in Facilities since he began and it starts with great candidates. He turned out to be a great candidate and he took off with it and has done a marvelous job.

Joi Alexander, Communications Dir. - Editorial Calendar; posts Board budget meetings on Facebook; continuing to share winter weather messages; beam signing ceremony for new Secondary Roads Headquarters; FY24 PAFR went to press this morning; DOJ ruling on website accessibility; participated in interview of Public Health Communications Specialist; completed 2025 communication planning; reviewing website policy; 2025 priorities include new products, initiatives and events; attended de-escalation training, contact us forms (requests for internship opportunities are up) and brand management.

Supervisor Zumbach thanked Alexander for all she does.

Adjournment at 9:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED BY:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors