

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2022 8:00 A.M.

The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center.  
Present: Chairperson Rogers and Supervisor Walker. Absent: Vice Chairperson Zumbach  
(personal business). Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

The Board met with Elected Officials and department Heads to discuss County-related  
issues including:

Kurt Birchmier, Wellmark, gave an executive summary of the 2021 claims and condition  
analysis.

Dawn Jindrich, Finance Dir., discussed the year end accrual basis budgeting process in  
GovSense.

Chairperson Rogers highlighted several recent incidents with sovereign citizens trying  
to prove that they are not subject to the laws (State, Federal, county, city, etc.)  
and wants staff to be empowered to end the transaction if necessary.

Supervisor Walker concurred with Roger's thoughts and noted that if someone feels  
threatened he does not want them to feel obligated to finish the conversation with  
those individuals. He asks that people be mindful and not endure any type of  
harassment.

The Board heard updates from the following Department Heads:

David Thielen, LCCS Executive Dir. - four retirements and five new employees; budget  
status. General Assistance: emergency rental assistance expired on December 31<sup>st</sup>;  
Ashley Balius is serving on the ARPA Committee; updating community resource sheet on  
the website. Juvenile Detention: legislation went into effect requiring that all  
youth waived to adult court must be housed in a detention center (15 youth and 5 adult  
court); legislation for supplemental funds for Iowa Detention Centers. Access Center:  
new security company starting in March; working with Facilities on spending grant  
money to increase general security; Unity Point and Abbe Health have contracted for  
services previously filled by ASAC; Foundation 2 was able to hire additional key  
positions that will allow for increase in walk-in hours. Child & Youth Development:  
received a \$75,000 Childcare Stabilization Grant; working on process of program  
assessment by the State for quality assurance. Ryan White: funding an additional case  
manager position. Options: preparing for CARF accreditation; goal is to maintain an  
average of 85% for sustainability reason. ECI/DECAT: decided to do a bid renewal  
process instead of full RFP's; ECI has historically been a part of the Dept. of Mgmt.  
but will be moving to DHS as part of the childcare initiative. Attended virtual  
sessions of the NACo Legislative Conference; ARPA Committee.

Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir. - a lot of projects that are still underway due to  
unusual weather this year including parks and trails; have to rebuild a bridge due to  
an accident; master plan signage underway; upcoming campground project; potential  
donation of land from the DOT; evaluating two potential properties; consultant looking  
into solar arrays on roof of park shops; Freeze Fest run held last weekend; proud of  
his staff and Tam Marcus helping them with their inclusion; updated strategic plan to  
include the new one.

Pramod Dwivedi, Health Department Dir. - budget update; reorganization of his staff;  
assisting Dubuque County Board of Health to establish a foundational and  
organizational capacity; Webster County Health Dept. reached out regarding health  
equity position; Academic Health Dept.; My Care Community; harms reduction lock boxes;  
preventing violence affecting young lives grant; received successful reaccreditation  
in November; continue to develop key performance indicators; participated in National  
Incident Management System; continue to do everything they have been doing with regard  
to COVID 19 and will update the website with the new information.

Nicole Kehres, Veterans Affairs Dir. - updating website; creating QR code with  
Communications; Learning Institutes continue; Linn County Veteran's Independence  
Program (VIP) has resumed; eligibility criteria has been expanded; attended training  
at Camp Dodge; sent out first electronic copy of their newsletter; working with HR and  
Communications to recognize Linn County employees who are veterans; partnering with  
Freedom Foundation for distributions; presentation for Mercy Caregiver outreach in  
March.

Phil Lowder, IT Dir. - budget update; experiencing supply chain issues (finally  
starting to receive products); maintenance contract costs are increasing; two staff  
vacancies; security and ransomware; in process of Office 365 and Microsoft Teams  
rollouts.

Tamara Marcus, Sustainability Program Mgr. - previously shared the year in review for  
2021 with Board members; meeting with Board members individually regarding 2022  
projects; upcoming panel request for this month; highlighted partnerships with several  
agencies; attended Cedar Rapids School Board meeting; Wilderness first aid certified;  
Sustainability and Resiliency members have been appointed to the committee and  
meetings will take place the second Friday of the month; internal Sustainability  
Council meeting held yesterday; working on internal sustainability plan; ongoing  
research on the infrastructure bill released last year; participating in ongoing

housing needs working group; working on a potential garden at the Fillmore building. AmeriCorp update: accepted as a continued site yesterday, anticipating two additional hires in May for a total of four; upcoming Women in Substantiality series; EcoFest; creek cleanup at Thomas Park in Marion; community conservation workshop; webinar on degenerative ag.

Chairperson Rogers praised Marcus on her work with this new position noting that he is thoroughly impressed.

The Board received and placed on file the following correspondence: letter from the City of Cedar Rapids re: Hiawatha Annexation Moratorium Agreement; letter from the City of Hiawatha re: Cedar Rapids Annexation Moratorium Agreement; letter from the City Development Board re: Fairfax voluntary annexation; and letter from the City Development Board re: Marion voluntary annexation.

Adjournment at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

BEN ROGERS, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors