

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
MONDAY, MAY 5, 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 (via phone). 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 30 & May 1, 2025 as printed.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Meisheid to approve accounts payable ACH in the amount of \$3,120.00.

Supervisor Meisheid read Proclamation: National Police Week, May 11-17, 2025.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to adopt said Proclamation.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt read Proclamation: National Emergency Medical Services Week, May 18-24, 2025.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Meisheid to adopt said Proclamation.

Monica Slaughter, Asst. County Atty., presented a Video Surveillance Access Request Form for the Linn County Attorney's Office requesting access to the media video player and Flir Control Center to play videos that are deemed part of investigations noting that she is not requesting the live feed. She tried to view media for an investigation but was blocked by IT and was informed that she needed Supervisor approval.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to authorize the Chair to sign a Video Surveillance Access Request Form for the Linn County Attorney's Office. Requesting access to the media video player, Flir Control Center to play videos that are deemed part of investigations

Garret Reddish, Asst. County Engineer, discussed Fiscal Year 2026 Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Secondary Road Five Year Construction Program noting that it includes revised projects that were mentioned in last week's meeting.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that she appreciates all the time Reddish spent going over this with her.

Supervisor Meisheid thanked Reddish and his team for making the minor change.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to authorize Chair to sign Fiscal Year 2026 Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Secondary Road Five Year Construction Program.

Reddish also presented an agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for an interchange project at the intersection of U.S. 151 and County Road X20 (Springville Road). This intersection will be closed for most of the project which is standard when 2 roads intersect. A detour will be posted and the IDOT has agreed to provide dust control at their cost, if needed. This agreement holds the IDOT accountable for anything that happens to Linn County's roads.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt added that over the years this intersection has been a hot spot for accidents and fatalities.

Supervisor Meisheid asked for the start date and Reddish stated that it is 2027 but could be sooner. Meisheid also added that this is in her district and she is very familiar with the location. She realizes that the location of the off ramps may impact future development for the growth of Springville, but public safety rises about that concern.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve an agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for an interchange project at the intersection of U.S. 151 and County Road X20 (Springville Road).

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to open public hearing concerning road improvement by private funds to improve Abbotsford Road and Innes Way with a two-inch asphalt overlay for the entire length of Abbotsford Road & Innes Way, 24 foot wide, earth shoulders, and driveway adjustments at an estimated cost of \$195,269.

Reddish stated that this is a subdivision and is due for some maintenance. As part of that process, they reach out to owners to advise them of the plan and give them an opportunity to improve the road(s). The owners have petitioned the Board to take that option. The owners would like an asphalt surface and have elected to proceed by private funds. The Engineer's Office recommends that the Board accept the petition with a 50% participation rate of \$97,634.50. There are costs that Linn County will not incur and

less maintenance due to the road improvements that will take place. There are 16 or 17 property owners willing to pay the cost for all 20 of the affected properties. There were no oral or written objections.

Heather Morris, 229 Abbotsford Rd., CR, stated that she is excited about the opportunity. They currently don't have a shoulder as part of the road and are all excited to have a real road.

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

Board members concurred that they have no issues with this, and it is great to improve Linn County and property owners are willing to participate.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve and set participation rate at 50% for an estimated cost of \$97,634.50 for road improvement by private funds to improve Abbotsford Road and Innes Way with a two-inch asphalt overlay for the entire length of Abbotsford Road & Innes Way, 24 foot wide, earth shoulders, and driveway adjustments.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to open public hearing on a request to rezone 22.48 acres located in the 1500 block of Big Creek Road, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, from Rural Residential One-Acre (RR1) and Agricultural (AG) to Rural Residential Two-Acre (RR2).

Brad Wylam, Planning & Development, stated that there are 3 affected lots and the applicant would like to rezone 2 of them to eliminate the different zoning districts. Rezoning would ensure that it would be in line with Linn County and Bertram's land use map as well as correcting flood plain issues. There were no oral or written objections. 3rd consideration of this request is delayed until the actual plat has been taken care of.

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

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve first consideration of a request to rezone 22.48 acres located in the 1500 block of Big Creek Road, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, from Rural Residential One-Acre (RR1) and Agricultural (AG) to Rural Residential Two-Acre (RR2).

Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Conservation Dir., discussed disposing of Linn County's interest in real property and authorizing a permanent access easement agreement to the City of Center Point, Iowa. This is a simple easement to expand Ash Lane for an expansion of the road for turning radius to allow their trucks in. There is no impact to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail.

Supervisor Meisheid stated that she is in favor of any way that they can help their residents with no impact to the trail.

Gibbins also discussed disposing of Linn County's interest in real property and authorizing a well easement to the City of Central City, Iowa. This is an opportunity for a great partnership with Central City for a community well south of the river that will support the city.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Scheetz to authorize the Chair to sign a letter of support for the City of Ely's application for Federal Fiscal Year 2026 Community Project Funding for the Old Town District Infrastructure and Connectivity Improvements Project, retroactive to May 2, 2025.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Scheetz to authorize the Chair to sign a letter of support for Horizons Family Services Miccio Foundation grant application for the AniMeals program, retroactive to May 2, 2025

Sara Bearrows, Budget Dir., discussed the annual allocation of \$10,000 from the Capital Projects budget to the Risk Management budget for the maintenance and replacement of fitness center equipment. During the tail end of the budget process there was an offer from the Treasurer's Office that was reconsidered and approved with a savings of \$18,754. For the sake of time, that money was moved to the Capital Repair Project in the general fund. There was previous discussion looking at an offer from Human Resources that requested funding and maintenance for fitness center equipment. Bearrows asked if there is interest in allocating \$10,000 to the Risk Management budget to maintain or replacement equipment in the fitness centers. Recently the fitness centers became free of charge to employees, and they have seen an increase in use since that change was made. The only funding was the \$15 charge to utilize the fitness centers and any forfeited flex money but that amount can vary. This would provide ongoing funding with the exception of the Sheriff's Office fitness center.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that she doesn't love putting money towards the fitness centers but it can help employees to stay healthier. She does not want to throw away the equipment because they can't maintain it. It is not new equipment so this would be fixing what is broken. This is part of the culture at Linn County and is a benefit to employees so it is something that she is in favor of supporting.

Supervisor Meisheid stated that she is torn on this. She agrees that having resources that allow employees to have access to stay healthy and remain active which is really important, however it did not pass the offer process to being with. It's also important to note that Linn County offers a gym

reimbursement to employees so she views this as paying for a gym twice. Meisheid would like to look at this more holistically for future years.

Supervisor Scheetz added that he is in support of it.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve Employment Change Roster (detail is available upon request).

Legislative update: Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin., presented HF834 and companion bill SF585 related to regulated utilities: an act relating to energy systems by modifying electric power, generation, energy storage, and transmission facility, ratemaking principles, creating tariffs for public utility innovation programs, implementing land restoration standards, including right of first refusal, modifying the energy infrastructure revolving loan program, and creating regulations for anaerobic digester systems, making appropriations, providing penalties, and including effective date and applicability provisions. This is for the Board's discussion and if they want to register for or against the bill.

Supervisor Meisheid stated that her personal opinion is that she does not support giving energy companies the first right of refusal as it shuts out any competition and leads to higher costs. She does not think it will lower rates. Alliant is already one of the energy companies with the highest rates. Meisheid does not feel this is in the best interest of their community. She is in favor of not registering for this bill.

Supervisor Scheetz stated that it is important to register in favor of this bill. The 1st right of refusal allows companies to get transmission work and the dollars to help support the work. This is an economic development aspect and there are massive data centers. This could bring enough energy to support these projects. It is important to have certainty, and he is in favor of supporting this to protect Iowa workers.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that ITC has several Iowa employees and has an amazing Iowa footprint. She has worked with ITC over the years as well as IBEW contracts. There are people from instate who are given the 1st right of refusal for this. She wishes they had the mechanism for this to be able to work with giant companies like Alliant and look at reducing rates or not increasing them. Running-Marquardt does not think there is any way to stop that. She is supportive of registering for this bill noting that there is never a perfect bill or sentiment and no one has all the answers.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to register in support of HF834 and SB585.

Vote: Running-Marquardt & Scheetz – Aye Meisheid - Nay

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve the Appointments of the Compensation Commission for Condemnation Purposes as follows: Bankers & Auctioneers for a term ending 6/30/2026: John Airy, Tami Moore, Christopher D. Burke, Anee M. Lampe, Jeff Gibney, Kellee Evans, Rod Short, Josh Moore; Real Estate for a term ending 6/30/2026: Lana Baldus, Dan K. Cosman, Adam Gibbs, Richard K. Isaacson, Molly Iversen, Brooke Zrudsky, Troy Munger, Doug McCalister; Rural for a term ending 6/30/2026: Wayne Blackford, Sharon Greif, Marvin Kilburger; Dave Machacek; James E. Lensch; David Prasil; Tom Watson; Joe Kwapil; Urban for a term ending 6/30/2026: John Stuelke, Dwayne Daniels, Ken Stanford, Randy Sconyers, Randy Rowland, Mike Zlatohlavek, Kathy Hall, Michael Cline, and Pytr Knoll.

Adjournment at 9:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

TODD E. TAYLOR, Linn County Auditor
By: Amanda Brown, Deputy Auditor

Approved by:

BRANDY Z. MEISHEID, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors