

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2021 9:00 A.M.

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

Chairperson Walker called the meeting to order.

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

Joi Alexander, Communications Dir., stated that Linn County will undergo a 2021 Website Redesign. She stated that there is a component for departments to share the cost for consulting and she will reach out to those departments.

Dawn Jindrich, Finance Dir., presented an update on Audit of Federal Awards. She stated that they just received Audit results and stressed the importance of following all rules as Linn County is expecting \$44 million in Federal awards (stimulus funds). If rules are not followed, Linn County will be required to pay back funds. She stated that most comments were related to procurements.

Jindrich added that GovSense has been frustrating with implementation challenges and they are hoping to get the last module working so that they are able to have records retrieved for audits at ease. It will improve efficiencies.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve minutes of March 22, 2021 as printed.

The Board received updates from the following Department Heads:

David Thielen, LCCS Exec. Dir. - all indications are that expenditures are slightly under budget; statistics by department reflecting the numbers of residents they are assisting; federal funds are received for the Child Development food program (audit went well); Early Child Iowa received grants; overflow shelter is down to 25 individuals; continue to work on another food and shelter program; resource sheets updated; Ryan White Program was awarded funding for another 5 years; Home Health program's goal is to keep people in their homes; Options client numbers are down; Mental Health Access Center is undergoing a phased opening and continue to work on outreach; Juvenile Detention Center staff retirements/turnover; and attended annual NACO business meeting.

Supervisor Rogers stated that he has had conversations weekly with Ashley Balias addressing the homeless. It is his goal to transition overflow shelter out of the Fillmore Building. The City of Cedar Rapids is looking at a piece of property and he is exploring the possible use of stimulus dollars to assist with that.

Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir. - Contractors are mobilizing to various sites (nature trails, Morgan Creek Park, etc.); implementing Master Plan signage; number of wetlands in process (most at Wanatee Park); two cold storage buildings in process as result of Derecho; solar array continues to move forward; developing a response plan to restore woodlands; excited about working with Sustainability Office to get trees in the ground and working with Linn County Soil Conservation on their annual tree sale; discovered Emerald Ash Borer at Wanatee; getting campgrounds and boat ramps open (middle of April); and tracking demographics of campers.

Pramod Dwivedi, Health Dept. Dir. - participated in a virtual meeting along with colleagues throughout the nation focusing on COVID-19; met with three federal elected officials regarding resources; working with community partners regarding mental health; ongoing COVID-19 weekly meetings; vaccine distribution; no outbreaks in long term facilities; 75 food safety inspections in February (Linn & Jones); implemented new website; and working with the city of Lisbon on rental property code.

Supervisor Rogers noted that he is looking forward to an objective matrix to start considering the reopening of buildings.

Phil Lowder, I.T. Dir. - Helpdesk stats are on track; budget overall is underspent; three staff vacancies (industry trend nationwide); cybersecurity and ransomware protection.

Tamara Marcus, Sustainability Program Mgr. - Sustainability website has been launched; gazette article next week; presenting at a Lions Club Thursday; tree program (12 community organizations); greenhouse gas inventory and will start working on county building greenhouse gas inventory; Green Iowa AmeriCorps (two fulltime employees to be housed at the Public Service Center); community garden at Fillmore Building; and solar power education.

Adjournment at 9:54 a.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

STACEY WALKER, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors