

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
MONDAY, MAY 11, 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 (via phone). Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt called the meeting to order.

Public Comment: Circe Stumbo, representing Advocates for Social Justice, acknowledged the report that will be shared about homeless and unhoused people. There is impressive information in that report. Stumbo feels that Linn County is ahead of the curve with regard to people who are experiencing what it is to be unhoused. Those people cannot be lifted up enough and she is excited to hear more about the report.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve minutes of May 4, 5 & 6, 2026 as printed.

Motion by Scheetz, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve claims dated 05/08/26 for payroll deduction Check Nos. 71021250 to 71021252 in the amount of \$500.00, ACH in the amount of \$24,430.95, an EFT wire in the amount of \$29,172.41 and a Ceridian ER Funds Trust Wire in the amount of \$2,288,196.98, for a total of \$2,342,300.34.

Supervisor Scheetz read Proclamation: National Emergency Medical Services Week, May 17–23, 2026.

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

J'nae Peterman, Homeless Systems Manager, gave a presentation on the system progress and updates including ongoing advisory councils, Community Care Team and Coordinated Entry Street Medicine Collaborative.

Supervisor Scheetz expressed his appreciation to Peterman for all the work she has done.

Tracy Houdeshell, Deputy Treasurer, presented proposed revisions to Investment of Funds Policy. There is a very minor change on page 4 in relation to the realignment of Budget and Finance department.

The Board will approve Wednesday.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to open public hearing on an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa, by amending provisions in Chapter 10, pertaining to Air Quality.

Pramod Dwivedi, Public Health Dir., discussed an ordinance and First Consideration of the ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa, by amending provisions in Chapter 10, pertaining to Air Quality. Today is the 1st of 3 readings noting that this amendment is due to changes at the state level.

Dr. Wanda Reiter Kintz, Air Quality Sup., gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the ordinance amendment in detail including the background and SF558. The amendments are intended to ensure that Linn County's ordinance aligns with the state due to SF558.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt emphasized that this ordinance amendment has nothing to do with Alliant's proposed power plant and Kintz added that there is no correlation between the two.

John Zakrasek, 531 Lawndale Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids, asked what the implications and outcomes are of the changes being made to the ordinance as it's a 116-page document that is difficult to get through. He referenced his distaste that crossing out 4 words is interpreted the way it is and words such as align should not be used. Zakrasek gave examples of using fertilizer and achieving yields as it is consistent with the requirements, but the interpretation is important. He asked the Board to vote no so they can hear about the implications of the changes that are being made. He stated that moving forward with the idea that consistent meaning and then achieving more is a good thing. There are things that need to be improved on given the gas power plants and high cancer rates in Iowa.

Kintz explained that in regard to the implications, a lot of the changes and information deals with definitions and formatting along with correct Iowa Administrative Code. There are no affects to the day-to-day operations. Gas fired power plants fall under federal and not Linn County or Linn County's code updates. The certificate of acceptance would be rescinded if the code doesn't go through.

Cindy Anderson, resident of Fairfax, Iowa, stated that moving forward, the air quality in Iowa is very important and there are significant issues with health and things like that. They all know that things are being deregulated and their standards are going down instead of up. How do they protect themselves and stop protecting big businesses from destroying their lives. She understands that they have to be consistent, but rules and laws should have to match across the board. How do Linn County residents keep the bar up high instead of lowering it due to the state decreasing standards and regulations.

Kintz added that she understands the issues and they have existed as an air quality program since 1968 with 3 distinct sections. They do their best in following state in federal regulations to stay in compliance.

John Zakrasek, 531 Lawndale Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids, added that there is a provision in the law that says if they established an air quality monitoring program prior to 1973 it stays in effect.

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

Supervisor Scheetz thanked Public Health for their presentation today. He explained background with the legislature and how SF558 was snuck in a budget bill. He does feel it is terrible legislation and did not vote in favor of it; however, it is now part of Iowa Code and has been since 2023. The intent was to remove the language that Linn and Polk County could have more restrictive regulations than the state. Scheetz hates the proposed changes to the ordinance, but they have to comply with it due to state law. It is very clear that if they voted this down, they would lose their certification. He also acknowledged the public's frustration, but they do not have a choice.

Supervisor Meisheid agrees with Scheetz' comments. It is state policy and code. The timing of it may seem like there is a correlation but this ordinance amendment is not related to the power plant. The power plant also has federal regulations. She will be supportive due to Iowa Code.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that she appreciates all of the hard work from those individuals at Public Health trying their best to comply with forced legislative changes. Her objection to the ordinance changes are in no way a reflection of Public Health's work nor their role to protect the people of Linn County. She does understand that if this amended ordinance doesn't pass it could do harm to their air quality division. She is voting no today on this first consideration for several reasons including the passing of SF558 that the Governor signed into law targeting Linn County and Polk County specifically because they have air quality divisions within their Public Health Departments. These air quality divisions put in place protections above what the DNR, a financially starved department, allows. She acknowledged that when this bill went through the legislature Supervisor Scheetz spoke against it and voted against it. The protections they are referencing in Linn County were built by decades of County Supervisors and professional staff all who came before her. Their word and dedication to the people of Linn County deserve to remain in place. They are in a state with the highest levels of cancer in the country. The Iowa legislature and Governor have a track record that can speak for themselves. Complying to this legislative body and Governor who wants to allow for greater air pollution and in a county with a particularly high level of lung cancer even when you qualify for radon and life choices is a part of her why. Another consideration is having an Iowa legislature and Governor who have repeatedly shown complete disregard for home rule and local control unless it fits their political preferences or buzz words of the day. She is saying no today as she wasn't elected by the people of this county to quietly comply with a policy with such great negative impacts on their health.

Motion by Scheetz, seconded by Meisheid to approve upon First Consideration on an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa, by amending provisions in Chapter 10, pertaining to Air Quality.

Vote: Scheetz & Meisheid - Aye Running-Marquardt - Nay

Jessie Black, Admin. Specialist, presented a Request for Refund of Erroneously Paid Real Estate Transfer Tax for property located at 4122 Gemstone Road, Marion, Iowa. She explained that transfer tax is typically paid by the seller and the sale price was listed incorrectly in this instance. Abode Construction paid transfer tax based off of \$298,000 instead of \$62,000. They originally requested a refund from the Department of Revenue and Linn County is responsible for refunding the 17.25% that remains in the amount of \$68.11.

The Board will approve Wednesday.

Public Comment: John Lee, 2510 Sisley Grove Rd. SW, Cedar Rapids, thanked the Board for the continued discussion regarding the project and conversations that have taken place surrounding Public Health and the community's concerns. They are asking for thoughtful decisions, transparency and what the long-term impact is on water, farmland, air quality and for growth to be taken seriously before irreversible decisions are made. The Board of Supervisors oversee Public Health and will oversee the decisions for the Morgan Valley Energy Center. By meeting standards that the state is lowering in Linn County and minimum standards doesn't mean this is appropriate. The land is not empty, and these communities are not invisible. Real economic development should strengthen communities. He appreciates that there may be a Public Health meeting later this month for residents to better understand the process, ask questions and continue to learn more about the potential impacts and considerations involved with a project of this magnitude. They are continuing to research and learn more themselves and look forward to the continued respect and conversations moving forward.

Bruce Volz, Benton County Supervisor, stated that he is discussing the Supervisors' disappointment that they have not been consulted regarding the proposed power plant in Morgan Valley. He believes Linn County has an ordinance that states a plant such as this cannot be built within 2.25 miles of a residential area. Right across the county line, 2,500 people live 1.75 miles away from this plant and nothing has

been considered for them. There are residents in Benton County who have concerns and decisions are being made that are like sentencing them to a life sentence. Their lives will be changed forever, and they do not have a voice or a vote. The residents went to the Benton County Supervisors, and they didn't have any knowledge this was going to take place. They would really like to be considered as these people's lives mean something. They don't deny the fact that there is probably a need for a power plant but put it where people have a voice. The 3 Benton County Supervisors reached out to the Linn County Supervisors and were told they would meet with them, but they haven't heard a word. They are neighbors but here they are. They are asking for help.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve payroll authorizations (detail is available upon request).

Adjournment at 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors