

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 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.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve minutes of January 5, 6 & 7, 2026 as printed.

Garret Reddish, Asst Co. Engineer, presented a Road Use Agreement between Linn County and ITC Midwest LLC, establishing conditions for the use of County roads during the construction and development of a transmission line in Linn County. This is a required utility permit standard for their department as ITC requested the road use. The transmission line is approximately 60 miles long and extends to Marshalltown. There are only 7 entrances going in so there is not a big impact to Linn County's road system.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt questioned eminent domain and Reddish responded that ITC is not purchasing the land and these are private easements.

The Board will approve Wednesday.

J'nae Peterman, Homeless Systems Manager, gave a presentation that provided updates on the Homeless Systems Initiatives work within Linn County.

Discussion continued regarding the definition of chronically homeless vs unsheltered, available units through the Margaret Bock Housing Partnership and the impacts at the federal level with funding.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt thanked the various county departments that were involved with getting the shelter up and running. She appreciates all the good work that they do and that it is helping save people's lives.

Supervisor Scheetz thanked Peterman, David Thielen and Ashely Balias for all the work they have done as well.

Supervisor Meisheid echoed the other Supervisor's comments.

Charlie Nichols, Planning & Development Dir., presented a 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. This MOU was brought before the Board last week and changes were requested including the county being the fiscal agent. The updated language was reviewed by legal counsel and NextEra and is recommended for approval.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to postpone approval of this agenda item until Wednesday's meeting.

Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin, presented the proposed Linn County 2026 state legislative priorities as follows: Property Tax Reform; IPERS; Cost Shifting to Local Governments; 911 Emergency Communications; Juvenile Detention beds; Statewide Standards for Data Centers Development; Water Quality and Conservation; Bonding, Project Financing and Best-Value Contracting; Conservation Programs; Early Childhood Investment and Workforce Development; Emergency Management Agenda (EMA) Funding and Governance; Emergency Medical Services (EMS); Iowa's Public Transit Fleet; Land Redevelopment Trusts and Property Redevelopment; Mental Health and Sobering Services; PILOT Agreements with Power Generating Facilities; and Placemaking and Quality-of-Life Investments.

Discussion continued and requests were made to add the Recorder's Fee Modernization, Public Health Regionalization, improve language for EMS and not include PILOT Agreements

Board members expressed their appreciation for Gage's work on creating this list.

Jessie Black, Admin. Spec., presented a list of Board of Supervisors and staff appointments and Committee Liaisons for 2026. The Board reviewed and discussed their preferences.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to postpone making the final decision on this agenda item to Wednesday's meeting.

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

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to appoint Mary Evans to the Linn County Historic Preservation Commission, to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2026.

The Board recessed at 11:01 a.m. and reconvened at 1:35 p.m. to review the following proposed fiscal year 2027 budgets. Also present: Dawn Jindrich, Finance Dir.; Sara Bearrows, Budget Dir.; Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin.; and Luke Fischer, Facilities Dir.

CIP – Bearrows discussed the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Darrin Gage presented the 5 Year CIP and explained the FY27 projects. He added that this 5-year plan does not include an additional phase for the Courthouse remodel.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve CIP FY27 preliminary budget as presented for \$1,280,000.

Board of Supervisors – Bearrows stated that the budget is over guidelines by \$505 due to contractual increase in Adobe Creative Cloyd, Open Sense, and Vimeo, offset against a decrease in Adobe Acrobat increases.

Gage highlighted the budget and presented KPI's.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve Board of Supervisors FY27 preliminary appropriations in the amount of \$1,323,964.

Board Other – Bearrows stated that the budget is under the Board's guidelines by \$23,562 due to the following: increase in Raycom contract, increase in ECICOG dues, increase in Cost Advisory Service fee, increase in board proceedings and publications, increase in ECR chargeback, and decrease in General Services (paggers).

Dawn Jindrich added that they need to keep increasing the self-retained insurance fund noting that \$3 million would be a good goal.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve Board Other FY27 preliminary appropriations in the amount of \$12,379,780 and revenues in the amount of \$7,512,858.

Adjournment at 2:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED BY:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors