

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026 4:01 P.M.

The Board met in session at Linn County Farm Bureau, 1323 Boyson Rd., Hiawatha, Iowa. Present: Chairperson Running-Marquardt, Vice Chairperson Scheetz and Supervisor Meisheid. Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

The following Linn County staff answered prepared questions submitted by the Farm Bureau in advance:

Charlie Nichols, Planning & Development Dir., gave an update on the Duane Arnold Nuclear Power Plant and the nearby proposed data center. He acknowledged concerns regarding the local power grid and explained that local infrastructure upgrades have been underway to prepare for the increased demand expected from new industrial developments in Linn County and Cedar Rapids. He also shared that Coggon Solar will be moving forward this summer.

All three supervisors then answered questions surrounding how the citizens of Linn County are being prioritized with the energy that is being produced, highlighting that the recently adopted ordinance helped to address that with the implementation of an Economic Development Agreement and Community Betterment Fund.

Nichols then pointed out how the same ordinance addressed concerns surrounding water usage with water study requirements and requiring the applicant to enter into a Water Use Agreement with Linn County.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt discussed how the ordinance was viewed as very stringent. Google has now gone to the City of Palo requesting voluntary annexation, thereby bypassing the stringent ordinance. The key differences that the County and Google were never able to come to terms on included taxation and water usage reporting. The Supervisors and Nichols then answered multiple questions regarding the ordinance, Host Community Agreement, and Memorandum of Understanding requirements with Duane Arnold and how those might relate to data centers.

Nichols ended with an update on Dows Farm, sharing that the project is advancing. He also touched on the County's Comprehensive Plan prioritizing agricultural land.

Discussion occurred regarding pending legislative bills regarding agriculture.

Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir., gave an update on the Land, Water, and Legacy Bond. He provided a breakdown of the bonds as well as proposed projects. Farm Bureau members discussed concerns around water quality and inquired for more specifics on where the funds were utilized, of which Goemaat provided insight.

Brad Ketels, Co. Engineer, gave an update on county bridges and rural infrastructure. He provided statistics on bridges, hard surfaced roads, and rock surfaced roads. Discussion occurred regarding road grading. Ketels also gave highlights on the new Secondary Roads building being built on County Home Road. The department hopes to move in May.

Supervisor Scheetz discussed the Solid Waste Working Group – how it is composed, their discussion points, and recommendations. He shared the timeline of the group and the process of securing a landfill expansion.

Farm Bureau members expressed their appreciation to Scheetz and the entire Working Group for taking a proactive approach as the current landfill nears the end of its service.

Sara Bearrows, Finance Dir., gave an update on the County's budget, noting that the levy went down by a penny. She discussed changes in property taxes and how changes at the state level may impact Linn County. Bearrows then discussed the general fund ending balance and provided a QR code for the County budget book. She did note that FY27 has not yet been finalized but offered to share that once it is completed.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt highlighted the issue of unfunded mandates and the potential legislation that could increase those expenses. She noted that even seemingly minor requirements, such as mandating a flagpole at every County building, could create additional costs for the County.

Page 2
March 3, 2026

Adjournment at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

TODD E. TAYLOR, Linn County Auditor
By: Ana Brunscheen, Executive Assistant

Approved by:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors