

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2025 1:30 P.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. Also present: Dawn Jindrich, Finance Dir.; Sara Bearrows, Budget Dir.; Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir.; Daniel Gibbins, Deputy Conservation Dir.; Steve Estenson, Risk Mgr., and Jon Gallagher, Soil Conservation.

Chairperson Meisheid called the meeting to order to review the proposed fiscal year 2027 budgets for Conservation, Risk Management, Soil Conservation and Juvenile Justice.

Conservation – Jindrich stated that the budget exceeds the Board's guidelines by \$18,000 due primarily to increased electrical costs at Firefly Campground and the new Morgan Creek Park lodge. General fund revenues will increase by \$54,350 overall as a result of \$98,600 in increased rentals for the new lodge offset by reductions in boat concessions and firewood sales.

Dennis Goemaat and Daniel Gibbins gave an in-depth PowerPoint presentation of their budget and discussed Key Performance Indicator (KPI). An offer was presented for an additional Assistant Park Ranger. Gibbins also explained the four vehicle requests.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt expressed her appreciation for their presentation noting that they are great team players and work together often. She shared her pride in what the great people in Conservation do.

Supervisor Scheetz also shared his appreciation to Goemaat and his whole department.

Discussion took place regarding future land acquisitions, costs including maintenance, and any additional staffing that would be needed.

Supervisor Meisheid added that she texts them often and she is also one of the many users of the county parks. She appreciates all their team does with how well utilized the parks are and is grateful for all they do.

Goemaat stated that he wanted to publicly thank Jindrich for all she does. Whenever he called her, she always had a thoughtful and tasteful response. He doesn't think there are any Finance and Budget departments that are better than Linn County's. Goemaat hopes they will consider the culture that was built when considering applicants for Jindrich's replacement.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve Conservation's FY27 preliminary appropriations in the amount of \$11,747,736 and revenues in the amount of \$5,031,350.

Risk Management – Bearrows stated that the budget is under Board guidelines by \$3,050.

Steve Estenson highlighted his budget and KPI.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt added that one thing that cannot be measured by a KPI is Estenson's true heartfelt care he has for the county's employees. Estenson and his entire department make sure that employees are safe and go home to their families at night and it is very much appreciated.

Supervisors Meisheid and Scheetz echoed Running-Marquardt's sentiments.

Jindrich added that they have seen some savings due to suggestions Estenson made to the Board with regard to the self-retaining fund.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve Risk Management's FY27 preliminary appropriations in the amount of \$470,303 and revenues in the amount of \$459,603.

Soil Conservation – Jindrich stated that the budget meets the Board's guidelines. The operating increase of \$67,500 is due to grant expenditures. Revenues will also increase by the same point.

Jon Gallagher presented his budget and KPI. He presented an offer for additional Watershed Management Authority funding of \$13,675.

Discussion continued regarding watershed funding and the process.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt expressed her appreciation for the partnerships that Gallagher has made that aren't reflected in his budget and the great work he accomplishes for the Board. She requested in the future during one of his department head updates that he asks a Board of Commissioner to join him and discuss each of their roles in what they do for Linn County.

Board members echoed Running-Marquardt's comments.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve Soil Conservation's FY27 preliminary appropriations in the amount of \$387,299 and revenues in the amount of \$211,014.

Juvenile Justice – Bearrows stated that the budget meets Board guidelines. Per Iowa Code Section 232.141, Linn County is responsible for a portion of the juvenile court costs incurred by an attorney appointed to serve as counsel to any party or to serve as a guardian ad litem for any child. These costs may include reasonable compensation for the attorney or guardian ad litem as well as the expense for foreign language interpreters, costs of depositions and transcripts, fees and mileage of witnesses, and the expense of officers serving notices and subpoenas incurred by the court-appointed attorney.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve Juvenile Justice's FY27 preliminary appropriations in the amount of \$220,108.

Bearrows added that there is no budget meeting on January 5, 2026.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to enter into closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(a) to discuss one draft ordinance and one draft agreement as authorized by state law to be kept as a confidential record pursuant to Iowa Code 22.7(65).

VOTE: Running-Marquardt – Aye Meisheid – Aye Scheetz – Aye

Motion by Meisheid, second by Running-Marquardt to go out of closed session.

VOTE: Running-Marquardt – Aye Meisheid – Aye Scheetz – Aye

Adjournment at 5:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

BRANDY Z. MEISHEID, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors