

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022 9:00 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.

Chairperson Rogers called the meeting to order.

The Board received updates from the following Elected Officials:

Sheriff Gardner - Posted and awarded a bid for security at the Public Service Center (hopefully in place by the end of the month); interviewed some candidates for Deputy Sheriff (testing again in May); applied for ARPA funding for COVID medical isolation cells at the Jail; planning to use 60-40 funds for continued Jail renovation regarding video visitation; and they are continuing to require masks for everyone in the Jail.

Discussion continued regarding the reasoning behind why Sheriff Deputy's and applicants are interested in working for the Cedar Rapids Police Dept. (and other law enforcement agencies) rather than for the Sheriff. They are clearly informed that they should plan to work 7-8 years in the Jail before they can go out on patrol.

The Sheriff also explained what they have done to offer mentoring and tutoring while preparing for the civil service exam.

County Attorney Nick Maybanks - transferred some of his cases to Asst. County Attorney's in the felony division; changed the process of assigning new cases effective today; case statistics; transitioning to new database; steady stream of violent crime and he is actively working with law enforcement; meeting with division heads; taking a firm stand on plea offers; fully staffed; virtually paperless now; Diversion Program statistics; went to the capital and visited with legislators regarding County Attorney priorities; "Go the Distance" 5k will be back in person in April and Courthouse building projects and space study.

Recorder Joan McCalmant - continue to be busy with passports, marriage licenses and boat renewals; real estate transfer volume will be affected by interest rates; and explained the process used in her office when non-statutory liens are filed by sovereign citizens.

Auditor Miller asked, as an elected official, if a non-statutory lien is filed against him as the Auditor, is the County willing to represent him or any other Linn County elected officials? He also noted that this will have a chilling effect on people wanting to run for public office.

Lisa Epp, Asst. County Atty., stated that this is paper harassment, this is a nuisance and is not a valid lien. It is similar to an elected official being harassed by email. They are not liens and it is a meaningless piece of paper. It will not cloud a title.

Miller asked for the County Attorney to issue an opinion to present to an abstractor.

Supervisor Walker stated that the school board members that had liens filed against them will know that the lien is not supposed to be there and will spark a conversation. He understands wanting something in writing and noted that they should be telling their story to the media and let residents know what this is costing in tax dollars and energy. Perhaps someone from the Civil Division could talk to a reporter.

Epp advised against that noting that it would give them attention and encourage them to do more. The more light they shine on it, the more energy they get.

Supervisor Rogers asked McCalmant if a boat and boat trailer could be renewed in the same office.

McCalmant responded that the boats are renewed with the DNR and the trailers are with the IDOT. They are two very different systems and agencies but she and the Treasurer are willing to work together.

Treasurer Sharon Gonzalez - Linn County can register their vehicle with another contiguous county; the yearly publication bid for the June tax sale went to the Gazette; her communication with a sovereign citizen was through the mail; the elderly tax credit changes is an unfunded mandate and she presented a sample of an instructional video on their website for transferring a title.

Auditor Joel Miller - Elections: Deputy Warfield reported that there are two elections today (Palo City Council Vacancy and Center Point/Urbana School public measure); the majority of efforts are to secure voting precincts (entrance to voting facility must be 100% ADA compliant); and working with Terry Whitson on updating precinct official training.

Miller noted that they are not saying buildings are not ADA compliant, just not ADA compliant for elections. The Iowa legislature is also proposing changes for this year 1) potentially fix issue of inconsistent recounts and increasing the number on recount board based on population of the county. 2) Asking voters when voting by mail to put

their driver's license number or voter PIN on the outside of the envelope. His office did a mailing to 13,000 unregistered households with voter registration application. Real Estate - working with Terry Whitson to align goals and products with the Linn County Strategic Plan; Assessors will be sending out assessments and staff is spending time ensuring addresses and ownerships are accurate. The Iowa Rural Water Association Annual Conference was held in Des Moines Feb. 21-23. During the Awards Luncheon, Connie Helms, Walker City Clerk received "Clerk of the Year" and Kevin Shoop, Walker Public Works Director, received the "Best Tasting Water in Iowa" award. Miller continued to say that it would be nice if the County Attorney's Association or even the Attorney General would issue an opinion on the non-statutory liens that are filed by sovereign citizens. He also agreed with going public, noting that it is important information for future candidates to be aware of.

Adjournment at 10:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JOEL D. MILLER, Linn County Auditor
BY: Rebecca Shoop, Deputy Auditor

Approved by:

BEN ROGERS, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors