

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
MONDAY, MAY 19, 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: Ron Corbett, Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance, thanked the Board for having the Resolution on the agenda supporting the Cedar Rapids Community School District's proposed bond referendum for school improvements. Last Friday the Board of Education moved forward with asking voters to support a \$117 million bond issue to renovate Wilson, McKinley & Roosevelt along with some improvements to Kennedy High School. They had originally proposed \$211 million, but they listened to the residents related to the amount of the bond issue. They were sensitive to some of the concerns about what taxpayers have now about inflation and the economy. They lowered the amount of the bond issue to make great improvements to address safety and security for the students and teachers from intruders and also to preserve some of the historic aspects of the buildings. They appreciate the Supervisor's support of the petition drive today.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Scheetz to approve minutes of May 14, 2025 as printed.

Jason Siebrecht, GIS Mgr., presented the Small Government Enterprise Agreement (SGEA) between Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (Esri) and Linn County IT for the renewal of Esri term license software subscription for Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. The total subscription amount is \$541,200 for a term of 3 years and funding is in the budget. Legal has reviewed the contract and the Board will approve on Wednesday.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt arrived at 10:05 a.m.

Nichole Baker-Jones, Ryan White Program, presented the Care Facility (CF) Agreement between Linn County Community Services, Ryan White program and Riders Club of America (RCA) for a ride share program providing transport to and from medical appointments for Ryan White clients. The contract term is April 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026. Funds are covered with a grant and legal has reviewed.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve Care Facility (CF) Agreement between Linn County Community Services, Ryan White program and Riders Club of America (RCA) for a ride share program providing transport to and from medical appointments for Ryan White clients.

Dave Thielen, LCCS Dir., presented Iowa's Medicaid Quality Improvement Organization Home and Community Based Services Periodic Review for Options of Linn County conducted on April 21, 2025. The Board will approve on Wednesday.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt expressed her sincere appreciation to Thielen and his staff for taking care of the most vulnerable citizens of Linn County.

Lisa Powell, HR Dir., presented the FY26 Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Renewal Agreement indicating a 6.95% increase. She stated that this is a one-year renewal.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt thanked Powell for all of her hard work and noted that Linn County has excellent insurance. The Board will approve on Wednesday.

Powell also presented the FY26 - FY28 Delta Dental Renewal contract. She stated that the administrative fee is 2.3% for all three years and there are no significant changes other than increasing the maximum out of pocket to \$1500 annually. The Board will approve on Wednesday.

Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin., presented a Resolution in Support of the Cedar Rapids Community School District's Proposed Bond Referendum for School Improvements.

Supervisor Scheetz stated that he appreciates Ron Corbett's comments and that unfortunately the schools have not had the proper repairs and upgrades for decades. The kids deserve top notch education, and he is very supportive of the bond issue.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt concurred that kids deserve to have good quality schools (ADA compliant, working HVAC systems) and balancing that with what citizens of Cedar Rapids wanted. The school district went back and looked at their plan, revised it, and she is very much looking forward to supporting it.

Chairperson Meisheid also thanked Ron Corbett for this comments and appreciates the school district listening to the taxpayers. She too supports the project.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to adopt Resolution 2025-5-77

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CEDAR RAPIDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S
PROPOSED BOND REFERENDUM FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS**

WHEREAS, the Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCS D) Board of Education unanimously approved petition language for a proposed November 4, 2025, bond referendum to fund essential updates to existing schools, including: Renovation of McKinley Middle School, Conversion of Wilson Middle School into a modern elementary facility for Cedar River Academy and Grant Elementary students, Renovation of Roosevelt Middle School to welcome Wilson's current middle school students, and Upgrades to Kennedy High School's commons and creation of a 9th-grade wing, and WHEREAS, the approved petition language that asks the CRCS D Board of Education to call for an election on the bond proposal reflects the voices of thousands of residents, families, staff, students, and leaders in faith communities, neighborhoods, and businesses who participated in surveys, focus groups, forums, and planning over the course of more than one year; and WHEREAS, Iowa Code requires at least 25 percent of the number of registered voters in the school district, which serves Cedar Rapids, Hiawatha, Palo, and Robins, who voted in the last election for school officials to sign a petition to place the proposed school bond referendum on a ballot, and WHEREAS, the proposed investment in Cedar Rapids schools is about more than buildings, it's about creating environments that inspire learning, foster connection, reflect the dignity of every student, and help ensure that everyone can participate fully in life of our schools and community, and WHEREAS, the Linn County Board of Supervisors recognizes the CRCS D Board of Education's efforts to improve facilities, programs, services, and activities and believes that the proposed improvements will help the school district provide safe and modern learning environments. BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED the Linn County Board of Supervisors expresses its support for the CRCS D Board of Education's proposed school improvements and encourages CRCS D voters to consider signing the petition that calls for an election on the school bond proposal.

Gage presented a proposal for architectural and engineering services from Design Dynamics, Inc. for the Linn County Courthouse Floors 2 and 3 Phase 1 Remodeling Project. They plan to bid the project in September with work starting in November/December. The Budget is within the Capital Improvement Plan. The Board will approve on Wednesday.

Gage presented a proposed Services Agreement with L&L Murphy Associates and Grant Consulting, LLC for consulting and advisory services with no changes in the amount of \$60,000/year. The Board will approve on Wednesday.

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

The Board recessed at 10:25 a.m. and reconvened at 11:30 a.m. for a joint meeting with the Linn County Conservation Board at Pinicon Ridge Park, Ridgewood Cabin, 1759 Firefly Lane, Central City. Present: Board of Supervisors and Conservation Board members; Dennis Goemaat, Daniel Gibbins; Randy Burke, Aaron Batchelder, Ryan Schlader, Steve Estenson and Jessie Black.

Goemaat explained the process for the ITC Midwest easement request to cross the Cedar Valley Nature Trail near Ely and explained the history of the property purchased for the cabins. The group watched a demonstration of three pieces of equipment (Track Chair, Forestry Mulcher and Tree Shear) and then toured the following: Coneflower and Ridgewood Cabins; Firefly campground; Flying Squirrel Campground; Backwater dredging project; White Oak Shelter; Mountain bike trail (representatives of Backyard Trails present); and the fire damaged storage building (Estenson gave an insurance report).

Adjournment at 1:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

BRANDY Z. MEISHEID, Chairperson
Board of Supervisor