

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2023 9:00 A.M.

The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center. Present: Chairperson Zumbach, Vice Chairperson Rogers and Supervisor Running-Marquardt. Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

Chairperson Zumbach called the meeting to order.

Motion by Zumbach, seconded by Rogers to approve minutes of October 23, 2023 as printed.

The Board heard updates from the following Department Heads:

David Thielen, LCCS Exec. Dir. – budget update; General Assistance: launched ERA2 October 1st; Overflow Shelter planning; working on funding position through ARPA (joint position); Juvenile Detention: staffing continues to be a challenge; working on potentially creating paid internships; Access Center: SWOT analysis done in October; lots of challenges with changes with managed care; ongoing work to create the Community Detox Center; Child & Youth Development: fully accredited by NAEYC at the highest level and seeking state quality accreditation; Ryan White: currently serving 206 clients (highest caseload the program has had); Options: secured a van with ARPA funds; auctioning off two minivans; ECI/DECAT: event today at the Cedar Rapids Public Library; East Central Region: the children's navigators are meeting with Linn County providers to discuss children's services that ECR provides.

Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir. – Buffalo Creek Park is complete; recapped various trail, park and campground projects; bird preserve; solar arrays installed at Pinicon Ridge, Morgan Creek Park, and Highway 13 shops; Fall Fest last Saturday.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt expressed her sincere appreciation for Goemaat's willingness to be open and willing to work with others across the county.

Jon Gallagher, Soil Conservation Department Head – Indian Creek Soil Health partnership grant; offer has been extended to fill the open position; Cedar River Clean Water partnership continues to move forward; cover crop sign up process continues with lots of applications coming in and funds are still available; there are a lot of programs that provide assistance for cover crops; Iowa FSA provided new protocol for program contract reviews; Indian Creek Watershed projects.

Dustin Peterson, Veterans Affairs Dir. – budget update; three veterans received county benefits to relieve financial burdens brought on by unexpected life events; assisted 96 veterans; veteran suicide prevention event this weekend; 3 Veteran Service Officers and 3 Commissioners attended Fall School; elected District 2 President for the Iowa Association of County Commissioners and Veteran Service Officers; nominated and selected to serve on the Iowa Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Amongst Service Members, Veterans and their Families; 3,251 Linn County veterans received federal benefits.

Tamara Marcus, Sustainability Dir. – Food Symposium is this Friday; Trunk of Treat with energy saver kits in Palo; Resiliency Fair this Sunday; would like to schedule one on ones with Board members to discuss Climate Pollution Reduction Grant updates; decommissioning project; disaster preparedness template in partnership with EMA; EPA Government 2 Government grant funded; Resiliency Corps program.

Charlie Nichols, Planning & Development Dir. – switching to internal training efforts as construction season begins to slow for the season; inspections have continued at the NextEra Solar Array; City of Springville has voted to enter into a 28E agreement for rental and property maintenance inspections; clerical staff remains busy with permit and inspection activity; UDC Amendments for Agritourism/Agricultural Experience and Wind Farms; Food Symposium on October 27th; Historic Preservation Commission replaced 3 signs in Lisbon, Mount Vernon and the local Iowa State Patrol headquarters with 3 remaining signs in need of replacement; Community Ratings System Recertification; upcoming Ely fringe area agreement; working on request for qualifications for pipeline inspection services; permit activity.

Adjournment at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JOEL D. MILLER, Linn County Auditor
By: Amanda Hoy, Executive Assistant

APPROVED BY:

LOUIS J. ZUMBACH, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors