

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2025 1:30 P.M.

The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center. Present: Chairperson Rogers, Vice Chairperson Meisheid and Supervisor Running-Marquardt. Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Meisheid to approve minutes of Jan. 13, 14 & 15, 2025 as printed.

The Board met at 1:30 p.m. to review the following FY 26 budgets. Also present: Dawn Jindrich, Finance Dir.; Sara Bearrows, Budget Dir.; BJ Dvorak, EMA Dir., Pete Brisline and Tom Alrich, EMA; Brad Ketels, County Engineer and Nichole Brown, County Engineer Financial Analyst.

Emergency Management– Appropriations of \$1,289,467 and Revenues of \$1,289,467.

Jindrich stated that the proposed budget exceeds guidelines by \$5,012 primarily due to increases in building rent. The budget request includes County funding of \$1,144,907.

Dvorak gave a PowerPoint presentation and explained the budget in detail. He also noted that Tom Alrich is retiring in February. He wishes Alrich well and introduced Pete Brisline as the new Operations Readiness Officer.

Chairperson Rogers stated that there have been discussions about starting the Duane Arnold Energy Plant back up. Since Linn County took over their sirens, he asked if this were to occur, how does that look as it relates to the sirens and the effect on EMA. He also stated that if EMA were to move to the Hwy. 13 location, would there be an issue with the facility being within a certain radius of the Nuclear Plant.

Dvorak responded that there have been no discussions about the sirens or how that would look moving forward or the impact. The Hwy. 13 location is not an issue from what he knows.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt asked if they are statutorily obligated to have a certain fund balance for EMA and Jindrich responded that they don't want to go below 25% of their expenditures for cash flow purposes or unforeseen emergencies.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt wanted to publicly thank Tom Alrich for his 30 years of service. He has been a critical part of EMA, HAZMAT and the well-being of the people of Linn County. No words can show her appreciation, and the people of Linn County owe him a debt of service.

Chairperson Rogers stated that when thinking of EMA, he thinks of Tom Alrich. As a Board of Supervisor member, he has interacted with Alrich mostly in terms of questions regarding world events, trainings and exercises. Alrich always has a calm and steady demeanor and the amount of knowledge he has is irreplaceable. Through the last three EMA Directors, Alrich has been consistent. EMA has been tested many times and each time they walk away with more and more trust in EMA as they have shown themselves time and time again to earn the respect and trust from the public.

Supervisor Meisheid said that she just met Alrich today but based on things she has heard about him and colleagues shared, she wishes him the best.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Meisheid to approve preliminarily the EMA budget appropriations of \$1,289,467 and Revenues of \$1,289,467.

County Engineer – Appropriations of \$20,637,693 and Revenues of \$16,181,491.

Jindrich stated that the proposed budget meets guidelines. They have lost approximately \$100,000 due to the new legislation. She also noted that there were no expenditures budgeted in the LOST fund and she explained why. Jindrich also noted that the County's financial statement audit came back with zero findings and that is partly due to Nichole Brown's expertise with entering difficult and complex data into the State's system with no errors.

Brown presented and explained the budget in detail.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that she has had experience dealing with difficult and complicated formulas as does Brown and commended her for her part of the county's financial team and her perfect scores which allows Linn County to have the confidence that they have.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Meisheid to preliminarily approve County Engineer FY26 appropriations of \$20,637,693 and Revenues of \$16,181,491.

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Ketels presented the Key Performance Indicator which is providing a quality bridge infrastructure system for Linn County.

Adjournment at 2:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

TODD E. TAYLOR, Linn County Auditor
By: Rebecca Shoop, Deputy Auditor

APPROVED BY:

BEN ROGERS, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors