

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 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 Scheetz, seconded by Meisheid to approve accounts payable checks dated 04/22/26 #71021051 to 71021117 in the amount of \$318,378.34; ACH in the amount of \$1,515,001.81; and wire in the amount of \$5,438.00 for a total of \$1,838,818.15 and voids totaling \$60.00.

Motion by Scheetz, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve payment to Brandy Meisheid in the amount of \$408.35

Vote: Running-Marquardt & Scheetz – Aye Meisheid - Abstain

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to amend the consent agenda to move to the regular agenda: Discuss and authorize Chair to sign Opioid Settlement Funds Combined Subdivision Participation and Release Form on behalf of Linn County for the New Opioid Settlement with Six (6) Remnant Defendants.

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

Approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign Amendment No. 1 to the Professional Services Agreement with Emergent Architecture for the Linn County Secondary Headquarters Project, reducing the architect's compensation by \$9,055.72.

Approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign Change Order No. 10 with Larson Construction Co., Inc., increasing the contract sum by \$54,911.74 for the Linn County Secondary Road Headquarters Project.

Approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign Change Order No. 1 with Garling Construction increasing the sum by \$6,452.31 for the Linn County Courthouse Interior Remodeling project.

Approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign an agreement between D.A. Davidson & Co. and Linn County for dissemination agent services for an annual amount of \$1,000 effective April 15, 2026.

Approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign an agreement between the Abbe Center for Community Mental Health and the Linn County Sheriff's Office to provide mental health services to the inmates of the Linn County Jail for a total amount of \$39,600 for FY27.

Approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign the 2025 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Award Agreement between Linn County, the City of Cedar Rapids and the City of Marion. The total grant amount is \$70,356 and will be split between the following: Linn County \$33,648; City of Cedar Rapids \$28,649; City of Marion \$8,059.

Approve purchase order PO890 to CDW GOVT in the amount of \$29,383.24 for various office, conference room, and training room technology for the Linn County Secondary Road Headquarters Project.

Approve a 60-month copier lease agreement with Gordon Flesch Company in the amount of \$168.28 per month for the Conservation Department.

Approve 5-Day Special Class C Retail Alcohol License for Wildhorse Productions LLC - Battle at the Sandburr Rodeo, 58 Sutliff Rd., Lisbon, noting all conditions have been met.

Approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign the Certifications and Assurances by the Chief Executive of the Applicant Government for the FY2025 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program.

Approve Linn County's draft Digital Accessibility Plan.

Approve Linn County's draft Digital Accessibility Statement.

Supervisor Meisheid read a letter recognizing Ron Slagle as the Linn County Veteran of the Month for April 2026.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve a letter recognizing Ron Slagle as the Linn County Veteran of the Month for April 2026.

Dustin Peterson, Veteran Services Dir., stated that Slagle was nominated by his daughter and has the right impact on the community with his service in the military and after the police department. Any time there is an issue with a veteran, Slagle is there. He is a huge advocate for anything that impacts veterans.

Supervisor Meisheid read Proclamation: National Therapy Animal Day, April 30, 2026.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Running-Marquardt to adopt said Proclamation.

Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin., presented a Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2027 Elected Officials Compensation. The resolution formally adopts salaries and is a necessary step before the Board approves the FY27 budget.

Supervisor Meisheid added that she has previously shared her thoughts about the percentage of increase for salaries. She believes the overall county budget is a compromise and is supportive today.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to adopt Resolution 2026-4-64

A RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE COMPENSATION SCHEDULE FOR ELECTED LINN COUNTY OFFICERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027

WHEREAS, the Linn County Board of Supervisors ("Board") met on January 28, 2026, to carry out duties as the county compensation board in accordance with Iowa Code Sections 331.905 and 331.907, and WHEREAS, the Board reviewed and discussed the compensation paid to the Linn County auditor, treasurer, recorder, sheriff, attorney, and supervisors, and comparable officers in other Iowa counties, other states, private enterprise, and the federal government, and professional law enforcement administrators and command officers of the State Patrol, the Division of Criminal Investigation of the Department of Public Safety, and city police chiefs employed by cities of similar population; and, WHEREAS, upon completing its review, the Board prepared a recommended compensation schedule for elected Linn County officers for Fiscal Year 2027 to submit for consideration at the public hearing held on the county budget as provided in Iowa Code Section 331.434, and for inclusion in the county budget; and, WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2026 compensation schedule for elected Linn County officers is: auditor, treasurer, recorder, and supervisors – \$140,706.21; sheriff – \$204,600.61; and attorney – \$226,636.25; and

WHEREAS, the Board, carrying out duties as the county compensation board, voted on January 28, 2026, to recommend a 4.0% increase in the compensation paid to the attorney, auditor, treasurer, recorder, sheriff, and supervisors for Fiscal Year 2027, which begins July 1, 2026.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Linn County Board of Supervisors that the final Fiscal Year 2027 compensation schedule for Linn County elected officers is as follows: Auditor \$5,628.25 increase or \$146,334.46 total salary Treasurer \$5,628.25 increase or \$146,334.46 total salary Recorder \$5,628.25 increase or \$146,334.46 total salary Supervisors \$5,628.25 increase or \$146,334.46 total salary Sheriff \$8,184.02 increase or \$212,784.63 total salary Attorney \$9,065.45 increase or \$235,701.70 total salary BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the salary for Linn County elected officers be increased according to the above listed compensation schedule for Fiscal Year 2027, effective July 1, 2026.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to open Public Hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2027 budget.

Sara Bearrows, Finance Dir., presented proof of publication. There were no oral or written objections. She continued with a PowerPoint presentation explaining the FY27 budget in detail.

Supervisor Scheetz expressed his appreciation to Bearrows and her staff as the presentation and budget process were very informative.

Bearrows added that they will be adding a few additional budget meetings next year outside of the 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. window.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that the budget process began in November of last year and they go through budgets line item by line item with all departments and Elected Officials. The level of excellence in Linn County includes the GFOA designation that shows efficiency in budgeting/financial reporting and their Aaa bond rating. Linn County represents about 16% of people's property tax bills. She asked Jerry Witt to attend today's meeting to provide explanation about property assessments and available credits.

Jerry Witt, Linn County Assessor, explained in depth the process of the ratio to determine property assessments. They are currently in the process of closing out 2026 property assessments and will start working on 2027 in the next month or so. He also added the available exemptions: homestead, 65+ and military.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt added that the County Assessor is a separate entity from the Board of Supervisors and they are not Witt's boss. Witt's staff go above and beyond, listen and are reasonable and she appreciates that. She is also proud of the work the Board did with a really good budget even with constraints and still were able to reduce the levy rate by a penny.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to close public hearing.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve the fiscal year 2027 proposed budget and certificate of taxes.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to adopt Resolution 2026-4-65

A RESOLUTION APPROVING FISCAL YEAR 2027 PROPOSED BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Linn County Board of Supervisors have considered the proposed fiscal year 2027 county budget and certification of taxes; and,

WHEREAS, a notice concerning the proposed county budget was published as required and posted on the county web site and social media accounts; and,

WHEREAS, a public hearing concerning the proposed county budget was held on April 22, 2026,

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

The county budget and certification of taxes for fiscal year 2027, as set forth in the Proposed Budget Summary, is hereby adopted, and the Board of Supervisors and County Auditor are hereby authorized to sign the approved fiscal year 2027 county budget.

Karen Heiderscheit, Asst. Finance Dir., presented and explained the fiscal year 2026 budget amendment requests.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt thanked Heiderscheit for all of her work and her in-depth explanation to her. There are unfunded mandates such as the Courthouse furniture that the county now has to pay for.

Supervisor Scheetz also expressed his appreciation.

Heiderscheit also asked the Board to set a public hearing date for the fiscal year 2026 proposed budget amendment.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to set a Public Hearing for Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 10 a.m. in the Formal Board Room of the Jean Oxley Public Service Center, 935 2nd Street, SW Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for the fiscal year 2026 proposed budget amendment.

Sonia Evans, Finance Dept., presented an Opioid Settlement Funds Combined Subdivision Participation and Release Form on behalf of Linn County for the New Opioid Settlement with Six (6) Remnant Defendants. This is another settlement agreement for 1-time payments of \$26,000 and she asked for the Board's signature.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt thanked Evans for all of her hard work.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to authorize Chair to sign Opioid Settlement Funds Combined Subdivision Participation and Release Form on behalf of Linn County for the New Opioid Settlement with Six (6) Remnant Defendants.

Public Comment: John Lee, 2510 Sisley Grove Rd. SW, Cedar Rapids, stated that he is speaking regarding the proposed rural Linn County Morgan Valley site. They have a group working to review filings and are speaking with agencies to understand the project. They are concerned about what they are finding. It's his understanding that people are not aware the project exists and it's a countywide gap. Lee understands that the Board isn't responsible for knocking on the doors of those who are affected. He is asking the Board to publicly acknowledge the awareness of this site and asked if they would commit today to taking clear visible steps to bring awareness to this project before it moves forward. Lee added that information awareness is not optional. They are not asking to debate every technical detail but simply to make sure the people of Linn County know what is being proposed and they aren't seeing that happen.

Jane Scheer, 3388 73rd St., Fairfax, stated that she is from Benton County and is representing those who are affected by this decision. The project is close to the Benton County line and impacts air quality, infrastructure and does not stop at the county boundary. The awareness of those who may be affected is limited and raises a concern if people are truly being heard. How are they ensuring that people are being made aware of the project and are able to engage in the progress? Decisions like this don't exist in isolation and it affects communities and not just jurisdictions.

Abe Kellison, 1502 Cardinal Dr., Fairfax, stated that he is speaking regarding the proposed natural gas plant noting the absence of site-specific air quality and emissions. They have not seen data that reflects the reality of this site or a weather analysis. The proposed facility is near homes and farms that are over 100 years old. People will have to live with the consequences of this project every day. Without site specific information, they are accepting facts that have not been fully evaluated and that is unfair to residents. Kellison asked the Board if they have required site specific air quality and emissions information before moving forward and if they haven't, will they?

Nate Sirotak, 1925 Sisley Grove Rd., Cedar Rapids, stated that he looked through the budget noting the revenue with regard to residential taxes. What would the largest gas power plant in the state do to that formula and calculation? The proposed plant will be built across the street from where his three children play outside daily and given the documented health concerns and the radius, it feels irresponsible and reckless to build it. He addressed the site selection, fiscal footprint and long-term land use for the county. Sirotak asked the Board if they have been provided with a clear explanation about the amount of land and asked that it be made public before the project moves forward. He also requested that the Board make

the public aware if the developers have approached them. They are residents of Linn County and love the places they live and live there for a reason. They are asking for transparency.

Kirsten Running-Marquardt, 3515 Field Stone Pl. SW, Cedar Rapids, stated that the Supervisors are not allowed to go back and forth during the public comment period. That can only be done during a public hearing. The Board preemptively made an ordinance for Linn County and added several protections. They do not have the authority for air quality of pollution. There is not a formal application before them for a power plant. She appreciates the public engagement and hopes that it continues. As they move forward, when they receive notice, they will be as transparent as possible.

Kelly Goodwin-Ackerman, 408 Circleview Dr., Atkins, stated that if the Board no longer has the authority to adjust the setback based on things like air quality, then why would they approve a variance for a setback. She sent an email Sunday to the Board and wanted to make sure they received it.

Jay Hopkins, resident of Linn County, suggested that this topic be added to the Board's agenda so they can have back and forth. He feels that two of the Supervisors are listening to them but one does not care. He would like them to engage with the public so they can hear what the Board is thinking. Hopkins continued to say that the Board needs to listen to the Linn County citizens they represent. Just because this isn't in their district doesn't mean it doesn't matter. There are two communities and thousands of rural residents that live by this proposed plant. This shouldn't be about money, but it seems that it is.

Ruth Kimm, 7203 Benton Linn Rd., Cedar Rapids, stated that she lives a quarter of a mile from the proposed plant and will be looking out the window at 3 stacks that will be 150 ft. tall on that building. It just isn't right. She's lived there for 38 years, raised 3 kids and has grandkids living there. She doesn't want them looking outside seeing those stacks.

Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin., gave a legislative update and bills were discussed in depth.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to declare against SF2500.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to enter into a closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(a) to discuss two draft agreements as authorized by state law to be kept as a confidential record pursuant to Iowa Code 22.7(65).

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 12:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors