

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026, 9:00 AM

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.

Brad Ketels, County Engineer: GAPM showed improvement year over year. Budget is on track. Ketels said staffing is stable after retirements and new hires. Discussion on roads and large construction projects followed. Various asphalt paving projects throughout the county are updated in segments and sand and salt levels are fine.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt asked for dept. to keep Board up to date on upcoming road use and access issues, especially for big construction projects. Ketels agreed. Dept. is alert to the ordinance regarding hours of construction in the road use agreement, it's important we keep access open and safe kids can go to school, buses etc. Supervisor Running-Marquardt said.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt asked about the 76th street bridge, Ketels clarified that updates to it are coming soon.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt inquired about sale of Walford Road shop, Ketels notes it's a tight timeframe, but will make it work.

Carter Baldwin, LIFTS Dir.: Staffing: one Saturday driver vacancy, will be requesting one staff member after pending retirement. Medicaid waiver transportation authorization delayed; the state Medicaid system having difficulty recognizing Linn County as an official transit system.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt suggested Supervisor Sami Scheetz could send email to the state to get it sorted. Baldwin will give details for context.

Utilization of LIFT rides and riders was discussed and reviewed.

Supervisor Meisheid requested brochures with charts that promote rural access.

Sara Bearrows, Finance Dir.: Budget strong; spring amendment for retirement vacation payouts. One vacancy: Assistant Finance Director. FY26 Budget Spring amendment is due in OpenGov April 10th then discussed on April 22nd and a public hearing on Spring Amendment May 13th. FY27 Budget will be in Dept. of Management system Feb 25th. A public hearing date for the Budget Statement will be March 4th. A public hearing date of Budget Statement mailer will be April 1 at 9:30 am. A Public Hearing date for Budget Adoption April 1st, a public hearing on Budget Adoption will be set for April 22nd.

Conservation Bonds issuance meetings will occur in March.

Lisa Powell, Human Resources dir.: Nearly all AFSCME agreements ratified, Emergency Management pending. Board members thanked Dir. Powell for her hard work, deep dedication and for fostering a great environment here in Linn County particularly with labor relations recently.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt noted GAPM results are encouraging each department to engage in addressing and improving results in their specific areas. Learning institutes are getting ramped up. Budget on track. Developing a better policy on interacting with others and being respectful fosters good conduct.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt asked how best to communicate this to staff. Powell indicated this is in orientation and accessible through a link, with over 40 policies however, this is an important one which they emphasize, it fits with their goals.

Dept. is exploring a unified Human Resources Information System (HRIS) learning management system platform. The next quarterly employee recognition will be on Wed. April 22. Lindsay Hopp Senior Counselor for Linn County EAP is conducting information meetings on wintertime stress management, inviting people to share information about EAP with their departments.

Darrin Gage Dir. of Policy and Administration - budget vs actual is on track; no FY26 vacancies. FY27 deputy director position approved, posting July 6th, starting salary approximately \$94,000.

Six policy improvements completed in FY25; FY26 travel policy finalized. BOS admin is meeting with Terry Whitson regarding onboarding of new supervisors, and quarterly goal setting.

Supervisor Scheetz asked if Sunshine Training is happening in other jurisdictions. Gage acknowledged Linn is the only jurisdiction doing this thus far. Gage specifically thanked Lisa Epp, and Amanda Brown for their assistance.

Capital Projects / Construction Projects

Winter weather shelter is nearing completion; retainage and damages tracked. Courthouse renovations progressing; HVAC phase scheduled. Secondary Roads HQ construction on schedule est. \$16.16 million.

Walford Shop Sale update: Terracon's contract will be \$2750.

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EMS District – Lisbon/MV and Johnson Co. coordination public hearing mapping and planning is underway.

2026 State Legislative Session: First funnel deadline is Friday, February 20. SSB 3009 involves elimination of townships as a form of local government, this raises concerns with fence viewing, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and has passed subcommittee.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt spoke against elimination of townships.

Supervisor Meisheid viewed this bill differently as it's hard to find local folks to get involved.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt believes it's more likely a design to get government smaller and shift service costs.

Solid waste agency working group may need a closed session Friday 12:30 Feb 27 regarding final recommendations.

Library allocations review scheduled, driven by rural service needs and paid for by the Rural Services Levy.

Adjournment at 10:34 am.

Respectfully submitted,

TODD E. TAYLOR, Linn County Auditor

Approved by:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors