

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 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.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve minutes of November 10 & 12, 2025 as printed.

Jeff Wozencraft, City of Cedar Rapids Community Development, gave a presentation on the Saving Properties and Revitalizing Communities (SPARC) program. This is to address the more difficult vacant properties in the city that have escaped the typical code enforcement process and turning them into quality affordable housing with non-profit housing developers. Impacts of vacant properties were discussed. This is an interdepartmental effort between multiple City of Cedar Rapids departments and the Linn County Treasurer's Office.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt requested that Wozencraft share a map of the potential properties that would be impacted by this program and he agreed.

Sara Bearrows, Budget Dir., presented Fiscal Year 2027 budget initiatives and guidelines.

Lisa Powell, HR Dir., recommended a 3.5% across-the-board increase to management and non-bargaining salaries, noting that contract negotiations for AFSCME begin in January.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding a 3.5% raise versus a 4% raise. Supervisors Scheetz and Running-Marquardt are in favor of 4%, whereas Supervisor Meisheid is more supportive of 3.5%.

The Board plans to approve the initiatives and guidelines Wednesday.

Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin. and Rob Peck, Design Dynamics, reviewed the proposed plans, specifications, and estimated total project cost for the Linn County Courthouse Interior Remodeling Project. This involves the expansion of the County Attorney's Office, making room for additional court rooms in phase two, and removal of paper filing due to digitization. The HVAC and mechanical systems in that area of the building are over 50 years old so those will be replaced at the same time. The project budget is \$730,000 and over \$400,000 of that is mechanical work.

Gage shared this project has been budgeted for over several years in the Capital Improvement Project (CIP). He requested that a resolution be voted on at Wednesday's meeting giving preliminary approval for these plans and specifications and granting authorization to look for bids. This project first came up 4-5 years ago at the request of the County Attorney. The estimated project schedule is hoping to award a contract in early January.

Gage then discussed a Professional Services Agreement with Snyder & Associates to prepare a preliminary plat and report for the Lisbon – Mount Vernon Area Emergency Medical Services District. He requested that the \$7,500 agreement to do that work be signed today. Johnson County has also identified Snyder & Associates so that they can coordinate the work in the named northeast corner of Johnson County.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve and authorize the chairperson to sign a Professional Services Agreement with Snyder & Associates to prepare a preliminary plat and report for the Lisbon - Mount Vernon Area Emergency Medical Services District.

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

Adjournment at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

TODD E. TAYLOR, Linn County Auditor
By: Ana Brunscheen, Executive Assistant

Approved by:

BRANDY Z. MEISHEID, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors