

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2025 10:00 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.

Public Comment: Brian Price, 5589 Nickel Plate Rd., Coggon, stated that he wanted to comment about the two Resolutions on today's agenda regarding road embargoes on gravel roads. His neighborhood has several of them and he has had discussions with Secondary Roads trying to come up with a solution. He has talked to Supervisor Meisheid about it and would like to have a solution that makes it better for everyone. As farmers out there, they have to use that road and there is no way to get to the farm with the 5-ton embargo on it. They've tried to provide solutions to Secondary Roads on how they can work together to still be able to use those roads. Yes, he can get a permit, but it places liability on the person with the permit for any damage that comes to that road and quite frankly, they are not the ones that damaged the road in the first place. They called Secondary Roads when a number of gravel trucks went up and down that road (when they could have gone any other way). Secondary Roads came out and embargoed the road the next day. He would like to see some sort of a policy that explains what they can expect when a road gets embargoed and how they can still do their jobs. It's planting time now and they have no choice but to use that road and there have been no solutions provided to them. They've offered up solutions, but don't want to get the permit because liability goes on the permit holder and someone else could do the damage. No matter what, they will get blamed for the problem. They are looking for solutions to try to be able to use the road and to prevent dealing with this every spring. There should be ways to solve this problem. Secondary Roads has told him that this is a policy issue, and they are following the policy. He'd like to see some changes to the policy so that they, as a community, can understand what they should expect when roads get embargoed.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve minutes of April 9, 2025 as printed.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve claims dated 4/11/25 for payroll deduction checks #71017528 - #71017533 in the amount of \$10,274.16, ACH in the amount of \$23,187.50, an EFT wire in the amount of \$26,208.98 and a Ceridian ER Funds Trust Wire in the amount of \$2,184,708.87, for a total of \$2,244,379.51.

David Thielen, LCCS Dir., met with the Board to discuss the reallocation of Juvenile Detention funds totaling \$136,758.30 from Salary/Benefits to Operations for Security and IT upgrades. He stated that due to the high vacancy rate at the Juvenile Detention Center, they are underspent in payroll and he would like to move the funds to upgrade security issues that have been identified by Risk Management, Darrin Gage, IT and Facilities.

Thielen also discussed the reallocation of Juvenile Detention funds totaling \$120,000 to Community Services for the 2025/2026 Winter Overflow Shelter through the Housing Fund of Linn County. He continued to explain that there has never been a line item for this.

Dawn Jindrich, Budget Dir., stated that if Thielen wants this as a standing line item in the budget, it would have to be submitted as an Offer.

The Board indicated that they strongly encourage that this be considered in next year's budget, noting the importance of it.

Thielen also presented the Relias Learning Agreement between Iowa Association of Community Providers and Options of Linn County for 21 subscriptions effective May 1, 2025, through April 30, 2026, for a total of \$1,365. He stated that all staff are required to have training, noting that this is switching from one provider to another.

The Board will approve all three items on Wednesday's Consent Agenda.

Jerad Kelley, Secondary Roads Operations Supt., explained the road embargo process they use in the spring to protect the roads. He recapped the history of the road embargoes starting with 2019 when it was extremely wet to the last six years when there were very few embargoes. It is totally based on weather conditions. This year, they have 15 or so roads embargoed, noting that it is very isolated to the NE and SW corners of Linn County. Kelley continued to give the reasons why they embargo roads, emphasizing that it is a mechanism to handle heavy loads, providing safety to the traveling public and protecting taxpayers' assets. He does understand what farmers must do and confirmed that the embargo permit process does place liability on the permit holder. He addressed the embargoed roads in the NE area which sounds like it is due to the lime trucks. The SW corner is related to a contract for 5000 loads hauled out of Wendling Quarry and they have a meeting this week regarding the establishment of a haul route.

Discussion continued regarding the 2019 Resolutions that authorized embargoes.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that moving forward, she is requesting that the Board look at the Resolutions together with the County Engineer so that they are all on the same page. She also expressed concerns for the College Community School District and how residents and entities are notified.

A lengthy discussion continued regarding the SW area and the Wending Quarry not being able to haul until the IDOT has established a haul road. The NE area (Nickel Plate Rd.) could be released soon, depending on how the roads firm up.

Lisa Epp, Asst. County Atty., addressed the Code Section regarding the interpretation of haul vehicles and whether or not it is for road maintenance.

After further lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that they amend the 2019 Resolutions to continue the five (5) and ten (10) ton weight limits established by said Resolution except for paved roads, and except for local deliveries for residential and agricultural purposes.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Meisheid adopt Resolution 2025-4-54

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 2019-2-35 RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 5-TON WEIGHT LIMIT ON THE SECONDARY ROAD SYSTEM OF LINN COUNTY TO ALLOW LOCAL DELIVERIES

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2019, the Linn County Board of Supervisors ("Board") passed and approved Resolution 2019-2-35 entitled "Establish 5 Ton Embargo"; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2019-2-35 established a five (5) ton embargo weight limit on the Secondary Road System of Linn County, except for paved roads, directed the County Engineer to post signs as needed and as prescribed in Iowa Code Section 321.472, and authorized the County Engineer to remove said embargo at any time that the Board is not in session, when the condition improves so that the embargo is no longer necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that it is in the best interest of the public to continue the five (5) ton weight limit established by Resolution 2019-2-35 for the Secondary Road System of Linn County, except for paved roads, and except for local deliveries for residential and agricultural purposes.

NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Linn County Board of Supervisors that Resolution 2019-2-35 is hereby amended to allow local deliveries for residential and agricultural purposes on Linn County secondary roads with a five (5) ton embargo weight limit.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Meisheid adopt Resolution 2025-4-55

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 2019-2-36 RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 10-TON WEIGHT LIMIT ON THE SECONDARY ROAD SYSTEM OF LINN COUNTY TO ALLOW LOCAL DELIVERIES

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2019, the Linn County Board of Supervisors ("Board") passed and approved Resolution 2019-2-36 entitled "Establish 10 Ton Embargo"; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2019-2-36 established a ten (10) ton embargo weight limit on the Secondary Road System of Linn County, directed the County Engineer to post signs as needed and as prescribed in Iowa Code Section 321.472, and authorized the County Engineer to remove said embargo at any time that the Board is not in session, when the condition improves so that the embargo is no longer necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that it is in the best interest of the public to continue with the ten (10) ton weight limit established by Resolution 2019-2-36 for the Secondary Road System of Linn County, except for local deliveries for residential and agricultural purposes.

NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Linn County Board of Supervisors that Resolution 2019-2-36 is hereby amended to allow local deliveries for residential and agricultural purposes on Linn County secondary roads with a ten (10) ton embargo weight limit.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Meisheid to approve amended Resolution's for 5 & 10 ton embargoes.

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

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve the reappoint of the following members of the Water and Land Legacy Bond Public Review Board for a three-year term, ending December 31, 2027: Bruce Frana, William Desmarais, Jennifer Fencil and Mollie Lorenz

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).

Meisheid – Aye Running-Marquardt – Aye Scheetz – Aye

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

Meisheid – Aye Running-Marquardt – Aye Scheetz – Aye

Adjournment at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

BRANDY Z. MEISHEID, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors