

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026 10:00 A.M.

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

Chairperson Running-Marquardt called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve the minutes of January 2, 2026 as printed.

Motion by Scheetz, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve accounts payable checks dated 12/26/2025 in the amount of \$2,052.38; accounts payable checks dated 12/29/2025 in the amount of \$2,688.72; accounts payable checks dated 01/07/2026 #71020013 to 71020115 in the amount of \$285,961.00; and ACH in the amount of \$1,610,676.22; for a total of \$1,896,637.22, and voids totaling \$480.00.

Motion by Scheetz, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve payment to Brandy Meisheid for cell phone reimbursement in the amount of \$150.00

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

Motion by Scheetz, seconded by Meisheid to approve payment to Kirsten Running-Marquardt for cell phone reimbursement in the amount of \$135.00.

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

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Meisheid to approve payment to Sami Scheetz for cell phone reimbursement in the amount of \$195.00.

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

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve Consent Agenda as follows:

Resolution 2026-1-5

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE LINN COUNTY, IOWA
ELIGIBILITY AND COALITION MEMBER COMMITMENT TO THE
EAST CENTRAL IOWA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FY26 EPA BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT COALITION GRANT APPLICATION
WHEREAS, the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) desires to submit an application to the FY26 US EPA Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant Program for the region including Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, and Washington counties; and
WHEREAS, ECICOG desires to establish a brownfield assessment coalition including Linn County, Iowa as a non-lead coalition member; and
WHEREAS, US EPA requires coalition members to affirm program eligibility; and
WHEREAS, US EPA requires coalition members to affirm commitment to becoming a coalition member; and
WHEREAS, US EPA requires coalition members to affirm ECICOG has the legal authority to expend grant funds on its behalf to conduct the proposed grant activities; now
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Linn County, Iowa, Board of Supervisors that the Chairperson is authorized to sign the Eligibility Affirmation and Non-lead Coalition Member Commitment letter in support of the proposed ECICOG FY26 US EPA Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant application.

Resolution 2026-1-6

RESOLUTION FIXING THE 1/1/2026 UTILITY VALUATIONS PAYABLE 2026-2027
WHEREAS, Iowa Code Sections 434.22 (railway), 437.10 (electric) and 438.15 (pipeline) establishes that the county board of supervisors shall enter into the minute book an order describing and fixing the miles, assessed valuations, and taxable valuations for state assessed utilities; and
WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Revenue fixes and publishes a schedule of the miles, assessed valuations, and taxable valuations annually on their public website for the County Auditor to retrieve and input into their local tax system; and
WHEREAS, the miles, assessed valuations, and taxable valuations for the 1/1/2026 utilities payable in 2026-2027 are as follows:

Utility	Miles	Assessed Valuation	Rollback	Taxable Valuation
Pipeline/Water/Steam	n/a	\$18,007,771	98.0000%	\$17,647,617
Railroad	94.210	\$82,308,543	Two Tier	\$73,804,897
<i>Total Centrally Assessed</i>		<i>\$100,316,314</i>		<i>\$91,452,514</i>
1-Electric	n/a	\$2,557,893,826	n/a	\$352,023,973
2-Production	n/a	\$0	n/a	\$0
3-Gas	n/a	\$152,934,993	n/a	\$36,626,903
6-Transmission	n/a	\$0	n/a	\$0
7-Distribution	n/a	\$0	n/a	\$0
<i>Total Gas and Electric</i>		<i>\$2,710,828,819</i>		<i>\$388,650,876</i>
Grand Total		\$2,811,145,133		\$480,103,390

WHEREAS, the Linn County Auditor has a detailed listing of the above by company and taxing district on file; now

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Linn County, Iowa, that it is hereby ordered that the above stated miles, assessed valuations, and taxable valuations in Linn County, Iowa, are hereby ordered and fixed accordingly.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign a renewal service agreement between Linn County and Donald J. Linder, D.O. as Medical Examiner, effective January 1, through December 31, 2026.

Approved signing a letter of support as a coalition member that affirms program eligibility and affirms commitment as non-lead coalition member.

Charlie Nichols, Planning & Development Dir., discussed Second Consideration of a request to rezone approximately 393 acres located at 3277 DAEC Road, Palo, Iowa, from Agricultural (AG) to Exclusive Use-Two, Nuclear Energy Generating Facility and Nuclear Waste Storage (EU-2). The only change from Monday’s reading is that a road use agreement with the City of Palo will need to be obtained. Nichols did receive a question on whether this project aligns with Linn County’s comprehensive plan. Staff’s opinion is that this clearly aligns with those goals and plans in many ways such as this is a carbon-free source of energy, providing high quality jobs, and this project will be reusing existing infrastructure.

Supervisor Meisheid received an email with concerns regarding the roads. Meisheid feels part of their concern was rooted in lessons learned from the solar project but believes the county has learned from previous projects and has made agreements tighter. By adding items such as the road use agreement with the city, this further shows that the towns are taken care of and have their needs met.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt reiterated that this consideration is about rezoning, the county does not have the final authority to determine if the nuclear plant opens or closes, or the authority that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) or state regulators have over nuclear waste. This gives Linn County a seat at the table moving forward. This is a positive thing for the county, especially economically.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz approve upon Second Consideration of a request to rezone approximately 393 acres located at 3277 DAEC Road, Palo, Iowa, from Agricultural (AG) to Exclusive Use-Two, Nuclear Energy Generating Facility and Nuclear Waste Storage (EU-2).

Nichols then requested the Memorandum of Understanding between Linn County Emergency Management Agency and NextEra Energy Duane Arnold, LLC for reimbursement of pre-operational emergency management costs related to the restart of the Duane Arnold Energy Center be removed from the agenda. There was a change made and there has not been enough time for both parties to review. Nichols anticipates being able to bring it to the Board next week.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to remove from the agenda the Memorandum of Understanding between Linn County Emergency Management Agency and NextEra Energy Duane Arnold, LLC for reimbursement of pre-operational emergency management costs related to the restart of the Duane Arnold Energy Center.

Nichols then discussed a Host Community Agreement between Linn County and NextEra Energy Duane Arnold, LLC providing annual host community funding in connection with the restart and operation of the Duane Arnold Energy Center. No changes have been made to the agreement. It has been signed by a NextEra representative. No comments or questions were received between now and Monday.

Supervisor Meisheid believes that this agreement shows their commitment to putting the residents and public safety first, as well as ensuring that taxpayer dollars are not used to subsidize private businesses. This shows the level of partnership and accountability that the Board expects from any large entity seeking to do business in the county.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve the Host Community Agreement between Linn County and NextEra Energy Duane Arnold, LLC providing annual host community funding in connection with the restart and operation of the Duane Arnold Energy Center.

Public Comment: Supervisor Running-Marquardt received a comment from Mike Long on the overall support of the Duane Arnold Facility and they had a good discussion about it.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to reappoint Brad Ketels to the ECICOG Regional Planning Affiliation 10 Transportation Policy Committee for a two-year term expiring December 31, 2027.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to reappoint Garret Reddish to the ECICOG Region 10 Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2028.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to reappoint Curtis Logan as an alternate representative on the ECICOG Region 10 Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2028.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to appoint Mike Russell as Trustee to Fire District One to serve the remainder of a three-year term expiring December 31, 2026.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to reappoint Brandy Meisheid to the ECICOG Regional Planning Affiliation 10 Transportation Policy Committee for a two-year term expiring December 31, 2027.

The Board recessed at 10:15 a.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. to review the following proposed fiscal year 2027 budgets. Also present: Dawn Jindrich, Finance Dir., Sara Bearrows, Budget Dir., Carter Baldwin, LIFTS Dir., Brian Gardner, Sheriff, Doug Riniker, Colonel, Dave Beuter, Major, and Brooke Henning, Administrative Coordinator.

LIFTS – Jindrich stated that the budget slightly exceeds guidelines by \$6,000 due to increases in billing and utilities costs. Bus purchases are excluded from guideline calculations, but there is a decrease of \$23,075 in the local match for a bus purchase in FY27. Revenues will increase by a total of \$160,356 in FY27.

Baldwin presented his budget and highlighted that ridership increased by 17% over the last year, providing a very valuable service to the community. Baldwin then shared that in FY27 his department will be focusing on managing inflation driven costs while maintaining levels of service, hiring and retaining qualified employees, and expanding safety and training programs.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt inquired if LIFTS coordinates with the Purchasing Department and Sheriff's Office when purchasing parts, Baldwin advised they do not but would be willing to explore the option.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve LIFT's FY27 preliminary budget appropriations in the amount of \$2,324,836 and revenues of \$1,442,220.

Sheriff – Jindrich stated that the budget exceeds guidelines for the General Fund by \$353,498 resulting from additional costs at the Jail of \$246,676 including medical care and food. Overtime in the department increased by \$62,150 and bank fees will also be \$40,000 higher. Revenues increased by \$188,200 primarily due to an additional \$75,000 in fees for service of civil papers and \$100,000 for housing of federal (ICE) prisoners.

Riniker gave an in-depth overview of his department's budget, including explaining that E911 no longer pays for items such as air cards so that alone added \$28,000 to the budget. The largest increase came from the Jail, primarily the medical care of inmates being billed to the county instead of the inmates as previously done.

Supervisor Scheetz inquired on whether the agreement the County has with the Marshal Service is not directly with Immigration or ICE, or if they subcontract. Riniker responded that the agreement is through the U.S. Marshals Office and Immigration is on the agreement as a checked box that the County will hold Immigration prisoners as a rider. Gardner added that if it ever becomes cost-prohibitive to house ICE inmates, it will have no impact on the Marshals agreement.

All of the Supervisors expressed gratitude to Colonel Riniker for his 31 years of service to the people of Linn County. Riniker has provided expertise in many decisions that will affect the county for decades.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve Sheriff's FY27 preliminary budget appropriations in the amount of \$34,715,210 and revenues of \$6,515,844.

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Adjournment at 2:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors