

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025 9:00 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 February 10, 2025 as printed.

The Board received updates from the following Department Heads:

Carter Baldwin, LIFTS Dir. - Goals: Increase ridership, complete outreach activities and improve customer satisfaction; and Federal funding (may be a delay until March).

Discussion continued regarding a possible ripple effect if Federal funding is not received.

Cara Matteson, Sustainability Dir. – Key Performance Indicators; awarded IDNR Tree Grant; identified substantial private funding available from a local industry partner looking for projects to offset substantial quantities of water; follow up discussion of On-Road structure information; received RICognition Award for Land Use and Economic Development; started a bee keeping course at Indian Creek Nature Center; partner outreach; met with the Cancer Consortium Program Manager; ECICOG Comprehensive Climate Action Plan; Environmental Advocacy Day is February 19th at the State Capitol and Iowa Groundwater Assoc. Spring Conference in April.

Lisa Powell, Human Resources Dir. – LC3 activities; implementation of the Telework Policy continues; budget is on track; recruitment continues to take up a significant amount of time; employment development and recognition; 49th Core Values Academy (both classes are full); Top Rank is working with the Belong and Inclusion Group (BIG); customer satisfaction training session at Secondary Roads annual safety training will be offered to all employees this year; busy with January auditing of 2025 benefit elections; Wellmark presented their preliminary renewal rates; working on Navigate's wellness platform portal; Deferred Comp. representative will be back on site in March as well as Medicare seminars; and both unions have ratified agreements.

Supervisor Meisheid asked about the timing of renaming the group to Belong and Inclusion Group (BIG). After further discussion, it was suggested that the word "Inclusion" be changed to "Involvement".

Dawn Jindrich, Finance Dir. – Budget should be on track; ARPA monitoring by staff; and will be reassigning duties from Bev Hayden so that she is 100% under Facilities; LC3 activities (looking for an electronic based solution for Board of Supervisors contract storage); and kudos to a staff member who created a solution to manual journal entries similar to what a developer would do.

Sara Bearrows, Budget Dir. - Budget mailer and timing of budget hearing; will change the meeting time for hearing to 9:30 a.m. rather than 9:00 a.m. on April 23.

Discussion continued regarding any anticipated property tax reform. Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin., stated that he has not heard of any legislation this session on property tax regulations.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt commended Budget & Finance for their steady leadership and guidance to the Board and excellence in serving the public.

Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy and Admin. – Budget is on track; Key Performance Indicators include policy improvement and creation; quarterly goal setting; Capital Projects/Construction Projects: Harris Bldg. & Public Service Center A/V projects, Overflow Shelter, Jail Isolation Cells, Secondary Roads Headquarters & Courthouse Renovation (phases funded with CIP); challenges of the Fillmore Bldg. listing (could possibly use for storage or Elections); 59 Witwer Grant applications; Water & Land Legacy Bond Public Review Board; inventory of county programs, services and activities that may be impacted by Executive Order 14151; legislative priorities (EMA budget, Veteran's Trust Fund, Veteran Services officer training requirements and the Governor's executive order establishing a government efficiency task force (Iowa DOGE).

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Gage gave a recap of the county's weather closing procedures given tomorrow's anticipated forecast.

Adjournment at 10:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED BY:

BEN ROGERS, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors