

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025 9:00 A.M.

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

Vice Chairperson Running-Marquardt called the meeting to order.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve minutes of December 5, 2025 as printed.

The Board heard updates from the following Department Heads:

Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy and Admin. – budget update; 2 finalists withdrew for Rural Economic position; reviewed Key Performance Indicators (KPI's); Learning Institutes continue; 3 Sunshine Law trainings have been conducted and next one is February 3rd; Capital Projects including: Winter Weather Shelter is open and occupied under a temp occupancy permit (waiting on some parts), Secondary Roads Headquarters contract is moving right along; Courthouse Interior Project bids are due Friday; working on 2026 State Legislative Priorities; Google data center meeting today about various topics; air quality discussion tomorrow with Planning & Development and Public Health about exploring a basic air pollution dispersion model in their zoning code; Alliant meeting is Thursday.

Cara Matteson, Sustainability Dir. – reviewed KPI's including East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) is wanting to apply for an EPA Brownfields Grant; Water Balance Study scope and contracts are being finalized; pilot project for road structure with Secondary Roads; Resilient Iowa Community ranking submittal for 2025; attended Iowa Watershed Management Authority meeting on November 12th; budget update.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt expressed her appreciation for Matteson being a leader and pulling several different departments together and all the work that is being done.

Brad Ketels, County Engineer – working on FY27 budget; participating in GAPM survey; management met with Terry Whitson to discuss leadership, communication, etc.; KPI's; Secondary Roads Headquarters update; one personnel vacancy; Burnett Station Rd. asphalt paving project is complete; Covington Rd bridge replacement project is complete; crack filing for preventative maintenance is complete; N Center Point Rd. and Matsell Park Rd. bridge replacement projects are under construction; Rosedale Rd. and Burlingham Rd. bridge replacement projects construction will start soon; 2 snow events so far.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt gave a shout out to Nichole Brown for her excellence on the budgeting side of things for Secondary Roads. The work Ketel's staff does is vital. She referenced a tree and shrub policy and its importance for safety reasons.

Supervisor Meisheid extended her appreciation to Ketels and his staff for their efforts with snow removal. She wanted to publicly acknowledge her gratitude for everything his staff does.

Lisa Powell, Human Resources Dir. – GAPM survey was sent out to staff; 22% response rate from Belonging and Involvement Group (BIG) survey that was sent to employees.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt thanked Powell for her leadership and working with all the employees. The things they are doing well is a direct reflection of Powell.

Powell continued with her update: budget update; staff member reclassified; Powell and staff member graduated from NACo's Professional Development Leadership Academy; seeing high engagement statistics from Facebook/Instagram advertising campaign with Metro Studios; compensation survey coming to the Board soon; next Employee Recognition Breakfast is January 21st; 50th Core Values Academy finished in October; 3rd Advanced Core Values Academy finished in November; University of Iowa Labor Center Due process in Disciplining Employees training went well; high marks on training for management harassment prevention; excited to receive Wellmark renewal for FY27 which came in at a negative; wellness program participation is at 66%; testing for high stress positions like Sheriff's Office; 2026 open enrollment successfully completed; staying with Wellmark for Pharmacy Benefit Manager; switching to HealthEquity for flex administration in January; will not be doing a charitable campaign this year and will revisit the need for a charitable campaign next year.

Public Comment: Circe Stumbo, 3839 Cottage Grove Ave. SE, CR, stated that she was thankful to hear from the Department Heads even though the timing is hard for everyone to attend, she appreciates the live stream. She is still learning about data centers but is appreciative of the water studies that are being done. She has strong concerns with data centers and water. She grew up in rural Cedar County and couldn't drink their well water due to the nitrate levels. Stumbo is very concerned about the impacts on low income, rural and people of color given the smaller numbers, marginations isn't considered. She is hopeful for communication among those directly impacted by the data centers and what the long-term health of the community looks like. She is glad that results were shared by Lisa Powell for the BIG survey. The results indicate areas of pride and areas of improvement. Culture is not created in a day and

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they need to sustain the work needed to reach certain typos of outcomes. The work is ongoing, necessary and important. Stumbo thanked Powell for sharing the results.

Adjournment at 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

BRANDY Z. MEISHEID, Chairperson
Board of Supervisor