

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, JULY 15, 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 (via phone) and Supervisor Scheetz.

Board members voting “AYE” unless otherwise noted.

Chairperson Meisheid called the meeting to order.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Scheetz to approve minutes of July 9, 2025 as printed.

The Board heard updates from the following Department Heads:

Charlie Nichols, Planning and Development Dir. – budget update; looking to extend time for intern; looking to send staff to a nuclear conference; Lead Permit Specialist position was awarded to Jill Hansen; Ryan Sampica, Associate Inspector, has earned two more national certifications; their Building Official was asked to serve as president of the Iowa Association of Building Officials; his office has begun using a cellphone to take inspection phone calls and texts; one opening on the Planning & Zoning Commission; City of Marion is working on updating their Airport Zoning Ordinance and would be a good idea to have a public discussion on different code change options for Linn County’s existing ordinance;

Supervisor Meisheid stated that she has received a number of phone calls regarding the airport zoning ordinance and feels that it is really important a public hearing is done. They are transitioning from a publicly owned entity to a private owned entity. She would like people to be able to voice their concerns or ideas for a better solution.

Nichols continued with his update: ordinance updates related to data centers and other similar uses; staff working to determine what strategies have been met and to prioritize strategies that are ongoing relating to the Comprehensive Plan; staff working on a GIS mapping project related to seasonal cabin areas primarily located along the Cedar and Wapsipinicon Rivers; discussion on Iowa county zoning sites wire scams (scammers taking public information); permit activity.

Luke Fischer, Facilities Dir. – LC3 project is in the works; budget update; no personnel vacancies; updated Facilities intranet page; reviewed and selected vendors for chiller maintenance and water treatment; building automation upgrade is 60% complete; Reno Dry systems installed in Courthouse and Public Service Center; Juvenile Detention Center fence is 75% complete; 60% of rough in completed for Winter Weather Shelter Project; Courthouse exterior renovations are underway; Secondary Roads substantial completion is September, 2025; service window relocation at Veterans Affairs.

Joi Alexander, Communications Dir. – KPI’s; highlighted current projects including Treasurer’s Office title transfer appointments; Planning & Development draft ordinance news release; Treasurer’s Office property tax insert; provided website statistics, traffic sources and social media highlights; online apparel store pilot project; website redesign will be kicked off in August; AI overview on Google and generative AI.

Supervisor Scheetz stated that he appreciates Alexander bringing AI to their attention.

Alexander continued with her update that they are also working on a social media checklist.

Public Comment: Supervisor Meisheid stated that she was out sick Monday. There were incredible storms Friday and a confirmed tornado in northern Linn County. She is thinking of those in the northern part of the county with damage to homes, crops, etc.

Adjournment at 9:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

BRANDY Z. MEISHEID, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors