

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 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 June 2, 2025 as printed.

The Board received updates from the following Elected Officials:

Brent Oleson, Treasurer and Deputy's Lacey Hastings & Jen Hebert explained the new appointment system. They stated that the office will be closed on July 9 with the system going live July 10 (the Communications Dept. is working on public notices).

Discussions continued regarding the process and availability to serve walk-ins.

Sheriff Gardner – last week was a big week for the Sheriff's & County Attorney's Office and the family of Ron Novak. An arrest was made in the 41-year-old murder cold case, and the investigation is still open. He is very proud of his staff as well as other's that they collaborated with, especially the County Attorney's Office. He explained the advances in DNA technology that also made this possible. Regarding recruiting, 20 tested for Deputy Sheriff and they now have a certified list of applicants. They will start interviewing after background checks come back. A Detention Officer was attacked by an inmate in the cellblock. That officer is off on leave and is recuperating.

The Board expressed their sincere congratulations to his department and partnering agencies for the cold case arrest. They especially appreciated the work they did, and the support given to the victim's family, noting how they were extremely respectfully throughout the whole process.

Nick Maybanks, Attorney - Reiterated the excellent relationship that his office has with the Sheriff; list of jury trial convictions and case number statistics; he and Supervisor Scheetz met with representatives of the Corrections Dept. and Erin Foster regarding mental health services as a result of changes in the Region; summer interns; file retention policy and storage capacity; anticipate examining forfeiture agreements with law enforcement entities (possible revenue); and assisting the Sheriff's Office with collections.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt asked about progress regarding delays identified on motions to continue by the Public Defender and Maybanks stated that they continue to work together.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt also expressed her sincere appreciation for the County Attorney's Civil Division. They are doing an amazing job working with the Board (almost daily) on some huge projects that are taking a large amount of work. It does not go unnoticed. She also praised the victim advocates in his office, noting that she was able to sit down with them during a training and learned so much about the group. She saw it demonstrated at the Ron Novak news conference. Bringing justice to those families was seen and felt.

Carolyn Siebrecht, Recorder – Recorder's fee modernization legislation did not go through (will try again next year); Communications Dept. helped with the property fraud alert (over 1400 have signed up so far); real estate continues to be slow but increasing; marriage licenses have increased; extra birth certificates issued prior to Real ID implementation; and received 130 books back from restoration (samples presented).

Supervisor Running-Marquardt thanked Siebrecht for being a leader to the Recorder's across the state of Iowa in the Fee Modernization legislation. She appreciates her communication with the Board and other Recorders across the state. She also saw a NACO article about Kentucky and the Fraud Alert system. Kentucky is doing a good job, but Siebrecht is blowing it out of the water. She is excited about ARPA dollars being spent to protect records, noting that it has been a lot of work for her and her staff.

Discussion continued regarding how and who can sign up for the alert system. It was explained that someone can sign up for the alert on behalf of another person.

Todd Taylor, Auditor – Elections has been very busy this year (155,385 registered voters) and working on voter outreach. He has a good relationship with the Secretary of State and was invited to schools for awards to honor High School students that registered. 60 taxing entities have submitted their budgets (the Board asked for a list of the taxing districts). They had an unexpected retirement in the Accounting Division and applications are being reviewed. There has been some new election legislation, and he is participating in regional Auditor meetings.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt thanked Taylor, noting that he has really done everything that has been thrown at him with grace and integrity, and she appreciates serving with him at Linn County.

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She also stated that they will be celebrating Becky Shoop as well. She stated that when she came into this organization, she looked around to find people that have the institutional knowledge and can give it to her straight, and she found that in Becky Shoop. She is incredibly grateful for that and the time is getting closer to her retirement. She appreciates the ways that they will be partnering to celebrate Deputy Shoop in the next couple weeks. She has dedicated 50 years of her life in service to the people of Linn County and looks forward to more times that they can talk about the wonderful work she's done for the people.

Adjournment at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

BRANDY Z. MEISHEID, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors