

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 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:

Carter Baldwin, LIFTS Dir. – fully staffed with the exception of a part time Saturday driver position; submitted an application seeking authorization to provide transportation services under the Medicaid Waiver program; submitted application for a National Provider Identifier (NPI) number that received approval; will not be pursuing an electric bus replacement at this time due to seating capacity, cost, reliability and range capabilities.

Discussion continued regarding ridership numbers and trends. Baldwin clarified that LIFTS is not providing transportation to the Winter Weather Shelter as they are not able to handle the capacity to provide those rides.

Charlie Nichols, Planning and Development Dir. – budget update; fully staffed; Building Division: working with Cornell College on a stabilization project for King's Chapel; implementing standard operating procedures for major projects; Clerical Division: staff member appointed as the Executive Officer of IABO; customers have reported receiving phishing emails for invoices to be paid and have begun to redact personal information on applications received; Zoning Division: discussion regarding data center ordinance language is planned to be held on January 20th during the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting; strategic planning efforts are ongoing for the Food Systems Council; one opening on the Planning & Zoning Commission; permit activity; Planning & Zoning Commission met last night and recommend approval for the Duane Arnold Energy Center rezoning application (all of the public comments were in support); working on gas power plant ordinance.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that she is glad they have the opportunity to make some considerations so they can best serve the people they represent, noting that she has heard several concerns from people on the west side of Cedar Rapids and Fairfax. Natural gas power plants provide the power needed for the data centers and they are trying to find a location as close as possible to the data centers. She expressed her desire to look at long term economic impacts and pollutant considerations.

Supervisor Scheetz added that the pollution impact is important to him as well noting that they can use setbacks as a tool to mitigate the harms of the pollutants.

Supervisor Meisheid stated that they are creating ordinances that will be countywide and not project specific. Regardless of the project, they want to protect the people. She also wants to look at the economic impact and how it financially impacts the county. It isn't just air pollution but also light and water usage and property values. The impact should be for the entire county and not just specific neighborhoods.

Nichols also added that he has received a proposal from Twenty 40 Building Concepts regarding the Dow's property and he is working with legal on the proper steps.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that she would like to review the language for this property and find a better balance or move some responsibilities to the owner.

Steve Estenson, Risk Management Dir. – discussed recent property insurance claims and deductibles; preparing for budget meeting Friday; explained the self-retained insurance fund and what it is used for; upcoming bond renewal; still working with FEMA on recovering funds from the Derecho; IT and Facilities will continue to work through the camera issues.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt thanked Estenson for working through all that stuff.

Supervisor Meisheid thanked him for getting the cameras back up and running and transitioning to a new system.

Luke Fischer, Facilities Dir. – LC3 sorting and scanning building plans project; KPI's; budget update; 2 Senior Custodians and an Administrative Assistant opening; 18" of snow this year already which is more than last year's total; spent a lot of time at the Winter Weather Shelter (completing owner work over weekends and evenings); interviews this week for the Administrative Assistant position; submitted 20 CIP projects for consideration; prepared budgets; working with IT on replacement list for end of serviceable life cameras.

Supervisor Meisheid expressed her appreciation for Fischer and his staff. She is grateful to everyone that has stepped up to the plate.

Page 2
December 16, 2025

Joi Alexander, Communications Dir. – strategic plan; Learning Institutes; created a clothing drive flyer for the Mental Health Access Center; FY25 PAFR (Popular Annual Financial Report) at the printer; Crisis Communication Plan on Board's agenda for approval tomorrow; branded email signatures countywide rollout early 2026; DOJ Digital Accessibility guidelines compliance deadline is April 24, 2026; website redesign is ongoing; working with Planning & Development on the Comprehensive Plan Update; conducted website training; participated in 3 hour tabletop at EMA on December 2nd; will be creating a branding/communication presentation for HR's new event for new hires; submitted a request to Canva for a countywide account; 25 inquiries received last month for contact us forms on the county's website.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt thanked Alexander for all her collaborations with others.

Supervisor Meisheid gave a shout out to Alexander and Britt Nielsen Parker for all the work they do.

Adjournment at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

BRANDY Z. MEISHEID, Chairperson
Board of Supervisor