

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026 9:00 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.

The Board heard updates from the following Department Heads:

Charlie Nichols, Planning & Development Dir. – FY27 budget update, revenues are above where they would be expected to be mostly due to Morgan Valley Gas Plant application; discussed staff development in the Building Division; staff undergoing AI training testing out the capabilities on their processes; Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map update with two open houses planned for the fall including a hybrid virtual option to attend; special Planning & Zoning Commission meeting for the Morgan Valley Energy Center on September 28th at 6 p.m., hoping to have it at the Hotel at Kirkwood Center but still need to confirm.

Discussion followed as to why the Supervisors feel the Hotel at Kirkwood Center in the evening is a good choice and what steps will happen after that meeting is held.

Nichols then discussed working with the City of Walford and ECICOG on a Fringe Area Agreement; will be part of a panel presenting on data centers at the Iowa State Assoc. of Counties conference and was also invited to the Rural Energy Academy for the same purpose; battery energy storage systems webpage going live today.

Steve Estenson, Risk Management Dir. – working on updating current properties list to insurance policies; Employee Safety and Health Fair on September 17th at the Harris building; working with Finance on Derecho money coming in from FEMA, hoping to have it all closed out by the end of the calendar year; 10-year anniversary of the 2016 flood and shared statistics from that event; discussed the flood stage of the Cedar River and how that affects county properties.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt thanked Estenson for his countywide leadership during times of disaster noting he helps the County, the employees, and the citizens. She appreciates his hard work.

Supervisor Meisheid expressed her heartfelt thanks to Estenson for his help in getting resources to Prairieburg after their tornado. She is grateful there are people willing to step up to the plate and help residents when it's needed.

Britt Hutchins, Purchasing Dir. – discussed KPI of pushing sustainable products; had a recent retirement of 41 years and new hire started yesterday making them fully staffed; currently on budget; provided postal statistics; discussed recent bids and new copiers; recent vehicle purchase needed to be auctioned off due to engine damage; involved with new state contract with Amazon that is utilized for office supplies; assisting Johnson County with creating a Purchasing Department; attending NIPG (Institute for Public Procurement) National Conference next week.

Adjournment at 9:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors