

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025 10:00 A.M.

The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center. Present: Chairperson Meisheid and Vice Chairperson Running-Marquardt. Absent: Supervisor Scheetz (other county business). Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

Chairperson Meisheid called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: The following spoke regarding the Equal Opportunity Policy on the Regular Agenda:

Circe Stumbo, 3839 Cottage Grove Ave., stated that she understands needing to make changes based on new state law, but she respectfully requested that the Board table action today. This would give time for further review and an opportunity for the community to provide input. The proposed changes are big and very important. The deletions are a major deal to those who support equity, diversity and inclusion. She is guessing that these changes are compelled by various federal executive orders.

Ann Carter, 3626 Bever Ave. SE, stated that she is an employee of Linn County but is not on the clock this morning. She is speaking today with her colleagues from the community with concerns about proposed changes. She stated that it's hard for her to stand up before them today and take off her work hat and put on her many other hats. Being authentic is her reason for speaking today. Linn County values belonging, noting that she is familiar with research that stresses that belonging just doesn't happen. It takes institutions and those in leadership positions to demonstrate their willingness to create a space of belonging. She stated that she does not have any specific recommendations for the language but wanted to register as an employee and citizen who is appalled by the proposed policy changes.

Heather Shane, 1606 14th Ave. SW, stated that she is opposed to the changes to the policy. After a quick review, it seems to be everything that protects one group and eliminates protections for so many groups. She has been in the workplace for 30 years and she can personally think of an example where multiple groups were excluded as a direct result of language not existing. She knows what it's like to have strong support of supervisors and governments in what they are doing and who they are as a person. If they really do want to welcome everyone (equity and inclusion for all groups), then this language excludes them. Employees need the language.

Ana Clymer 2475 McGowan Blvd., Marion, stated that she belongs to many organizations that believe that his policy work that is happening in many governmental entities is undermining what it is that they say they stand with and who they stand alongside. If they are a welcoming presence, then that's not being seen in the efforts in this building and across state and nation. She sees that the key aspects of Linn County's approach to equal opportunity and workforce diversity was equal opportunity, affirmative action, non-discrimination in recruitment and selection workforce analysis and goals. What are the opposites? Tearing away what it means to actually have honored diversity. That would be an unequal opportunity, non-affirming action which is discrimination. She also shared a statement from Pamela & Scott Schaefer, 260 Indian Dale Rd. SE as follows: They absolutely disagree with the Board of Supervisors amending the Equal Opportunity Policy. The elimination of the rights and freedoms that the people of Linn County and country have long fought for will be lost. They are lifelong residents of Cedar Rapids and parents of a gay son who graduated from high school as a National Merit Scholar finalist, attended Coe College and then received his MBA from the Univ. of Iowa. Sadly because of the discriminatory attitudes and now laws in Iowa, he has left the state as has other brilliant young people that have left for the same reason. Hopefully at some point the people of Iowa will realize this massive brain drain of the young people from the state will leave Iowa with a handful of senile seniors that are unable to work.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt, approve minutes of June 17, 2025 as presented.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Meisheid to approve accounts payable checks dated 6/18/25 #71018136 to 71018191 in the amount of \$294,754.00; and ACH in the amount of \$1,577,942.12; for a total of \$1,872,696.12 and voids totaling \$1,800.00. Segregated Claims: P-card charge, LCCS Peer Group, no receipt \$29.94.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to amend the Consent Agenda to change the word "Overflow" Agreement to "Agency" Agreement and add "Winter".

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to remove from the Consent Agenda the following: Application for Consumer Fireworks permit for Darrell Merta at 967 East Bertram Road, Mt Vernon on July 5, 2025 and application for Consumer Fireworks permit for Dan Paidar at 1017 Lnenicka Lane, Cedar Rapids on July 5, 2025 with a rain date of July 12, 2025.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve Consent Agenda as amended as follows:

Resolution 2025-6-95

A RESOLUTION ABATING PROPERTY TAXES DETERMINED IMPRACTICAL TO COLLECT

WHEREAS, the Linn County Finance Director recommends that, based on a review of delinquent taxes by the County Treasurer, tax assessments that are unlikely to be collected should be removed from outstanding delinquent taxes in the County's property tax system; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors is empowered pursuant to 445.16, Code of Iowa, to abate taxes on the recommendation of the Treasurer, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has received a written recommendation from the Treasurer that certain tax amounts currently outstanding are impractical to pursue for collection through available remedies due to the age of the assessment, the removal, destruction, or other loss of the assessed property, the acquisition of real property by governmental bodies, etc. and

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has provided descriptions of tax assessments which should be abated, and which are set out in supporting documents to this resolution.

NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Linn County Board of Supervisors, Linn County, Iowa, this date met in lawful session, that the taxes assessed against the real property listed in Exhibits A & B, attached hereto, and made part of this resolution, in the total amount of \$46,751.04 are hereby abated: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Linn County Board of Supervisors directs the County Treasurer to strike the amounts set out in the attached Exhibit A from the County property tax system.

Resolution 2025-6-96 approving a Final Plat for DRAHOS FIRST ADDITION...

The following description is a summary of Resolution 2025-6-96 as passed and approved by Linn County Board of Supervisors, effective June 18, 2025.

DRAHOS FIRST ADDITION (Case # PF25-0004) to Linn County, Iowa, containing four (4) lots, numbered lot 1, Lot 2, Lot 3 and lettered lot A has been filed for approval, a subdivision of real estate located in the SWSW 26-83-06 of Section 26, Township 83 North, Range 6 West of the 5th P.M., Linn County, Iowa, described as follows:

Beginning at the SE Corner of said SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

thence S88°32'09"W along the south line of said SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, 679.39 feet;

thence S25°32'04"W along the centerline of Big Creek Road, 760.48 feet;

thence SW-ly along said centerline on an arc of 151.20 feet of a 286.38 foot radius curve to the right having a chord length of 149.45 feet, bearing S40°39'34"W;

thence S56°04'21"W along said centerline, 200.14 feet;

thence W-ly along said centerline on an arc of 204.94 feet of a 310.24 foot radius curve to the right having a chord length of 201.24 feet, bearing S73°23'39"W;

thence N88°12'47"W along said centerline, 278.50 feet;

thence S79°56'56"W along said centerline, 295.85 feet;

thence S01°15'01"E along said centerline, 281.76 feet;

thence N89°59'53"W, 591.31 feet to the west line of said NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$;

thence N01°24'51"W along said west line, 489.39 feet;

thence N88°58'43"E along the south line of Timberlake Second Addition to Linn County, 1111.77 feet;

thence N00°19'41"E along the east line of said Timberlake Second Addition, 765.37 feet to the south line of Lot 31, Timberlake First Addition to said County;

thence N89°13'03"E along said south line and along the south line of Outlot F of Timberlake Third Addition to said County, 197.54 feet to the NW corner of said Section 35;

thence N00°49'49"W along the west line of said SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, 1322.43 feet to the NW Corner of said SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; thence N88°34'19"E, 1315.78 feet;

thence S00°53'15"E, 1321.59 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 61.62 acres which includes 2.66 acres of road right of way.

The full text of the Resolution may be inspected in the Linn County Auditor's Office located at 935 Second Street SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or on the Linn County website at www.linncountyiowa.gov.

Resolution 2025-6-97 Resolution approving a Residential Parcel Split for Showalter First Addition.

The following description is a summary of Resolution 2025-6-97 as passed and approved by Linn County Board of Supervisors, effective June 18, 2025.

SHOWALTER FIRST ADDITION (Case # PPS25-0011) to Linn County, Iowa, containing two (2) lots, numbered lot 1 and lettered lot A has been filed for approval, a subdivision of real estate located in the SW NW 33-82-06 of Section 33, Township 82 North, Range 06 West of the 5th P.M., Linn County, Iowa, described as follows:

Beginning at the Northeast corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of said Section 33; thence South 01° 23' 52" East 433.08 feet along the East line of the said Southwest Quarter; thence South 89° 41' 22" West 333.06 feet;

thence North 01° 23' 52" West 433.08 feet to the North line of said Southwest Quarter; thence North 89° 41' 22" East 333.06 feet along said North line to the to the point of beginning, containing 3.31 acres, subject to easements, covenants and restrictions of record.

For the purpose of this description, the East line of Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of said Section 33 is assumed to bear South 01° 23' 52" East.

The full text of the Resolution may be inspected in the Linn County Auditor's Office located at 935 Second Street SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or on the Linn County website at www.linncountyiowa.gov.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the First Amendment to DCAT4-25-018 Promoting Safe and Stable Families between the Linn County Board of Supervisors and the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services for an amount of \$31,500 effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign a contract for Employer of Record and Administrative Services between Linn County Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) Board and Linn County Board of Supervisors. ECI to pay actual expenses not to exceed \$189,261.88 effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026 Approve and authorize the Chair to sign a Fiscal Agent Agreement between Linn County Early Childhood Iowa Board (ECI) and Linn County Board of Supervisors on behalf of Linn County Community Services effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign an Order Form between Linn County and Reno Dry to install a Renodry Dehydration System in the Courthouse at a cost of \$72,468.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign a Temporary Construction Easement between Linn County and the City of Mount Vernon to begin grading work on a proposed nature trail.

Approve and Authorize the Chair to sign Agency Agreement between Linn County Community Services and Housing Fund for Linn County for Homeless Services at the Winter Weather Shelter for an amount of \$120,000 effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

Approve Class B Retail Alcohol License for Bass Farms, 840-Bass Lane, Mt. Vernon, noting all conditions have been met.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign an Alternate Signatory form, designating alternates to sign correspondence for Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) grant 20-DRH-020, relating to the Dows Pocket Neighborhood project, in the event the Chief Elected Official (CEO) is unable.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign a Chief Elected Official (CEO) Change form, acknowledging a change of Board of Supervisors Chair for Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) grant 20-DRH-020, relating to the Dows Pocket Neighborhood project.

Set a public hearing date of June 23, 2025, at 10 a.m. for an ordinance amending the code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa, by amending provisions in Chapter 105 Article III, pertaining to Electrical Installations.

Mike Tertinger, Planning & Development, presented a Professional Services Agreement between the Linn County Food Systems Council and East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) for the purpose of contracting for strategic planning facilitation services.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that she appreciates him working with Ashley Bailus who works with food insecure people.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to authorize the Chair to sign the Professional Services Agreement between the Linn County Food Systems Council and East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) for the purpose of contracting for strategic planning facilitation services.

Tertinger presented the Temporary Use Permit Resolution which was also presented on Monday. He has received no further comments.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to adopt Resolution 2025-6-98
A Resolution approving a Temporary Use Permit to operate the Freedom Festival Drone Show event.
The following description is a summary of Resolution No.2025-6-98 as passed and approved by Linn County Board of Supervisors, effective June 18, 2025. The Freedom Festival Drone Show event (Case # PTU25-0005) will be held June 26, 2025, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., located at 3239 C Avenue Ext, Marion, IA, Linn County, Iowa. The full text of the Resolution may be inspected in the Linn County Auditor's Office located at 935 Second Street SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or on the Linn County website at www.linncountyiowa.gov.

Bradley Wylam, Planning & Development, presented Ordinance requesting to rezone 22.48 acres located in the 1500 block of Big Creek Road, Mount Vernon, Iowa from Agricultural (AG) and Rural Residential One-Acre (RR1) to Rural Residential Two-Acre (RR2). The public hearing and first consideration was on May 5 and second consideration on May 7. This aligns the property with the Land Use Plan as well as Bertram's Land Use Plan. The Final Plat case addresses flooding even though there is no intention to develop within the flood plain.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve third and final consideration of Ordinance #2-6-2025, request to rezone 22.48 acres located in the 1500 block of Big Creek Road, Mount Vernon, Iowa from Agricultural (AG) and Rural Residential One-Acre (RR1) to Rural Residential Two-Acre (RR2).

Lisa Powell, HR Dir., presented the following four policies. It was explained that today's meeting only includes discussion, no decision will be made today.

- Revisions to Policies and Procedures for Management, Non-Bargaining and Confidential Personnel effective 7-1-25. Changes and updates were summarized.
- Revisions to Equal Opportunity Policy PM-024. Powell stated that she wrote the policy, and it pains her to make these changes. This came from the County Attorney based on state, federal and supreme court decisions. It looks like they are eliminating diversity but they are not.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that they've been working at the County on different versions based on legislation or executive orders to do what they could to protect the core values they have at Linn County. She believes that it is the will of the Board to continue to promote diversity, equity and inclusion regardless of what other government entities on a higher level say otherwise. They are still doing reporting. She appreciates the comments made today (other opportunities for public comment will be made available) and is appalled as well. She is frustrated that they have to do this but appreciates everyone's time and effort to come up with solutions to how they can best deal with the situation. She is keeping a list of things that they are being forced to change. They are doing the best they can to still promote those very important core values with diversity, equity and inclusion. When Linn County receives federal and state funds, they will not be in jeopardy. Those funds are for the most vulnerable population in the county.

Lisa Epp, Asst. County Atty., stated that Linn County will do their best to comply with the laws and still stick with their core values. They must comply with the law and the consequences of not complying can have financial devastation for programs they support.

Chairperson Meisheid thanked everyone that spoke today, noting that their voice is important. She also thanked legal staff for putting this together with respect to state and federal laws. It's important that they look at the whole picture. Moving forward, it is important at Linn County that they hire the most talented and qualified that there is. Equal opportunity is for each individual and this document illustrates that and it's important that employees feel valuable. She is in favor of the changes and appreciates all of the efforts made getting there.

- Revisions to Group Insurance Policy PM-028. Changes were summarized and explained.
- Revisions to Family Medical Leave Act Policy PM-009. Changes were summarized and explained.

The Board will discuss and decide on all four policies on July 2.

Public Comment: Reed Koffman, Cedar Rapids, stated that he understands that the diversity, equity and inclusion policy changes are not the Board's choice but rather it comes from the top.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to appoint Andrew Elam and Kathryn Kramer Lee to the Linn County Community Services Advisory Board for a three-year term, ending June 30, 2028.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to reappoint Melissa Dean to the Linn County Community Services Advisory Board for another three-year term, ending June 30, 2028.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to enter into a closed session to discuss pending litigation, pursuant to Code of Iowa 21.5(1)(c).

VOTE: Meisheid - Aye Running-Marquardt - Aye

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

VOTE: Meisheid - Aye Running-Marquardt - Aye

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Adjournment at 11:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

BRANDY Z. MEISHEID, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors