

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025 9:00 A.M.

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

Chairperson Meisheid called the meeting to order.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve minutes of March 10, 2025, as presented.

The Board received updates from the following Department Heads:

Brad Ketels, County Eng. – started his shop tours & meeting with staff; working on updating strategic plan; Secondary Roads Headquarters (May 1, 2026 completion) and overall facilities management plan; develop comprehensive operations, construction and people management plans; fostering team communications; every employee has access to an electronic device (clocks in/out and emails); GAPM survey issue they are working on is "proving for an accurate picture of reality"; budget is on target; contracts are in place for 2025 rock projects; water main extension to new headquarters has started; Design Tech. position has been posted again; crack filling and spraying has been contracted out; upcoming bridge projects (N. Center Point Rd., Covington Rd. and Ely Rd.); city of Bertram's truss bridge project; MidAmerican Natural Gas Line (county hires a third party inspector); and winter operations matrix.

Chairperson Meisheid thanked Ketels for meeting with her and she appreciates him going out to the shops and meeting with staff and engaging in communication with them. She also noted that she appreciates the conversation they had about Alice Rd. and the public comment last week. She appreciates the upcoming traffic count and considering questions.

Carter Baldwin, LIFTS Dir. - drug and alcohol testing compliance review; FTA triennial review is underway (all documents have been submitted); attended legislative conference regarding federal funding (funding is still expected); purchased new tablets for drivers; and city of Cedar Rapids Transit Director will be retiring (new Director has been appointed).

Discussion continued regarding Medicaid reimbursable rides. Rural residents currently pay \$2.00/ride.

Lisa Powell, Human Resources Dir. – IT issues with new telework agreements has been resolved and caught up on new agreements; Navigate portal launched; Learning Inst. quarterly check in's with departments are going well; working on GAPM improvements; budget on target; continue to work on job description updates; reaching out to the departments for assistance; involved in interviews; shared comments from the 49th Core Values and 2nd Advanced Core Values; next Employee Recognition Breakfast will be held April 16; the Belonging and Involvement Group (BIG) is identifying action items (plan to move forward); quarterly management training starts April 17; Wellness Program statistics; Deferred Comp. provider will be onsite; and Medicare seminars are being offered.

Chairperson Meisheid commended the HR staff for answering all of her questions, noting that they are very welcoming and helpful.

Cara Matteson, Sustainability Dir. - Key Performance Indicators listed; put a beehive at Community Service Building; looking at locations for native plantings on county property; collaborating with ECICOG (Comprehensive Climate Action Plan); partner outreach listed; need for more specific education and outreach for rural areas on floodplain management; funding of the various watershed management authorities; Community Transportation Academy event in Cedar Rapids this year; Gazette spotlight article; Iowa Groundwater Assoc. Spring Conf. at Indian Creek Nature Center April 2; Prairiewood has requested she be on their operating board and attending Midwest Climate Summit in Wisconsin.

Dawn Jindrich, Finance Dir. and Sara Bearrows, Budget Dir - budget on target; Budget Statement Mailer will hit mailboxes tomorrow; public hearing dates; next budget amendment; Quarterly Goal setting project is to have one electronic central location for all Board of Supervisor contracts (looking for a Docuware enhancement to sort them out).

Darrin Gage, Director of Policy and Admin. – budget on target; Key Performance Indicators; Learning Institute Quarterly goal setting (streamline board and commission vacancy process); training coming in June (ADA Coordinator credential); Overflow Shelter project will be in full swing when it closes in May; Jail Isolation Cell project is completed; Secondary Road Headquarter earthwork is halfway complete as is the watermain extension from 35th St. in Marion to project site; Courthouse HVAC project will be done in three phases; and Water Land & Legacy. Gage gave the following legislative update:

- **SF 507** (SB 115) by Local Gov't Committee –Prohibits County and city DEI programs –Passed committee – Undecided
- **SF 596** (SF 26) by Local Gov't Committee Requires BOS to fully fund EMA budgets – Passed committee – Against

- **SF 75** (SSB 1018) by Local Gov't Committee -- Requires a special election to a fill vacancy on the Board of Supervisors in counties over 125,000 or with a regent's institution – Passed Senate on March 10 – Against
- **HSB 286** by Judiciary Committee – Ban on public camping in unauthorized areas – Did not advance through Committee – Against
- **SJR 6** (17 sponsors) – Eliminating voter-approved Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund – Did not advance through Committee – Not registered
- **HF 156** by Rinker (Des Moines County) – Raising the limit townships may levy for fire protection and emergency medical services – Did not advance through subcommittee –Undecided
- **HSB 287** by Judiciary Committee – Construction of a hazardous liquid pipeline for liquified carbon dioxide does not constitute a “public use” – Advanced through Committee –Undecided
- **HSB 162** by Local Gov't Committee -- Requires cities and counties to adopt a rule allowing a minimum of one accessory dwelling unit on the same lot as a single-family residence – Passed committee –Undecided
- **SF 493** by Local Gov't Committee – Prohibits local governments from using tax money to hire lobbyists – Undecided
- **SSB 1150** by Local Gov't Committee – Prohibits DEI programs – Undecided
- **SSB 1208** by Ways & Means – Budget Bill (52 pages) phases out the residential rollback over five years, etc.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that Gage received recognition from ECICOG yesterday for his service on the ECICOG Board and she thanked him for his years of support for ECICOG. She also recognized his involvement assisting the Supervisor Vacancy Committee and preparing for a smooth transition when a new Supervisor comes on board.

Chairperson Meisheid also thanked Gage for always being available, noting how knowledgeable he is and she appreciates the work he does.

Eric Loecher, Elections Staff, presented statistics regarding the March 4, 2025 Special Election for the Lisbon Community School District Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) and City of Robins levy question. He stated that the first tier is today for Lisbon and the second tier will be March 17th.

The Board canvassed the votes of the March 4, 2025 Special Election for the Lisbon Community School District Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) and City of Robins levy question.

Adjournment at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED BY:

BRANDY Z. MEISHEID, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors