

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 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.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve the minutes of August 19, 2026 as printed.

The Board heard updates from the following Department Heads:

Dave Thielen, LCCS Exec. Dir. – overview of FY26 budget; legislation decreased amount received for Home Detention fund; working on grant for a Financial Empowerment Center.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt discussed Good Neighbor Agreements amongst neighborhoods and how that could benefit the community. It is a non-binding agreement outlining how to be good neighbors, contact information, and their commitment to the neighborhood. She would appreciate if Thielen would help lead the conversation for this idea at a coalition level. This could help solve problems before they happen.

Supervisor Meisheid is very interested in learning more about this. It is important for residents nearby to learn how to solve issues using predetermined ways in the hopes to avoid calling the police. It could be a valuable asset and she looks forward to reading it.

Thielen continued discussing Juvenile Detention receiving the contract with STEP Intervention; Juvenile Detention now has a full-time nurse on staff; MHAC (Mental Health Access Center) submitted a request for cost-of-living increases to be included in their contract; Child & Youth Development is now rated a level 4/5 center under IQ4K.

Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir. – Morgan Creek Lodge is done and taking reservations; Pinicon Ridge Mountain Bike Trail should be done by the end of September; Morgan Creek Park Wetland is complete and will be stocked with fish; continued work on invasive species control utilizing IDNR Forestry Resiliency grant; pre-construction meeting for Grant Wood Trail from Paralta Road to Springville Road; planning to replace Riverside Playground at Pinicon Ridge Park; update on various trails including Dows Maniti, Alliant Corridor, and Morgan Creek trails; all campsites are now reservable online starting with next year's season with spots reserved for day-of reservations; Iowa County Conservation System conference coming up; discussed various storm damages.

Pramod Dwivedi, Health Dept. Dir. – budget update; 4<sup>th</sup> strategic plan was launched recently; GAPM progress discussed; Together! Healthy Linn continued preparations for 2028-30 Community Health Assessment and Improvement Planning cycle; food assistance numbers remain high; recent air monitoring statistics; initial allocation of FY27 Private Well Grant funding has been received; shared food inspection statistics; discussed Ebola and measles noting one outbreak of measles in Iowa among most-likely unvaccinated individuals.

A lengthy discussion occurred where Dwivedi addressed concerns his department is receiving about the Morgan Valley Energy Center.

Jon Gallagher, Soil Conservation Dept. Head – working with farmers affected by the Prairieburg tornado; statewide money for cover crops is being claimed very quickly; working on outreach programs; shared erosion concerns for next season noting cover crops would help with both erosion and weeds; state wetland program made a splash in the county; discussed conservation easement program.

Supervisor Meisheid thanked Gallagher for all of his work in Prairieburg after the tornado. She is grateful that the County has such amazing staff to help with constituents. She feels they should hold a debrief with the departments that assisted to find ways to better approach a disaster going forward.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt agrees a debrief would be an excellent idea. She appreciates the work that Gallagher and others do to clean up the county's water. They are doing work that most people don't know about and it will have generational effects.

Gallagher then discussed grant funded survey work; water sampling activities are expected to conclude this month; targeted outreach in response to storm damages; discussed oxbow projects; Coggon Solar vegetative management plans are being received.

Dustin Peterson, Veteran Services Dir. – brief IT update; discussed current FY27 budget; shared July statistics for veterans assisted; next Cedar Valley Veterans Network career networking event scheduled at 5:30 p.m. on September 2<sup>nd</sup> at Big Grove Brewery in Cedar Rapids; Reps with Vets next event will be at 3 p.m. on August 26<sup>th</sup> at the Veterans Memorial Building; Coffee and Camaraderie is second Friday of each month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the NewBo City Market; recent donations received allowed for 20 school supply filled backpacks to be provided to low income veterans; discussed recent outreach efforts

including the Iowa State Fair; participated in recent first ever NACVSO (Nat'l. Assoc. of County Veteran Services Officers) Delegate Meeting; attended 2 Yellow Ribbon Events for returning Iowa National Guard members; attended the Honor Flight Orientation event at Kirkwood Hotel; discussed the VA county-level veteran population model for 2023-2053.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt thanked Peterson for being there for veteran's families.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to enter into a closed session pursuant to Iowa Code § 21.5(1)(k) to discuss information contained in records in the custody of a governmental body that are confidential records pursuant under Iowa Code § 22.7(50).

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 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors