

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 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. Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

Chairperson Meisheid called the meeting to order.

The Board received updates from the following Elected Officials:

Brian Gardner, Sheriff – housing US Marshall inmates and there is space for inmates on hold for ICE. He noted that ICE has the ability to look through their custody list and determine if they have immigration issues. The county does not know what the actual charges are (just immigration or also criminal charge). Hired three deputies out of six that were eligible (testing again in May).

Supervisor Running-Marquardt thanked Sheriff Gardner for attending the Farm Bureau meeting last evening and stated that the people of Linn County are so very fortunate to be served by him and his leadership. She expressed her humble gratitude for him and his team. Chairperson Meisheid concurred.

Nick Maybanks, County Attorney – continue their streak of accountability with murder cases and listed the cases and attorney's involved in the guilty verdicts; caseload statistics; law enforcement training; prosecution of first human trafficking case since law was passed; successful labor/management meeting worked with legislators on criminal groping bill (did not move forward) and legislation on assault cases (could be a drain on resources); and marijuana diversion program.

Katherine Shimkat, Criminal Prosecutor, discussed and explained the marijuana diversion program.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that the State of Iowa has moved from prosecuting the victims to understanding what human trafficking is and going after them. That is quite a significant change. She truly believes it sends a message and also gives hope to those out there that might be facing that situation. She added that they know that parking is an issue on the island, and it has not been forgotten. The Courthouse construction is moving along as well as the planning for the Courthouse celebration.

Chairperson Meisheid also thanked Maybanks and his team. She gave a shout out to Molly Edwards and Katherine Shimkat.

Carolyn Siebrecht, Recorder - Recorder's Fee Modernization still has two proposals going through the legislature. They are working with the Communications Dept. to roll out their property fraud alert notification sign up. A media release is scheduled for April 3rd kicking off the property fraud alert and title theft campaign. They recorded 2792 real estate documents in March, up 400 documents from March of 2024. Last month they reorganized the office to better facilitate the flow of customer traffic. They are hoping to have the signage updated by the end of the month. It's boat renewal season, which occurs every 3 years. Passports continue to be busy. This past month they took in 709 new passport applications. Have spent a lot of time working to fill the Supervisor vacancy position. Today at 1:30 p.m. is their final meeting to discuss and appoint a new District 2 Supervisor.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt encouraged Siebrecht to touch base with the county's lobbyists on her legislation. The Board also commended Siebrecht and her staff on excellent customer service.

Todd Taylor, Auditor – Budget Statement mailer generated about 60 calls to the office over the course of several days. Senator Dawson has indicated that there is consideration to simplify/eliminate the mailer. The final mailer cost was \$55,600. This does not include Auditor staff time. Staff is reviewing the department's budget status and prepping for a Spring Amendment. Ag and FF state report was submitted Friday, Mar. 28th. Cities/County/Schools adopted budgets are due April 30th and reviewing and prepping for Dayforce upgrade.

Discussion continued regarding the confusion that the mandated property tax mailer has caused.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt commended Taylor, Siebrecht and Oleson for the amount of work they have put in to fill the Supervisor vacancy. She appreciates all of the extra work and they have handled it all above board, following the law with grace. She also mentioned staff members that have assisted on a separate issue, fire districts. She also reiterated that there is a meeting today at 1:30 p.m. that is open to the public to appoint a new Supervisor.

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Adjournment at 9:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

BRANDY Z. MEISHEID, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors