

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 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 14 & 16, 2026 as printed.

Motion by Scheetz, seconded by Meisheid to approve accounts payable checks dated 01/21/26 #71020177 to 71020250 in the amount of \$161,903.47; and ACH in the amount of \$2,076,916.91; for a total of \$2,238,820.38 and Voids totaling \$675.15

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

Resolution 2026-1-9

A RESOLUTION APPROVING URBAN REVITALIZATION TAX ABATEMENT APPLICATIONS FOR PROPERTIES LOCATED WITHIN THE DOWS FARM URBAN REVITALIZATION AREA

WHEREAS, the Linn County Board of Supervisors adopted an Urban Revitalization Plan for the Dows Farm Urban Revitalization Area pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 404; and

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Chapter 404 authorizes the Board of Supervisors to approve applications for exemption from taxation on the actual value added by eligible improvements to qualified real estate located within a designated urban revitalization area; and

WHEREAS, the Linn County Board of Supervisors has received four applications for tax abatement for properties located within the Dows Farm Urban Revitalization Area, which applications have been reviewed by the Planning and Development Department and determined to be consistent with the adopted Urban Revitalization Plan and Iowa Code Chapter 404; and

WHEREAS, the applicants have requested tax exemption pursuant to Exemption Schedule A, as provided for in the Dows Farm Urban Revitalization Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors finds that the proposed improvements are eligible improvements, that the properties are qualified real estate, and that approval of the applications is consistent with the purpose and intent of the Urban Revitalization Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LINN COUNTY that the four Urban Revitalization tax abatement applications for properties located within the Dows Farm Urban Revitalization Area are hereby approved, subject to final valuation and eligibility determination by the Linn County Assessor pursuant to Iowa Code Section 404.5.

Resolution 2026-1-10

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE CORRIDOR METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDS AND COMMITTING TO PROVIDE LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS CONTINGENT UPON THE AWARD AND ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS

WHEREAS, Linn County, Iowa is jointly applying with the City of Ely to the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization for \$2,350,173.67 of federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds to construct a new roundabout, at the intersection of Wright Brothers Boulevard and Ely Road, to improve traffic flow and safety and to better accommodate pedestrians and cyclists using the Cedar Valley Nature Trail; and WHEREAS, Linn County has the legal jurisdiction and authority to construct, finance, operate, and maintain the proposed transportation improvement within Linn County and Ely, Iowa.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Linn County Board of Supervisors as follows:

Linn County agrees to conform with the regulations, statutes, terms, and conditions described in the application and instructions.

Linn County agrees to comply with conditions of accepting transportation funding from the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Linn County commits to provide the matching funds of \$587,543.42, proposed in the funding application contingent upon award, and acceptance of, federal STBG funding for the above-mentioned project. Linn County is under no obligation to perform said project if Linn County's application for funding is not approved.

That if federal STBG or Transportation Alternatives (TA) funds are approved for the above mentioned project, the required local matching funds will be included in a future Capital Improvements Program, and Linn County will adequately maintain the project for its intended public use for a minimum of twenty (20) years following completion.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign a 60-month lease agreement in the amount of \$177.12 per month with Gordon Flesch Company for a Canon IPF Pro-4600 for the GIS department.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the 2026 Linn County Weed Commissioner Report and Certification Form.

Drew Erickson, Chair and Kim Guardado, Vice-Chair, gave a presentation, including a video, of the 2025 Linn County Food Systems Council Annual Update.

Supervisor Scheetz expressed his appreciation to everyone for their hard work on this. He noted that he would love to just give them money, but they have realistic budget constraints. Scheetz is excited to see their strategic plan and their future success.

Supervisor Meisheid stated that the Board members today are different then when the funds were initially granted to the Food Systems Council. She appreciates what the investment means for the community and shows how far a dollar can go when invested properly. It is really important to her how they feed people. Farming can change daily. She thanked them for all they have done and echoed Supervisor Scheetz's comments about funding.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt thanked them for their presentation.

Mike Tertinger, Planning & Development, requested that this agenda item be removed as the Planning and Zoning Commission chose to table the request last night.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to remove the following agenda item: Discuss and decide on a Resolution Setting a public hearing date of February 2, 2026, for 10 a.m. at the Linn County Public Service Center, 935 2nd Street S.W. Cedar Rapids, Iowa, located in the Formal Board Room, for an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa, by amending provisions in Chapter 107, pertaining to adding Gas Generating Facilities as an allowable use in the Exclusive Use-Two (EU-2) zoning district.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to adopt Resolution 2026-1-11

A RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSAL TO ADOPT
AN ORDINANCE TO AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, LINN COUNTY, IOWA, BY
AMENDING PROVISIONS IN CHAPTER 107, PERTAINING TO ADDING A DATA CENTER USE AND
ASSOCIATED REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, the Linn County Planning and Development Department presented the Linn County Board of Supervisors with a proposal to adopt an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa, by amending provisions in Chapter 107, pertaining to adding Data Center use and associated requirements; and,

WHEREAS, the Linn County Board of Supervisors hereby finds that it is desirable to hold a public hearing to consider the proposal to adopt an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa, by amending provisions in Chapter 107, pertaining to adding a Data Center use and associated requirements, and that Linn County should publish a notice thereof as required by law.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Linn County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the proposal to adopt an ordinance mending the Code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa, by amending provisions in Chapter 107, pertaining to adding a Data Center use and associated requirements on February 4, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the Palo Community Center located at 2800 Hollenbeck Road, Palo, Iowa, at which time any interested person may provide public comment on the proposed ordinance, and after hearing any and all public comments, the Board may proceed with the approval of the proposed ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Supervisors directs the publication of a notice of public hearing in accordance with Iowa Code Section 331.305.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to adopt Resolution 2026-1-12

A RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSAL TO ADOPT
AN ORDINANCE FOR Rezoning from Rural Residential 3 Acre (RR3) to Urban Services Residential-Multi Family (USR - MF) for a 14 bed memory care facility.

WHEREAS, the Linn County Planning and Development Department presented the Linn County Board of Supervisors with a proposal to adopt an ordinance for a Rezoning from Rural Residential 3 Acre (RR3) to Urban Services Residential-Multi Family (USR - MF) for a 14 bed memory care facility; and,

WHEREAS, the Linn County Board of Supervisors hereby finds that it is desirable to hold a public hearing to consider the proposal to adopt an ordinance for a Rezoning from Rural Residential 3 Acre (RR3) to Urban Services Residential-Multi Family (USR - MF) for a 14 bed memory care facility, and that Linn County should publish a notice thereof as required by law.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Linn County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the proposal to adopt an ordinance for a Rezoning from RR3 to USR - MF for a 14 bed memory care facility on February 9, 2026, at 10:00 am in the Formal Board Room of the Linn County Public Service Center located at 935 2nd Street SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, at which time any interested person may provide public comment on the proposed ordinance, and after hearing any and all public comments, the Board may proceed with the approval of the proposed ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors directs the publication of a notice of public hearing in accordance with Iowa Code Section 331.305.

Sonia Evans, Budget & Finance, presented an amendment to the Linn County Opioid Settlement Funds Grant Memorandum of Agreement between Linn County and St. Luke's Health Care Foundation for the Expanding the Psychology Training Program at St. Luke's Hospital. This is a change in how they are using the funds but does not change the amount of award they received. They would like to have 2 interns instead of 1.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to authorize the Chair to sign an amendment to the Linn County Opioid Settlement Funds Grant Memorandum of Agreement between Linn County and St. Luke's Health Care Foundation for the Expanding the Psychology Training Program at St. Luke's Hospital.

David Thielen, LCCS Dir., discussed Home Health Grant Funding for Linn County Community Services. There is a grant that is going away per the state that was approximately \$216,000 and the funds will no longer be eligible for their use. Last year they were able to absorb some additional costs into their budget. The amount of the grant has been decreasing year over year since 2017.

Sara Bearrows, Budget Dir., stated that after everything is net against all 3 of Thielen's department, the general fund ask is lower than it was last year. This is not an increase in the total general fund ask. They are requesting approval from the Board to move forward with the higher percentage than in the past.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve Home Health Grant Funding for Linn County Community Services.

Britt Hutchins, Purchasing Dir., opened the single bid received for Deceased Transportation Services from Area Ambulance. It is a 3-year contract with a base fee of \$150 and \$5/per loaded mile for each of the years.

Discussion continued regarding funeral homes and their charges for mileage as they have no control over what a funeral home charges.

Public Comment: Brandy Meisheid, 5892 Nickel Plate Rd., Coggon, stated that there was a big meeting last night that went until 9 p.m. She advocates for people stepping up and volunteering and would like to extend her heartfelt thank you to the Planning & Zoning Commission members. They are a volunteer board, and they came prepared and at the highest level. She thanked Planning & Development staff for their hard work as well.

The Board recessed at 10:34 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.; David Thielen, LCCS Dir.; Vickie Kindl, Financial Mgmt. Dir.; BJ Dvorak, EMA Coord.

Linn County Community Services – Bearrows stated that the budget is based on the total General Fund tax asking and is over Board guidelines by \$57,624 due to the following: decreases in Home Health grant revenue, increases in Ryan White grant revenue, increase in Medicaid revenue, increases in Linn County Daycare revenue and increases in contractual agreements.

Dave Thielen expressed his appreciation for Jindrich's service and her work with him over the years.

Thielen and Kindl gave an in-depth presentation of their budget and KPI's. He presented vehicle requests and an offer for a temporary increase of a Senior Account Clerk from .75 FTE to 1.0 FTE.

Board members expressed their sincere gratitude to Thielen, Kindl and their team for their work on the extremely complicated budgets involving multiple departments.

Supervisor Scheetz added that it is an honor for him to be an LCCS liaison for the Board.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve Community Services FY27 preliminary appropriations in the amount of \$8,731,218 and revenue in the amount of \$2,746,145.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services FY27 preliminary appropriations in the amount of \$4,351,600 and revenue in the amount of \$3,716,348.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve Youth Services FY27 preliminary appropriations in the amount of \$5,070,036 and revenues in the amount of \$2,095,820.

EMA – Jindrich stated that the budget exceeds guidelines by \$15,512 primarily due to increases in pager costs, insurance increases and sire maintenance. The budget request includes County funding of \$1,214,294.

BJ Dvorak presented his budget.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve EMA FY27 preliminary appropriations in the amount of \$1,614,559 and revenues in the amount of \$1,614,559.

Sara Bearrows stated that this year Elected Officials were asked to submit their salary increase recommendations to her by end of business today. She will compile them into a summary, and the Board will discuss at Friday's budget meeting and decide at Monday's budget meeting.

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Adjournment at 2:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors