

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 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.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve minutes of April 21, 2025 as printed.

The Board received updates from the following Department Heads:

David Thielen, LCCS Executive Dir. – submitted budget amendment; General Assistance - Winter Weather Shelter statistics (average 71 per night); continue to work on Code rewrite; continue to work with community partners over food security concerns. ECI/DECAT – continue to be uncertain about the ECI state transition; the new district board is in place as required by the state; funding for the district will create a major funding gap. Juvenile Detention -hiring and retention of staff (lack of institutional knowledge); bringing in other educational opportunities as Grant Wood will not be providing education; continue to monitor the Detention Home Fund (determines how much each center is reimbursed from the State); Scott County will be opening a new facility. Ryan White Program – fully funded and looking to hire new Case Manager. Mental Health Access Center – have not received their license for withdrawal management; Erin Foster was appointed to the Advisory Board for the new District. East Central Region – named the Disability Access Point and contract was signed last week; Options – will have a State of Iowa HCBS licensing visit.

The Board discussed possibly moving the Food Systems Council from Planning & Development to General Assistance.

Supervisor Running Marquardt stated that right now with so many boards and committees that are transitioning, she is extremely grateful for Thielen and his team who are managing and standing guard for the most vulnerable populations. His institutional knowledge and those he works with is far above what any other county can hope for. Their dedication to those populations saves people's lives.

Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir. – campgrounds are open and getting facilities and trails ready; Conservation Board would like a joint meeting to show the Board projects that are completed or underway at Pinicon Ridge (campground expansion, playground installation, cabins, mountain bike trail, tree plantings, boat concession dredging); Morgan Creek Lodge preconstruction meeting held; and spring nature egg hunt was a success. Discovered a lodge at Wanatee Park had issues which caused major deterioration.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that Morgan Creek Park has provided tremendous access for families, and they will now have a lodge for residents to enjoy.

Pramod Dwivedi, Health Department Dir. – Reaccreditation due by June 30, 2027; workforce development planning and implementation efforts are actively underway; pausing their Strategic Plan for now, in light of potential changes at the state and federal level; Care for Yourself program enrollments and data collection; Preventing Violence Affecting Young Lives program (in the fourth year); Air Monitoring and Clinic statistics; mobile flu vaccination services; refugee/immigration update; onsite wastewater systems statistics; private well grant; inspection statistics; National Public Health Week by Proclamation; measles education and MMR vaccines; and 99 counties cancer project (hosting a public presentation on May 29)

Jon Gallagher, Soil Conservation Dept. Head – CRP contracts (have seen some challenges with the dry and windy Spring); made aware on March 28 that they were losing two contract employees (asking landowners to be patient due to lack of staffing); assisted Linn Soil & Water Conservation Dist. with preparation and submittal of resolutions to Conservation Districts of Iowa; Agriculture & Water Sustainability Project (field review of conservation practices on land owned by Eastern Iowa Airport per request); joint efforts with Linn County Public Health on various issues; urban technical assistance; and continue to have conversations with the Dows Farm and provided technical assistance to a Bever Park group.

Dustin Peterson, Veteran Services Dir. – budget is on track; six Linn County veterans and their families received assistance to relieve financial burdens in March; served 87 local veterans in March for claims and pensions; community outreach included Resource & Wellness Summit April 26, Cedar Valley Veterans Network event; supported a Federal VA Claims Clinic at the Iowa City National Guard Armory; he and staff attended the Iowa Assoc. of Veteran Services Spring School in Des Moines; the Iowa Dept. of Veteran Affairs released an updated Iowa Veterans Trust Fund Application; Iowa Dept. of Veteran

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Affairs will resume sending discharge paperwork information to all Iowa counties; and attending the National Assoc. of County Veteran Service Officer's Annual Conference in Kentucky in July. Peterson shared a good news story that involved a homeless veteran that will now receive disability, including back pay.

Chairperson Meisheid thanked Peterson for his report and for highlighting the good news story.

Adjournment at 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

BRANDY Z. MEISHEID, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors