

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025 9:00 A.M.

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

Chairperson Meisheid called the meeting to order.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Rogers to approve minutes of February 24, 2025 as presented.

The Board received updates from the following Department Heads:

David Thielen, LCCS Exec. Dir. - Budget on target (most likely will be underspent at the Juvenile Detention Center due to vacancies); General Assistance – Emergency Rental Assistance Program funds have run out and press release was issued; ECI/DECAT – regionalization of the ECI programs (meeting with HR and County Attorney to discuss all of the possibilities); Juvenile Detention – met last week with Risk Mgmt., I.T. and Facilities to address needs for security and safety including courtyard cameras and locks in the building (follow-up meeting in March); Access Center – Director has attended a couple of Days on the Hill in Des Moines; continue to monitor the Behavioral Health redesign; Child Care & Youth Development – waiting to see how the Governor's initiative's play out; staff is working to upgrade the online presence of the childcare website and its forms; OPTIONS – applied for grants from the ECR for technology and infrastructure support; begun to prepare for CARF accreditation; and leaving Friday for Washington DC for NACO.

Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir. – Morgan Creek Trail from 42nd St. to the Cedar River (contractor is in place); Pinicon Ridge Mountain Bike Trail Design (approximately half done); Grant Wood Trail Paralta Rd. to Springville Rd. (bids handled by IDOT); Pinicon Ridge Campground Expansion and Cabins (behind schedule); Pinicon Ridge Boat Concession Dredging (final phase); Dows Maniti Trail Underpass at Lakeside Rd. (contract awarded); Morgan Creek Lodge Construction (contract awarded); conditions were not ideal for cross-country ski trails grooming; working on wetlands grant at Morgan Creek Park; working on The Nature Conservancy on wetland design for oxbow restoration projects at various county areas; 120 acres of prairie plantings is being planned (funded by monarch research proj); plans for Tower Terrace Rd. extension includes an underpass and additional connections for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail crossing; complimented county staff re: weekend water issue; and gearing up for camping season and the upcoming recreation season.

Dustin Peterson, Veteran Serv. Dir. – budget is on target; helped nine Linn County veterans experiencing financial hardship in January; helped 105 veterans in January; the application window for the new Income Maintenance Worker has closed (at least 55 applications were received); upcoming training opportunities; press release sent out re: layoff of federal VA staff members (Linn County veterans are not affected); hoping to start a Veteran of the Month recognition program; and benefits received by veterans in January.

Phil Lowder, I.T. Dir. – KPI's are tracking; budget is underspent; three staff vacancies; having a significant amount of phone issues from service provider; and patch vulnerabilities and cybersecurity (stolen credentials is an issue for 2025).

Charles Struck, I. T. Development Mgr., stated that the migration of TEAMS phones is moving forward and explained the details of the system. This has been rolled out to the I.T. department as a pilot group.

Jon Gallagher, Soil Conservation – Impact of changes at the federal level as they rely on federal assistance for programs. All staff received the email asking for what they did last week (receiving guidance from USDA); the federal halt in contractual payments to farmers is not affecting existing contracts for Linn County (they are hopeful that they will have a funding stream); slough bill signup (2,000 acres were evaluated); local initiatives (on road structure pilot project and Morgan Creek wetland project); and attended Weed Commissioner's conference last week.

Adjournment at 9:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED BY:

BRANDY Z. MEISHEID, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors