

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 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 Scheetz. Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

Chairperson Meisheid called the meeting to order.

The Board received updates from the following Department Heads.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve minutes of April 7, 2025 as printed.

Brad Ketels, County Engineer – updated their department's strategic plan; working on team communication; GAPM action item: Provide for a more accurate picture of reality; presenting at the National County Engineers Conference next week; Spring budget amendment is being prepared; list of top 10 expenditures; Secondary Roads Headquarters (making good progress with a move in date of May 2026); one open vacancy (been open for two years); hired seasonal employees; construction lettings; grant applications; employee trainings; MidAmerican Natural Gas Line and a third party inspector; road conditions as a result of the Spring Thaw and embargoed roads.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt referred to a policy regarding when a position has been vacant for a certain amount of time and possibly removed from the budget. Ketels will look into it.

Chairperson Meisheid noted all of the challenges with the roads and that the embargoes are only temporary in order to handle the frost boils. She thanked Ketels and his staff for answering all of her phone calls regarding various issues.

Carter Baldwin, LIFTS Dir. – a staff member (mechanic) is moving to Conservation; FTA Triennial review is coming up as part of the city of Cedar Rapids transit to provide their paratransit services; the application to provide Medicaid Waiver rides is being completed and will be submitted shortly; new tablets have been deployed to all the drivers; and reevaluating how they cover operations when they are short on drivers.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt thanked Baldwin for all of the work they put into the Medicaid Waiver rides. She also plans to do a ride along and recognized the crucial service to the most vulnerable citizens of Linn County.

Supervisor Scheetz thanked Baldwin for the incredible service they provide.

Chairperson Meisheid commented on her ride along on a LIFTS bus and her experience.

Cara Matteson, Sustainability Dir. – Mission Statement and Key Performance Indicators explained in detail including pending grants and pilot urban beehive at the Community Service Building; met with Dubuque County Watershed Manager program overview; Ecofest will be held April 26th at Newbo; Linn County is involved in six watersheds; Community Transportation Academy; attended Iowa Groundwater Assoc. Spring Conference (topics explained in detail); future training opportunities and her office has been completed and she has moved in.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt asked Matteson to contact and coordinate with Public Health regarding well testing, watersheds and Data Center's that are being located in Linn County.

The Board thanked Matteson for her critical work.

Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy and Admin. – budget is on target; no vacancies; Key Performance Indicator (policy review); training opportunities; working on new onboarding process for Board of Supervisors; pre-construction meeting today for the Winter Shelter (sprinkler systems and other life safety measures); Secondary Roads Headquarters project (earthwork is 60% complete and will start steel work); Courthouse renovation project explained; the first stage of the Juvenile Detention center evaluation has been completed; EMS is an essential service and Board and Auditor staff met regarding allowable uses of various levies; legislation overview at the state level (restricts county and city DEI programs; handsfree driving; prohibits local governments from hiring lobbyists; requires the Board to fully fund EMA budgets as presented; raise limit that townships may levy; raises fines for violating open meeting law; and eminent domain for a pipeline).

Supervisor Scheetz thanked staff and his colleagues for all of their help when he was appointed last week.

The Board indicated that they are very appreciative of the efforts for a new onboarding process.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt also thanked Gage and the amazing team for all of their work and support, including Deputy Auditor Shoop. Linn County is truly an envy throughout the state of Iowa.

Adjournment at 10:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

BRANDY Z. MEISHEID, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors