

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026 9:00 A.M.

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

Chairperson Running-Marquardt called the meeting to order.

The Board heard updates from the following Department Heads:

David Thielen, LCCS Executive Dir. – received GAPM survey results; budget update; General Assistance: status quo; finalizing Food Systems Council Strategic Plan; ongoing meetings for the Winter Weather Shelter; Disability Access Point (DAP): Board has interest in Linn County being the fiscal agent again; ECI/DECAT: proposed legislation to move within HHS; Juvenile Detention: ongoing Linn County Support Committee meetings to shore up any gaps in current policies and procedures; Options: on really cold days they do not go out into the community for safety purposes.

Pramod Dwivedi, Health Department Dir. – presented budget to the Board on 1/14; CHIP Progress Dashboard has been updated with the latest Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data; immunization audits for all licensed childcare centers in Linn County continues; efforts were expanded through the installation of free gun locks in most harm reduction vending machines; updating procedures for transporting clinical specimens to the State Hygienic Lab; new air monitoring trailer near McKinley STEAM Academy is operational; working with Public Health Foundation on details for the strategic plan; evaluated their GAPM survey results; met with the Foundation 2 CEO to discuss the sustainability of a Group Violence Intervention project; last week the United States formally withdrew from the World Health Organization (WHO) ending all US funding and recalling federal staff from WHO offices worldwide.

Jon Gallagher, Soil Conservation Department Head – Program Update: USDA Regenerative Pilot Program launched; EQIP first round application sign up period concluded on January 15, 2026; Urban Stormwater Initiatives: staff participated in meetings with officials from the City of Coggon and Central City in the month of January; projects continue throughout the Cedar Rapids Metro Area; Soil Conservation and Sustainability departments began preliminary fact finding for development of a formalized site grading and filling requirements, and creation of a stormwater utility for Linn County; Agriculture and Watershed Sustainability Project: assisted Indian Creek Watershed Management Authority with grant applications for the Watershed Plan Update; participating in development of Linn Soil and Water Conservation District 5 year plan; in process of screening applicants for filling the vacant Soil Health Coordinator position; participated in meeting hosted by the Linn Co-op bringing together growers with public and private stakeholders to discuss conservation efforts being implemented locally; Other: Road Structure design and policy review and development currently underway in cooperation with Sustainability and Engineering staff.

Dustin Peterson, Veteran Services Dir. – budget update; 4 veterans and their families received county assistance in December; all veterans experiencing financial hardships due to life events are screened to ensure they meet basic qualifications; 151 local veterans were served by Veteran Services in December; ongoing Cedar Valley Veterans Network events; provided assistance and mentorship for the launch of a new Cedar-Loo Veterans Network; explained HSB 231 and HF 1000; Veteran of the Month is experiencing some challenges mounting the recognition sign due to extremely hard soil due to the fridged conditions; shared a good news story about a veteran; will be attending training in March; working to set up a September 12th event for veterans involving a hike and networking.

Adjournment at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors