

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 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 and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Meisheid to place an Emergency Agenda item on the agenda as follows: Discuss and decide on responding to the Executive Order pausing all grants and loans disbursed by the federal government, including assigning tasks and creation of work group to coordinate and communicate with community stakeholders.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Meisheid to approve minutes of January 28, 2025 as printed.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Rogers to approve accounts payable checks dated 1/29/25 #71016778 to 71016819 in the amount of \$57,652.22; and ACH in the amount of \$636,175.89; for a total of \$693,828.11.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Meisheid to approve Consent Agenda as follows:

Receive and place on file the Linn County Conservation Board Annual Report for 2024.

Resolution 2025-1-16

A RESOLUTION APPROVING PETITIONS FOR THE SUSPENSION OF THE COLLECTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2025/ASSESSMENT YEAR 2023 PROPERTY TAXES

WHEREAS, the Linn County Board of Supervisors is this day presented with properly filed, duly sworn petitions for the suspension of the collection of property taxes and/or special assessments pursuant to Iowa Code Section 427.8; and WHEREAS, the properties for which the assessments against the Petitioners are made lie within Linn County, Iowa; and

WHEREAS, the Petitioners are unable to contribute to the public revenue by reason of age, infirmity, or both. BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Linn County Board of Supervisors, this date met in lawful session, that the attached petitions are approved for the Petitioners, parcels, and tax years described as follows:

PETITIONER	PARCEL #	TAX YEARS SPECIAL #
Sisson, Michael	13243-30008-00000	2025

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Linn County Board of Supervisors orders the Linn County Treasurer to suspend the collection of the property taxes assessed against the Petitioners or the Petitioner's estates, for the parcels listed above for the tax years as indicated.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign a proposal with Eastern Iowa Council of Governments to create a fringe area agreement between Linn County and the City of Center Point, not to exceed \$9,000.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign a Public Bidder Tax Sale Certificate Abatement Agreement for property located at 2511 Illinois Street SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Shared Road Maintenance and Snow and Ice Control Agreement between the City of Marion and Linn County Secondary Road Department.

Award bid and authorize the Chair to sign a contract for calcium chloride for dust control to Binns and Stevens in the amount of \$763,400 for the Secondary Road Department.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign Change Order No. 2 with Larson Construction to increase the contract sum for the Linn County Secondary Road Headquarters Project by \$80,586.97.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign Change Order No. 8 with Garling Construction to increase the contract sum for the Linn County Correctional Center Isolation Cell Buildout Project by \$1,605.02.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Subordination Agreement for a mortgage lien against the following real property: lots 32 and 33, of the Dows Farm Agri-Community First Addition.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Subordination Agreement for a mortgage lien against the following real property: lots 36 and 37, of the Dows Farm Agri-Community First Addition.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Subordination Agreement for a mortgage lien against the following real property: lots 38 and 39, of the Dows Farm Agri-Community First Addition.

Approve purchase order PO708 in the amount of \$13,759.33 to Rapids Wholesale for a commercial dishwasher for Child and Youth Development Center.

Approve purchase order PO706 in the amount of \$18,642.04 to Vulcan Signs for traffic control signs for the Secondary Road Department.

Approve purchase order PO705 in the amount of \$417,500 to Bituminous Material & Supply for Dust Control Material - MC-70, Dust Control Material – MC-3000, and Demurrage for the Secondary Road Department.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that she is requesting to postpone until Monday the Resolution approving a Joint City/County Agreement (with the City of Cedar Rapids) Pertaining to the Google Urban Renewal Area and authorizing the execution of said agreement. She stated that they are working on more information regarding a bridge that needs to be taken into full consideration and that all partners are communicating (Cedar Rapids, Linn County and Fairfax).

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Running-Marquardt to postpone until Monday the following agenda item: Resolution Approving a Joint City/County Agreement (with the City of Cedar Rapids) Pertaining to the Google Urban Renewal Area and Authorizing the Execution of Said Agreement.

Lacey Schroeder, Prog. Dir., Uptown Marion Main Street; Jessie Thurn, Exec. Dir., Mount Vernon-Lisbon Community Development Group and Jennifer Borcharding, Exec. Dir., The District: Czech Village and New Bohemia, gave PowerPoint presentations highlighting ongoing and completed projects in fiscal year 2025 and provided support for their fiscal year 2026 Main Street Grant Application.

Chairperson Rogers thanked the presenters and recognized their collaboration.

Emergency Agenda Item: Discuss and decide on responding to the Executive Order pausing all grants and loans disbursed by the federal government, including assigning tasks and creation of work group to coordinate and communicate with community stakeholders.

Chairperson Rogers stated that there is currently a judicial order to delay this Executive Order until Monday. One of the questions they have is how this will impact the departments that provide critical services. They are considering activating the Board's Support Team.

Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin., stated that he was asked to provide some context for the memo that was issued Monday night for a temporary pause of federal grants and loans. He referred to the executive orders.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that at a minimum it is a good idea to move forward with an internal Board support team regardless if the entire order is thrown out or not. Her intention is that they will make every effort through steady leadership, and they will lean on the professionalism and excellence of staff that have dedicated their life in service to the people of Linn County. Part of the county's mission statement is to enhance the quality of life for those who live in Linn County and that is at the forefront of their thoughts and actions moving forward.

Meisheid stated that she is also in favor of some form of an internal support team that will help clarify where they are affected which will help them manage the information that they are receiving. In terms of community support, they all serve on boards that may be affected through how they support each other, it's important that they don't get the cart ahead of the horse since they don't necessarily know what all of it means and she concurred with Supervisor Running-Marquardt regarding steady leadership.

Chairperson Rogers reminded everyone that the Board's support team was formed after floods and the Derecho. They helped guide the Board in making a lot of decisions. The configuration of the support team may be different than what they had in the past to include and focus on departments that have federal grants and employees funded by federal grants. As it relates to community groups, that will evolve but right now they have to ensure that they understand how this impacts Linn County as an organization. Other governmental and partnership agencies are likely going to do something similar.

The Board tasked Gage to identify the appropriate members of the Board's Support Team.

Public Comment: Fairfax Mayor JoAnn Beer stated that even though the Joint City/County urban renewal area agreement has been postponed, she wanted to take the opportunity to acknowledge their appreciation for the partnership with Linn County and Cedar Rapids. Fairfax will be impacted by the agreement, and she appreciates efforts working with them. She continued to say that Fairfax shares the concerns on the executive orders issued yesterday on pausing federal funding and anything they can do to assist Linn County to identify opportunities are welcome.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Meisheid to make the following appointments:
Reappoint Dr. Donald Linder as Linn County's Chief Medical Examiner, term ending December 31, 2026; Reappoint Dr. Josh Pruitt, Dr. Jeffrey Curnes, Dr. Arleen Zahn-Houser, and Dr. Greg Blythe as

Linn County's Deputy Medical Examiners, terms ending December 31, 2026, Reappoint Alisha Weber, Kevin Weber, Michelle Kieseey, and Ben Brink as Linn County's Medical Examiner Investigators, terms ending December 31, 2026.

The Board recessed at 10:38 a.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. to discuss offer requests. Also present: Dawn Jindrich, Financial Dir., Sara Bearrows, Budget Dir. and several Elected Officials and Department Heads.

Bearrows stated that she has compiled all three supervisor's preferences and presented the offers that received two or more votes. The total is \$603,922. Adjustments were made to the amount that will be added to the Capital Improvement Plan (\$96,000).

Supervisor Meisheid explained that one of the offers from Planning & Development shows a \$7,000 credit based on projected revenue that it will bring in. She is not recognizing that projected revenue as a credit as they don't actually have that money.

Chairperson Rogers asked his colleagues if they would justify why they did not vote for any of the Treasurer's offers, noting that he was the only one.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that although it is odd that they be asked that question, she did explain her reasoning for not voting for the Treasurer's appointment software. She has not heard anything from the public asking for the ability to make appointments and she relayed the issues that she has heard regarding the IDOT's appointment only policy. So, based on her experience and there being no public outcry for scheduled appointments with the Treasurer, she did not vote for it.

Supervisor Meisheid stated that many of her constituents live far out in the county (45–50-minute drive). She is not quite on board as to what it would be like for someone who drives in and can't get an appointment. Perhaps in the future, but from a rural resident perspective, she did not vote for it. She also explained why she didn't vote for Human Resources request to upgrade Fitness Room equipment, noting that Linn County offers gym reimbursements, and this did not make any of her priorities.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Meisheid to approve offers in the amount of \$603,922 as follows:

Attorney	1.0 FTE Prosecutor III (Felony)	\$211,655
Board of Supervisors	Annual increase to the Capital Improvement Plan	96,000
Communications	Email Signature Software	1,240
Facilities	.50 FTE Administrative Assistant	56,319
Facilities	1.0 FTE Facilities Workers (2nd shift)	96,000
IT	GIS Specialist Upgrade	19,325
P&D	Lead Permit Specialist Upgrade	(7,000)
P&D	Training - Annual Code Hearings	5,000
P&D	ePlan Software	20,213
Public Health	1.0 FTE Public Health Nurse	-0-
Veteran Services	1.0 FTE Income Maintenance Worker	105,170

Chairperson Rogers announced that the White House rescinded the federal fund freeze so the Board's support team is not necessary at this time.

The Board agreed to finalize the FY 26 budget on Friday, January 31.

Adjournment at 1:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED BY:

BEN ROGERS, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors