

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2025 10:00 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 25 & 26, 2025, as presented.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Meisheid to approve claims dated 3/28/25 for payroll deduction checks #71017377 - #71017381 in the amount of \$12,704.79, ACH in the amount of \$61,264.91, an EFT wire in the amount of \$758,269.55 and a Ceridian ER Funds Trust Wire in the amount of \$2,160,697.81, for a total of \$2,992,937.06.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to open a public hearing on a proposal to name a private road within the subdivision known as Waubeek Bluffs First Addition. The proposed name would be Waubeek Bluffs Road. Recorded in document #2025-002208.

Garret Reddish, Asst. County Engineer, stated that they have received no oral or written objections.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to close public hearing.

County Attorney Nick Maybanks presented a Vacancy Form requesting a full-time Prosecutor III effective July 1. He plans to promote from within. The Board will approve on Wednesday.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Meisheid to approve and authorize the Chair to sign a Storm Sewer Easement Agreement to convey to Linn County, Iowa a temporary easement for right-of-way in connection with Linn County's project No. ROAD DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve and authorize the Chair to sign a Sanitary Sewer Easement Agreement to convey to Linn County, Iowa a temporary easement for right-of-way in connection with Linn County's project No. ROAD DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve payroll authorizations (detail is available upon request).

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to go into a closed session to discuss pending litigation, pursuant to Code of Iowa 21.5(1)(c).

VOTE: Meisheid – Aye Running-Marquardt – Aye

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to go out of closed session.

VOTE: Meisheid – Aye Running-Marquardt – Aye

The Board recessed at 10:34 a.m. and reconvened at 4:00 p.m. for a joint meeting with the Linn County Farm Bureau, Farm Bureau Bldg.1323 Boyson Road, Hiawatha, Iowa.

Introductions were made and the following was discussed:

Charlie Nichols, Planning & Development Dir., gave an update on the status of approved solar projects stating that NextEra Phases I & II have been completed and they are pivoting from solar to restarting of the Duane Arnold Nuclear Plant. It's been three years since the Coggon Solar Project was approved and they are currently on hold. Discussion continued regarding electric demands in Linn County and the balance of renewal energy.

Nichols also gave an update on the Dows Farm project, noting that the developer has roads in and have started building houses. The next phase is the commercial area along Mt. Vernon Rd. The farming component has not been settled. Discussion continued regarding Linn County's current and future involvement.

Nichols addressed the 2024 change in the Board's policy to prohibit right of way dedication when it involves an active farm. Discussion continued regarding possible future changes for active farms and the Board encouraged input to make the process more reasonable and fairer, without extra hurdles.

The group discussed what they knew about the status of the Marion Airport overlay considering the changing nature of the airport itself. If it is privately owned and what will that look like.

Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir., gave an update on the Land, Water, and Legacy Bond & what projects are currently being proposed or funded. He clarified that maintenance is not paid from the bond funds. Goemaat also listed Conservation water quality projects and explained in detail the Central City dam project and dredging of backwaters at Pinicon Ridge.

Goemaat also explained the status and future plans for the Palo conservation project, noting that the beavers have created dams, thus creating wetland, therefore, saving money.

Brad Ketels, Co. Engineer, gave an update on the condition of county bridges and rural infrastructure. Rock road pilot project was explained as well as rock overlay and the spot rock program. Discussion continued regarding seal coat maintenance after Farm Bureau members expressed concerns about some private sealcoats not being maintained.

Discussion continued regarding challenges of the maintenance and improvement of the approaches at railroad crossings on secondary roads.

Ketels gave an update on the new Secondary Roads Headquarters which is to be completed by May 2026.

Chairperson Meisheid gave an update on the status and lifespan of the solid waste facility on County Home Road, noting that they are in discussions with the city of Marion.

Sheriff Gardner gave a detailed explanation of the state of the 911 system and the continued decrease in revenue and associated fees for updating and maintaining communication systems for rural communities. Surcharge revenue is going down and expenses are going up.

Sara Bearrows, Budget Dir., gave an in-depth overview of the 2026 proposed budget (available on the county's website).

The composition of the county compensation board was discussed which is now comprised of the Board of Supervisors. The recommended salary increases for Elected Officials effective July 1, 2025 is 4% with the exception of the Sheriff which is 6.5%.

Jon Gallagher, Soil Conservation, reminded Farm Bureau members of the programs that are available for sign up and stated that two key federal staff members were let go on Friday, therefore, processing said applications will take longer.

Adjournment at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

BRANDY Z. MEISHEID, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors