

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025 10:00 A.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.

Chairperson Rogers called the meeting to order.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Meisheid to approve minutes of January 22, 2025 as printed.

Charlie Nichols, Planning & Development Dir., presented a proposal from Eastern Iowa Council of Governments to create a Fringe Area Agreement between Linn County and Center Point in an amount not to exceed \$9,000.00 (split 50/50 with the city). The Board will approve on Wednesday.

Nichols also presented three Subordination Agreements for a mortgage lien against Lots 32, 33, 36, 37, 38, and 39 of Dows Farm Agri-Community First Addition. Legal has reviewed.

Paula Mitchell, ECICOG, explained that these six lots are under the developers' control and once he identifies buyers, they will be reviewed for sale guidelines. They will eventually be released. This is specifically for the grant program that the six lots are involved in. The Board will approve on Wednesday.

Treasurer Brent Oleson presented a Public Bidder Tax Sale Certificate Abatement Agreement on a property located at 2511 Illinois Street SW, Cedar Rapids, IA. Once this is approved, the property can be sold and placed back on the tax rolls. Taxes total \$25,787.11 and interest is in the amount of \$22,693.00.

The Board will approve on Wednesday.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Meisheid to approve and authorize the Chair to sign a letter of support, retroactive to January 21, 2025, for the city of Marion's Tower Terrace Road Improvement application through the Rebuilding of American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant.

Discussion: Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that Linn County has supported this project for years and she appreciates Chairperson Rogers handling it in a timely manner.

VOTE: All Aye

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Meisheid to approve the Employment Change Roster (detail is available upon request).

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Meisheid to approve the following appointments: Cara Matteson to the Middle Cedar Watershed Management Authority, term ending; March 1, 2027. Stephanie Lientz to serve as alternate for the same term.; Cara Matteson to the Lower Cedar Watershed Management Agency, term ending; November 2, 2027. Mike Tertinger to serve as alternate for the same term; Mike Tertinger to the Indian Creek Watershed Management Authority, term ending; January 1, 2026. Cara Matteson to serve as alternate for the same term; Dennis Goemaat to the Upper Wapsipinicon Watershed Management Authority, term ending December 31, 2026. Cara Matteson to serve as alternate, term ending December 31, 2029; Jon Gallagher to the Maquoketa Watershed Management Authority for an unspecified term. Cara Matteson to serve as alternate; Cara Matteson to the Middle Iowa Watershed Management Authority for an unspecified term. Stephanie Lientz to serve as alternate; Troy Wallis as Marion Township Trustee, term expires January 1, 2029; Brad Stoner as Linn Township Trustee, term expires January 1, 2029; and Toni Feder as Fayette Township Clerk, term expires January 1, 2029.

The Board recessed at 10:17 a.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. to discuss and decide on Elected Officials compensation.

Chairperson Rogers gave a recap of the meeting on Friday whereby Elected Officials presented recommendations for a salary increase from the Auditor, Treasurer, Recorder, Sheriff and County Attorney. Regarding the Sheriff, they must look at the statutory requirements spelled out in SF 2442 "shall" language. They had staff look at that and the different categories. That would mean 6.5% for the Sheriff and his 11-command staff. The Sheriff's 6.5% and the 4% for everyone else would mean no growth in the general levy.

Sara Bearrows, Budget Dir., clarified that the 6.5% for the Sheriff and staff would result in a \$55,154 reduction in the offer pot, assuming everyone else stayed at 4%.

Supervisor Meisheid questioned the process considering each Elected Official is asking for a different amount.

Chairperson Rogers stated that typically they have given the same percentage for everyone except for the Sheriff. There have been times when the County Attorney received more depending on the judge's salaries.

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Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated she thinks it is best if they don't try to single out any elected officials with the exception of the Sheriff and move forward with everyone receiving the same percentage. The 4% placeholder is something they can afford and is something they were able to provide for the majority of contract employees. She stated that she sincerely appreciates all the work of everyone on team Linn County and that 4% is an appropriate amount.

Supervisor Meisheid stated that to her it's important that they work for the constituents of the county and while they do important work, it's important that their salaries reflect economic realities. Linn County elected officials are paid really well and although coming into this, she would have pitched a lower amount, but she also believes that a budget is a compromise. She doesn't want the hard work of the employees of Linn County to not be recognized. She will be in favor of 4%.

Chairperson Rogers stated that they have a wide diversity of people that they represent, and they are an entity that must recruit and retain. They have the ability to give out 4% to elected officials and 6.5% to the Sheriff. He will support 6.5% for the Sheriff and noted other benefits and legislative updates that do benefit law enforcement.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve FY 26 salary increases as follows:
4% for Auditor, Treasurer, Recorder, Board of Supervisors and County Attorney and 6.5% for the Sheriff.

Bearrows stated that they will communicate this action to Human Resources and changes will be made in the budget system. This brings the offer pot down to \$603,000.

The Board agreed to submit their offer preferences to Bearrows by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 29th for discussion at 1:30 p.m.

Treasurer Oleson thanked the Board for their comments and considerations, and he especially appreciated Supervisor Meisheid's comments.

Adjournment at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED BY:

BEN ROGERS, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors