

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025 9:00 A.M.

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

Chairperson Meisheid called the meeting to order.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Rogers to approve minutes of March 3, 2025, as presented.

The Board received updates from the following Elected Officials:

Brian Gardner, Sheriff –housing US Marshall inmates once again; there are a few inmates on hold for ICE; Deputy Sheriff testing in January (extended job offers to three); for three years they have been purchasing hybrid patrol cars but unfortunately batteries are warranted for 100,000 miles and they are dying (\$4,000 battery per car).

Supervisor Rogers asked Sheriff Gardner to give his thoughts about the House Study Bill that addresses immigration enforcement.

Sheriff Gardner responded that he does not know the status of the House Study Bill, however, this particular bill appears to put more responsibility on local law enforcement. He has no extra deputies to do immigration enforcement, and he doesn't see devoting a lot of time to that.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that she has received seven emails from Linn County residents regarding this issue and four of them were assuming that Linn County was the lawmaker. She noted that there are several other issues across the state involving the Sheriff and she wanted him to know how much she appreciates his leadership and stated that he is a great partner with the Board. The County is fortunate to have him leading as the Sheriff of Linn County.

Sheriff Gardner stated that he is surrounded by many great employees and credits all of it to those that work for him.

Chairperson Meisheid stated that she also appreciates his open communication and collaboration.

Carolyn Siebrecht, Recorder – Recorder's Assoc. has modernization submissions to the legislature and she has talked to the county's lobbyists; a new employee started in her office and is doing great; working on a media campaign about property fraud and title theft; office reorganization has begun (flipped passport and vital records windows); and the number of passports are up compared to last year at this time.

Discussion continued regarding the increase of passport traffic, partly related to citizenship and new signage to reflect the change in the service windows.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that she has received feedback from citizens regarding how the Recorder's Office staff is going above and beyond right now with the influx of people getting passports. She greatly appreciates Siebrecht's leadership.

Siebrecht stated that her office also receives support from the Treasurer's Office and Planning & Development employees that help with translation.

Brent Oleson, Treasurer and his deputies explained the status of the installation of the new appointment software with a possible launch date of July 1 and title statistics regarding non-resident customers (revenue is basically a wash).

Todd Taylor, Auditor – taxing entity deadline for the budget statement mailer is due tomorrow (expect to be in mailboxes no later than March 15); today is election day for the city of Robins (levy question) and Lisbon Comm. Sch. Dist. (PPEL) and he will be visiting precincts; concern was noted that earlier today emails from IT explained the phone system was down, including the Auditor's Office. As they approach the next large election, he needs assurance that they have a phone system that works for the public to call in. He is looking forward to working on this being solved. Bottom line, the voters need to make a phone call and get a person to answer their question; he and Deputy Warfield went to Linn Mar to speak to students to talk about voting and the process (working with them for involvement in their participation in elections); finishing Core Values tomorrow (it's been very helpful and he has met a lot of county employees); and working through the process of fulfilling the duties as a member of Supervisor Vacancy Committee.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt expressed her appreciation for the work that has been put into the language that will be on the budget statement mailer. She also appreciates Taylor's involvement in the Supervisor Vacancy Committee and the extra time and meetings that it entails. She sincerely appreciates the work.

Chairperson Meisheid also expressed her appreciation for his work with the other Supervisor Vacancy Committee members and for them looking out for the county.

Adjournment at 9:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED BY:

BRANDY Z. MEISHEID, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors