

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 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.

The Board heard updates from the following Department Heads:

Charlie Nichols, Planning and Development Dir. – thanked the Recorder and Treasurer's Office for their feedback regarding the process for their all-team meetings; budget update; Building Division beginning to slow down with winter approaching; Building Official attending code hearings; discussion regarding data center ordinance language was held during the October 20th Planning & Zoning Commission meeting. Concerns were brought up at that meeting including: water power usage and power usage, concerns about locations taking up prime farmland, demand on power for data centers and the grid that is needed. Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map update – revisions to the future land use map are still ongoing and a public outreach plan is being developed; Pleasant Creek Solar Vegetation Management update – visited the site to view vegetation management practices (public concerns about the esthetics); Planning & Zoning Commission has one opening; permit activity.

Discussion continued regarding sites for a natural gas plant and what the county is doing in preparation.

Chairperson Meisheid stated that she appreciates all that Nichols does, acknowledging that he has a lot on his plate and Scheetz echoed that statement.

Britt Hutchins, Purchasing Dir. – review of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs); fully staffed; mailroom statistics; RFP's and bids for various county departments; one lockbox for everyone at the Public Service Center to alleviate confusion; working on translation services; did a ride along with the Sheriff's Office.

Discussion continued about a 3D printer in the Auditor's Office, and Supervisor Running-Marquardt suggested that Hutchins sit down with Elections staff after the election to discuss.

Steve Estenson, Risk Management Dir. – discussed the county's self-insurance and the fire at the Pinicon Ridge open air storage building that took place in April of this year noting that the culprit of the fire was a bus that was stored in the building. The claim was wrapped up in about 6 months.

Discussion continued regarding removing the bus from a property listing in GovSense. Estenson is also working on a couple of policies he will be bringing in front of the Board; fire drills took place last week; still working with FEMA on recovering \$7 million from the Derecho.

Chairperson Meisheid expressed her appreciation to Estenson for all his hard work.

Joi Alexander, Communications Dir. – review of KPI's; email signature software on agenda tomorrow; reviewed the editorial calendar; 100 year anniversary event for the Courthouse took place on October 3rd. Supervisor Running-Marquardt thanked Alexander for all the work that was done to make that day so successful. Make it OK and Veteran Services fall quarter newsletters; new template for customer testimonials on Facebook/LinkedIn.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt addressed the Veteran of the month and asked if there are ways to better honor that person.

Alexander continued: in process of writing content for Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR); website redesign update; data center communications update; Comprehensive Plan update; Mental Health Access Center videos; signage for Public Service Center depository; 34 contact us form inquiries last month.

Supervisor Scheetz asked about an AI policy for employees and Alexander responded that she emailed Phil Loweder about it but has not heard back from him.

Adjournment at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

BRANDY Z. MEISHEID, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors