

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 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.

Public Comment: Matt Hinz, 3557 McClain Way, Hiawatha, expressed his opposition for the zoning application for Todd Hills Rd. He recognizes the importance of memory care facilities and the critical role they play in allowing Linn County and Hiawatha residents to live with dignity and appropriate support. His opposition is based on 2 concerns which include the property owners that have entered into a voluntary annexation with the City of Hiawatha and the zoning decision extending beyond a single proposal. He asked the Board to defer action on this application and allow the City of Hiawatha to evaluate and determine appropriate zoning. The approval of a USR-MF would permit a range of higher-density residential and potentially commercial uses in the future without further review. This type of zoning does not align with Hiawatha's long-term development strategy for the area. Hinz respectfully requested that the Board deny the USR-MF rezoning application and allow the City of Hiawatha to determine any future zoning classification once annexation is complete.

Craig Wenger, 2913 Diamondback Rd., Hiawatha, stated that he lives south of the property in question. He is opposed to the rezoning request and recognizes the need for the long-term mental health care needs in their area as well as nationwide. This is something they will all face for many years to come. Wenger doesn't believe this is the right location for this type of facility and asks the Board to deny the request for rezoning. In the case the Board does approve of this request, and a memory care facility is allowed to be built, given the current economic conditions, a lot of businesses are failing in their first three to five years. His concern is what happens to that ground and what is built or moved into that area if the care facility doesn't survive. That is a big concern with him and his neighbors.

Bruce Lindholm, 316 Forest Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids, thanked the Board for putting forth an ordinance for growth and development in the right way. It will create thousands of jobs and is a massive instrument that will drive money to communities and tax revenue. It provides large scale developments in their area with NextEra restarting. The landfill is filling up too quickly and he also thanked the Board for creating the working group for the Solid Waste Agency.

Barbra Solberg, 2075 Vista Cir. NW, Cedar Rapids, stated that she is here on behalf of the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance. They work to support a strong business environment and strongly support current and future data center development in Linn County. They create thousands of construction jobs and provide quality careers. They recognize that projects of this scale require thoughtful consideration of community resources including water usage and infrastructure capacity and appreciate the Board's approach in conducting studies. These projects are creating millions and sometimes billions in private investments. They talk about data center dividends which means local businesses experience increased activity from these projects. They also create opportunities for additional development and growth as demonstrated by the agreement with NextEra and Google to reopen the Duane Arnold Energy Center. She thanked the Supervisors and county staff for their thoughtful work in presenting an ordinance that protects their community and promotes development in the county. The benefits of attracting investments like these are substantial and will help position Linn County for sustained success in the years to come.

Cheri Monahan, 3523 Reed Rd., Hiawatha, stated that she is the Chair of the Hiawatha Planning & Zoning Commission and is speaking against the rezoning of 3541 Todd Hills Rd. A lot of her neighbors have sent in letters of opposition as well. This is a clear case of spot zoning and is not compatible with Hiawatha's Comprehensive Plan for the area as this gets annexed into Hiawatha. She asked the Board to deny the rezoning request.

Natalie Houkal, 316 19th St. NW, Cedar Rapids, stated that the United States is in the midst of an infrastructure buildout that is unprecedented in the scale and complexity. Iowa has had several data centers for some time, and they've watched them grow into massive centers. She gave megawatt capacities and the electric load impact on homes. Houkal doesn't want Linn County to piece meal zoning regulations in reaction to proposed developments. She highlighted true transparency from developers. Clear definitions of data centers are essential for clear interpretation of standards that are presented in the ordinance. She explained the City of St. Louis process regarding their ordinance and compared to Linn County's lack of specific application requirements. Houkal feels that this is a great start but thinks they can do better. Board members expressed in the first consideration that they work for the people but then approved the first consideration instead of tabling it for additional review. The Board stated that they put in as many protections as possible and then approved second consideration instead of tabling it for additional review. She feels Linn County is pro-growth towards data centers. The Board's actions in approving this ordinance in such haste speaks louder than their statements about doing their best to do right by the people of Linn County. Growth is important and she also wants sustainability. Houkal is glad they decided to rent instead of buy so they can pack up and leave. Cedar Rapids won't be growing when people's electric bills skyrocket, their wells run dry and no one wants to buy a house in a county littered with data centers.

Mike McDonough, 2935 Diamondback Rd., Hiawatha, stated that he submitted a letter for the rezoning case. This objection is a lot of skepticism and it's not the facility itself, but what happens with the future use. The proposed rezoning turns it into a single residence family type home with the ability to put up homes or tear down and build a very large commercial building. There is an application to have the property annexed by the City of Hiawatha. He referenced an R1 designation for single family homes. Future development would be limited and under new zoning that doesn't apply. The City of Hiawatha is then forced to accept different zoning than they intended. There is a very easy win situation here which is to allow for the conditional use, variance of use, for limited specific purpose the applicant has told them all he wants to do. It takes care of citizens' mistrust and allows owner to do what he wants to do. Seems like that is the most sensible and best way to make peace and ill feelings.

Laurie Wenger, 2913 Diamondback Rd., Hiawatha, stated that she and her husband are Hiawatha residents and they do support the memory care project. They cannot support all the other housing uses that are also a part of the USR-MF. She referenced the letter from Hiawatha's City Manager Dennis Marks that clearly defines their intent to zone this parcel low density residential (R-1) following formal annexation. They don't want Hiawatha forced to allow nonconformance to their stated intent. Lisa Halverson's proposed compromise is a good one. Wenger was a teacher for decades and if seven-year-olds can compromise, adults can too. She hopes that the Board will seriously consider the compromise to allow Hiawatha to be a true partner in Linn County.

Charlene Larson, 3528 Timber Ridge Trail, Cedar Rapids, stated that they do not oppose a memory care facility, but they oppose the permanent, high density USR-MF zoning that will follow this property beyond the annexation to Hiawatha. Over the past several months, their neighbors and community have organized, researched, attended meetings and submitted letters for consideration. No impacted residents have spoken in favor of this rezoning. Their objections are due to the highest density residential zoning category in Linn County that allows for multiple four-story apartment buildings, townhouses, duplexes and zero lot line homes. All of the zoning levels support memory care just on a smaller scale. The long-term risk is irrefutable. She highlighted the Planning & Zoning Commission meetings and their vote of 3-2 against this case. The Board has the authority to allow a specific conditional use permit under the existing zoning by adjusting the code of ordinances use table. Their community is asking the Board to consider an alternate solution that supports the project. She respectfully asked the Board to deny this current rezoning request and consider the alternate path.

Amanda Reeder, 3532 Timber Ridge Trail, Cedar Rapids, stated that her home sits on the parcel directly to the north of the parcel being considered for rezoning. She is speaking on behalf of her family and the neighborhood and is proposing a path that recognizes the need for memory care and protects the integrity of their established neighborhood. They do support the overall need for memory care in the community and this 14-bed memory care facility specifically. Their opposition is strictly focused on the "blank check" that accompanies the high-density housing intensity allowed within the USR-MF classification. Reeder explained LESA scoring which is excellent at box checking soil types and map coordinates, but it is blind to recognizing the existing soul of the neighborhood where the land resides. The two recurring themes are that they support the 14-bed memory care, as they do, but they do not want action to happen under Linn County jurisdiction which conflicts with what Hiawatha's future plan as stated by Dennis Marks. She asked that the Board please choose a path that supports senior care without sacrificing the integrity of their neighborhood and the partnership the City of Hiawatha deserves.

Lisa Halverson, 3567 Todd Hills Rd., Cedar Rapids, stated that the approval to rezone this parcel to USR-MF would cause development to leapfrog municipalities and fragment growth throughout the county. This decision is not about one parcel; it is about the cumulative effects that could collapse the annexation plans between municipalities and the county. It undermines orderly municipal development and intergovernmental cooperation. Any rural lot/acreage in a fringe area to incorporated cities would now be fair game for up-zoning to multi-family uses, even commercial uses simply by connecting to the closet city water and sewer services. This is an extremely dangerous precedent to be set. They would like to propose an alternative which is an amendment to the table of use in the ordinances. She then explained the process to achieve that. This alternative would show that Hiawatha truly has a partner in Linn County who wants to continue good intergovernmental cooperation supporting growth in their fringe area.

Dr. Kelly Kellen, 3020 Edgewood Rd., Cedar Rapids, stated that her house is directly east of the property and they moved there 18 years ago. The neighbors did a great job explaining why they don't want this. She understands this is a bad situation with where their zoning is as the area is designated as residential. This is a transition to a 14-bed facility, and she would never put a loved one or parent in a facility like that as it's hard on them and gave reasons why. They have already committed to it, and they will rezone their area with 133 people that don't want it. It is her opinion that they will end up going bankrupt with this facility. Kellen added that it's not just 6 months in and then get out. She asked the Board to think about what if it was them.

John Zakrasek, 531 Lawndale Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids, thanked the Board, Charlie Nichols and staff for their work on the data center ordinance. He asked them to consider adding some of the specifics mentioned directly by the data center developers to the Economic Development Agreement in the data center ordinance. He suggested several ways to include these commitments in the ordinance: commitment to pay for all elements of electricity production, commit to pay for all elements of water capture, commit to use clean energy around the clock and prevent data center driven construction of

additional generation facilities that will produce additional heat trapping emissions in Linn County and use the least water possible to commit to engage with computing and cooling equipment. He also asked that if improving water quality, they would fund programs that significantly enhance the recharge of aquifers serving Linn County, preserve and restore wetlands that recharge Linn County aquifers, and work with state organizations to improve water quality. He also suggested ways to fund the community investment as well as ways to create full-time jobs in Iowa and build the local labor force. He thanked the Board again for their outstanding engagement with their communities.

Susan Biederman, 1509 Matterhorn Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, spoke regarding data centers. She respectfully asked for more time to do more research and see what other data centers have come up with and how it might apply to this one.

Motion Running-Marquardt, seconded by Meisheid to approve minutes of February 11 & 13, 2026 as printed.

Motion by Scheetz, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve claims accounts payable checks dated 2/18/26 #71020477 to 71020549 in the amount of \$345,677.15; and ACH in the amount of \$1,168,297.43; for a total of \$1,513,974.58.

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

Resolution 2026-2-26

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A 5-TON WEIGHT LIMIT EMBARGO ON THE SECONDARY ROAD SYSTEM OF LINN COUNTY

WHEREAS, Under the provisions of Chapter 321.471 and 321.472 of the Code of Iowa, the Board of Supervisors ("Board") may prohibit the operation of vehicles or impose restrictions as to the weight of vehicles to be operated upon the Secondary Road system whenever by reason of deterioration, rain, snow, or other climatic conditions will seriously damage or destroy the roadway unless such prohibition or restrictions are imposed, and

WHEREAS, climatic conditions may produce conditions where heavy loads are detrimental to the rock surfaced portion of the Linn County Secondary Road System.

WHEREAS, the Board finds that it is in the best interest of the public to establish the five (5) ton weight limit for the Secondary Road System of Linn County, except for paved roads, and except for local deliveries for residential and agricultural purposes.

WHEREAS, the Code of Iowa allows the issuance of a permit for loads to be hauled on an embargoed road, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors sets a \$50.00 fee for the issuance of an Embargo Permit by the County Engineer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Linn County Board of Supervisors hereby establish a five (5) ton embargo weight limit on the Secondary Road System of Linn County, except for the paved roads, and except for local deliveries for residential and agricultural purposes, and that the County Engineer be directed to post signs as needed and as prescribed in Chapter 321.472, Code of Iowa. The County Engineer is hereby authorized to remove said embargo at any time that the Board of Supervisors are not in session, when the condition improves such that, the embargo is no longer necessary.

Resolution 2026-2-27

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A 10-TON WEIGHT LIMIT EMBARGO ON THE SECONDARY ROAD SYSTEM OF LINN COUNTY

WHEREAS, Under the provisions of Chapter 321.471 and 321.472 of the Code of Iowa, the Board of Supervisors ("Board") may prohibit the operation of vehicles or impose restrictions as to the weight of vehicles to be operated upon the Secondary Road system whenever by reason of deterioration, rain, snow, or other climatic conditions will seriously damage or destroy the roadway unless such prohibition or restrictions are imposed, and

WHEREAS, climatic conditions may produce conditions where heavy loads are detrimental to the hard surfaced portion of the Linn County Secondary Road System. The hard surfaced portion consists of: All bituminous type surfaced roads on the Linn County Secondary Road System which are commonly referred to as asphalt, seal coat or blacktop surfaces, and

All portland cement concrete type surfaced roads on the Linn County Secondary Road System.

WHEREAS, the Board finds that it is in the best interest of the public to establish the ten (10) ton weight limit for the Secondary Road System of Linn County, except for local deliveries for residential and agricultural purposes.

WHEREAS, the Code of Iowa allows the issuance of a permit for loads to be hauled on an embargoed road, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors sets a \$50.00 fee for the issuance of an Embargo Permit by the County Engineer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Linn County Board of Supervisors hereby establish a ten (10) ton embargo weight limit on the Secondary Road System of Linn County, except for local deliveries for residential and agricultural purposes, and that the County Engineer be directed to post signs as needed and as prescribed in Chapter 321.472, Code of Iowa. The County Engineer is hereby authorized to remove said embargo at any time that the Board of Supervisors are not in session, when the condition improves such that, the embargo is no longer necessary.

Resolution 2026-2-28

A RESOLUTION TO DISPOSE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, the Linn County Secondary Road Department is in possession of surplus equipment and vehicles that are of no further serviceable use to Linn County (See Attachment 1 – listing), and;
WHEREAS, it has been determined that disposal of the surplus equipment and vehicles is in the best interest of Linn County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors this date met in lawful session and; authorized the Linn County Secondary Road Department to work with Hoge Auctioneering LLC to conduct an in person and online auction of surplus equipment and vehicles.

Attachment 1

AUCTION ITEMS TO BE SOLD

(4) 255/70R22.5 New retread truck tires, (4) 22.5 new open center truck rims, (5) 9.00R20 new drive truck tires (1) 9.00R20 used truck tire, (2) 9.00R20 new steer truck tires, (1) 11R22.5 used truck tire, (4) 225/70R19.5 used truck tires-14ply, (3) boxes of new old wiper blades, (3) Various old non-working air tools, (3) Harris AVL units Model: HD-MU1B, Box of old truck taillights, (3) small old metal storage boxes, (2) 245/75R17 tires on rims, (2) 245/70R17 tires on rims, (1) 265/70R17 tire on rim, (1)13.6R28 used tractor tire, (1) 14.9R28 used tractor tire, (1) 18.4-30 used tractor tire, (2) 14.00R24 used grader tires, 2018 New Holland Disc Mower (asset# FAM000004), 1995 Case 721B Loader (asset# FAM000310), 2001 John Deere 310SG Backhoe (asset# FAM000340), 2013 Chevy Silverado 1500 4x4 (asset# FAM000492), 2009 Chevy Colorado pickup (asset# FAM000703), 2007 Sterling LT7500 Dum truck (asset# FAM000528), 2009 Chevy Silverado 1500 4x4 (asset# FAM000701), 2003 John Deere 772CH Motor Grader (asset# FAM000305), 2014 Volvo G946C Motor Grader (asset# FAM000509), 2010 Volvo G946 Motor Grader (asset# FAM000471)

Resolution 2026-2-29

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH SURFACE TREATMENT AND SURFACE MATERIAL COSTS

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors, Linn County, Iowa, has developed a policy regulating dust control, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors, Linn County, Iowa by policy annually sets prices for seal coat, chloride, and other surface materials.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Linn County, Iowa this date, meeting in lawful session, and upon recommendation of the Linn County Engineer, does hereby establish the following prices for dust palliative and road surface treatments applied by and through the Linn County Secondary Road Department as listed below:

Dust Control Material	Price
Calcium Chloride	\$1.25 per foot (conditional use/road agreements)
MC-3000 Single Seal – 1st seal (0.30 gal./sq. yd.)	\$9.50 per foot
MC-3000 Single Seal - 2nd seal (additional)	\$5.00 per foot
Entrance Surface Material (adjacent to project)	Price
Paved Drive Adjustment/Replacement	\$12.00 per square foot
Rock (15 ton minimum)	\$15.00 per ton

These prices shall remain in effect for the 2026 calendar year.

Award bid and authorize the chairperson to sign a contract for calcium chloride for dust control to Binns and Stevens in the amount of \$777,150 for the Secondary Road Department.

Award bid and authorize the chairperson to sign contracts for 2026 Dust Control Rock as follows:
Crawford Quarry \$19,250, Wendling Quarries \$89,000.

Approve and authorize the chairperson to sign a contract with Patriot Consulting Technology Group, LLC. for 11 weeks of consulting services in the amount of \$20,900 for the IT Department.

Approve and authorize the chairperson to sign an Agreement for Services with Terracon Consultants to conduct a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment at 650 Walford Road SW, Cedar Rapids for a lump sum fee of \$2,750.

Approve and authorize the chairperson to sign an Agreement for Professional Services with HDR Engineering, Inc. to provide consulting support for the Solid Waste Agency Working Group for a lump sum fee of \$4,500.

Approve purchase order PO858 in the amount of \$390,500 for Bituminous Material & Supply, dust control liquid asphalt products for the Secondary Road Department.

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the 2025 Certified Local Government Annual Report for the Linn County Historic Preservation Commission.

Approve one Assessment Year 2024 Homestead allowance as recommended by Assessor.

Luke Fischer, Facilities Dir., presented a proposal with Baker Group for Juvenile Detention Center cameras in the amount of \$10,819.40. This is an expansion of some work they have already done. It will be paid for with carry over funds from Linn County Community Services.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve a proposal with Baker Group for Juvenile Detention Center cameras.

Sara Bearrows, Finance Dir., presented an Addendum #1 to the Standard Professional Services Agreement, originally approved on February 19, 2025, between Linn County, Iowa, and Snyder & Associates, Inc., for Tower Terrace Road Phase 7–2026 BUILD Grant Application. This allows the county the ability to pay Snyder the \$20,000 grant application fee and then invoice other cities for their portion. There is no cost to Linn County.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve Addendum #1 to the Standard Professional Services Agreement, originally approved on February 19, 2025, between Linn County, Iowa, and Snyder & Associates, Inc., for Tower Terrace Road Phase 7–2026 BUILD Grant Application.

Bearrows also presented the Linn County Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. This is something that has not been presented to the Board in the past, however the County's Bond Attorneys recommended the Board accept this report going forward. There were no findings or issues in the report. This is a formality to be placed in the minutes.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt added that Linn County has a Aaa bond rating. They had a great audit with no findings and look forward to continuing their budgeting process to maintain those things.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to accept the Linn County Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

Jared Kelley, Operations Supt., presented the 2026 Maintenance operations overview for the Secondary Road Department.

Supervisor Meisheid thanked Kelley for presenting noting the short- and long-term approach and the ways to go about things. She appreciates the personal approach if and when it is needed along with the willingness to listen to the residents.

Supervisor Scheetz stated that he does not receive roads call but hears about the professionalism displayed by their office and expressed his appreciation to their entire team.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt thanked Kelley for his presentation and the efforts his team makes to get people on the road and the quality of life it allows people to have.

Garett Reddish, Asst. Co. Engineer, presented the 5-Year Construction Plan.

Board members echoed their previous comments.

Brad Wylam, Planning & Development, discussed Third and Final Consideration of a request to rezone 11.68 acres located at 3541 Todd Hills Road, from Rural Residential 3-Acre (RR3) to Urban Services Residential - Multi-Family (USR-MF) noting that 33 comments in total were received from neighbors. Staff still recommends approval as they believe the rezoning meets all of their standards for review. He referenced the voluntary annexation that allows them to hook up to city services for water and sewer noting that there is no timeline. This is Linn County's jurisdiction until the annexation occurs. They are comfortable with this application and are seeking approval for this rezoning request.

Supervisor Meisheid asked if there is an option for the Board to consider changing the requirements or standards to allow for more than 8 people with a conditional use permit and Wylam responded yes.

Discussion continued regarding a conditional use permit, the countywide impact and the potential delay of approximately a month and a half.

Supervisor Meisheid is in favor of that option and shared her concerns about being favorable due to the long-term use and what could go there and what could come of it. She doesn't feel comfortable approving if it could fail with the Board of Adjustment. She also isn't comfortable with the rezoning until she knows the use and its impacts. If her colleagues are in favor of making that change, she would like to see that happen. Meisheid's position is to change to RR3.

Supervisor Scheetz explained his position noting that he is comfortable with this ordinance. He doesn't think it is good practice to change an ordinance for only a few concerns. He is confident to continue supporting this on third and final consideration. It is a noble cause, and he appreciates those in opposition. He wants to grow the county and the rural communities. They cannot deny every instance where there is a possibility of having housing decades from now. He hears what people are saying and tries his best to respond and believes this is a good application. Scheetz feels comfortable passing this ordinance today.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt added that she also appreciates the conversations they have had. She referenced her personal home and the multi-family housing that is present in her neighborhood. It is a luxury and she would be envious if a care facility like this was in her backyard. It enriches her community and neighborhood even though others may not see it that way. After further consideration, she is also comfortable moving forward with this ordinance. She does appreciate the shift in mindset from those that spoke in opposition.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve Third and Final Consideration for Ordinance 2-2-2026 for a request to rezone 11.68 acres located at 3541 Todd Hills Road, from Rural Residential 3-Acre (RR3) to Urban Services Residential - Multi-Family (USR-MF).

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

Charlie Nichols, Planning & Development Dir., discussed Third and Final Consideration of an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa, by amending provisions in Chapter 107, pertaining to Data Center usage and associated requirements. He highlighted the four changes that took place from the draft ordinance between second reading and today. Those changes are as follows: added requirements for a waste management plan, a lighting plan, IDNR coordination in the water use agreement to address well interference concerns and added a requirement for an applicant led public meeting to occur before the first Planning & Zoning Commission meeting for any requests to rezone land to an EU3 for a data center.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that to the best of their ability, with the help of their staff and outside consultants, they have done their due diligence and learning from other communities to develop this ordinance for unincorporated Linn County. While some jurisdictions treat data centers as standard business development, they made a deliberate decision to take a different approach and adopt a strong, comprehensive ordinance. She thanked residents who attended meetings and provided feedback.

Supervisor Meisheid added that she feels strongly about decommissioning and is passionate about property maintenance and looks forward to placing that with different language in a broader sense. She didn't have the support to add it to this ordinance but hopefully in a different ordinance in the future. She emphasized that the ordinance applies only to data centers in unincorporated areas and not to facilities under construction within city limits. Putting strong guardrails in place now is the best way to protect taxpayers before proposals come forward. Future applicants must work with the county through detailed plans and binding agreements, including water use, economic development, lighting, waste management and road use agreements.

Supervisor Scheetz echoed the comments from his colleagues. More than 100 residents attended the first reading in Palo and helped shape the final version. They addressed the issues their residents care about most, which are water use, noise, setbacks and making sure these companies give back to the communities they operate in. At the same time, data center projects create generational wealth for their union construction workers and deliver real economic benefits across the region. This ordinance strikes the right balance.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve Third and Final Consideration for Ordinance 3-2-2026 amending the Code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa, by amending provisions in Chapter 107, pertaining to Data Center usage and associated requirements.

Charlie Nichols, Planning & Development Dir., discussed a Resolution to set a public hearing date of March 9, 2026, at 10 a.m. for an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa, by amending provisions in Chapter 107, pertaining to gas-fired electric generating facilities as an allowable use in the Exclusive Use-Two (EU-2) zoning district. This resolution allows them to set the date of the public hearing and first consideration. The Planning & Zoning Commission met Monday and recommend approval.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that they were approached by Alliant about the natural gas power plant and are in no hurry for this project. It was indicated by Alliant that the majority of this gas-fired electric would be used to power the Cedar Rapids data centers on the west side. There are a lot of issues that can be discussed such as fossil fuel and the impacts of pollution on the air and environment.

Supervisor Meisheid welcomed residents to attend the public hearing to share their thoughts and concerns.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt presented a letter of support for the City of Ely's Community Project Funding Request for a new fire engine noting that Congresswoman Hinson has a program where she lists the projects she will take on. They are sending a letter that they are in support of their request but not sure what federal funding source it is.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to authorize the Chairperson to sign a letter of support for the City of Ely's Community Project Funding Request for a new fire engine.

Public Comment: John Zakrasek, 531 Lawndale Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids, stated that regarding gas fired power plants they have been trying to reuse submissions for decades. It is disturbing to him that the City of Cedar Rapids has approved two data centers, and they have to build another gas fired power plant. It's also disturbing that even the data centers who want clean energy are driving implementation as there are health issues with all the emissions.

Susan Biederman, 1509 Matterhorn Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, stated that she still has concerns about the data centers. She keeps pushing for more research and more time as that is really important for the scope. People are relying on the news to figure things out. She is not sure what is going on with Alliant, and she would like to know. She has been reading about hydrogen on the earth as the environment is so important to her. Biederman also mentioned care centers and that she would like to see them more centrally located in Cedar Rapids like the hospitals are, noting that they have awesome farmland so why are they putting them in the rural areas. She appreciates the Board's work.

Lisa Halverson, 3567 Todd Hills Rd., Cedar Rapids, thanked the Board for hearing them and considering their comments. She also thanked Supervisor Meisheid in particular for taking the time to consider their proposal and they are disappointed that it was not agreed to with the other Supervisors. The memory care facility is already a permitted use across the board under residential zoning in the table of use and it would have been a trivial matter to add the conditional use permit for more than 8 people. She is disappointed that that will not move forward as the timing of that is at most four to six weeks and would have alleviated the conflicts and fears. The applicant obviously put his purchase contract for the property with contingencies for this to go through and came forward with delays built in.

Supervisor Meisheid thanked everyone for attending the meeting. It's neat to see people that they get to know on a first name basis. She really appreciates that they are getting involved in their local government and voicing their opinions.

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 Barbara Christie-Pope to the Ryan White/Home Health Advisory Committee, for a three-year term ending June 30, 2028.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to enter into a closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(j) to discuss the purchase or sale of real estate.

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

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to go out of closed session.

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

Adjournment at 1:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

TODD E. TAYLOR, Linn County Auditor
By: Amanda Brown, Deputy Auditor
and Ana Brunscheen, Executive Assistant

Approved by:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors