

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026 9:00 A.M.

The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center. Present: Chairperson Running-Marquardt and Supervisor Meisheid. Absent: Vice Chairperson Scheetz (personal 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:

Dave Thielen, LCCS Exec. Dir. – budget update; looking at amending General Assistance language as it relates to burials; area homelessness has been going down for two consecutive years; shared statistics around the Landlord & Tenant Success Initiative; working with HHS on ECI bill language; upcoming PREA Audit for Juvenile Detention; license renewal underway for Juvenile Detention with a few changes being required; discussed proposed legislation to decrease Detention Home fund; Access Center now seeing Withdrawal Management patients with positive feedback; Child & Youth Dev. recently approved for a grant allowing more children.

Jon Gallagher, Soil Conservation Dept. Head – introduced Rowan McCarthy as the new Soil Health Coordinator; Buchanan County staff member assisting with cost share applications for cover crop acres; annual review of project activities with the State of Iowa; progressively increased cover crop usage in last several years; field reviewing Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) applications and potential wetland projects; preparing for fall batch sites; discussed bi-annual Kirkwood outreach; recently participated in the well-attended EcoFest; discussed local drainage concerns including delayed spring farm activities; requests for technical assistance as runoff concerns increase; discussed Secretary Naig's field tour of the E Avenue oxbow construction project.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt expressed her appreciation to the area farmers for trying to be part of the solution while maintaining their day to day work, noting they often times go above and beyond. They make a large impact towards nitrogen reduction, water quality, and water mitigation. She suggested recognizing an area farmer possibly quarterly at a Board meeting.

Dustin Peterson, Veteran Services Dir. – budget overview; gave statistics including veterans served and financial assistance provided; next Cedar Valley Veterans Network career networking event is May 6 at 5:30 p.m. at Big Grove Brewery in Cedar Rapids; discussed legislative updates that affect veterans; extended business hours to allow for later appointments for working veterans – will reevaluate in June to evaluate the effectiveness; shared upcoming staff trainings; discussed additional potential outreach opportunities; shared recent good news stories regarding local veterans.

Charles Struck, Asst. I.T. Dir. – two personnel vacancies; budget review; update on the Teams phones rollout; discussed state cyber security training that new employees are going through.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt requested Struck discuss with HR the possibility of mandating the state cyber security training for new employees.

Adjournment at 10:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors