

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA  
MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2023 10:00 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.

Public Comment: Brian Gardner spoke with regard to the item on the agenda pertaining to allowing residents who live in unincorporated Linn County in the half-mile buffer zone around the cities of Cedar Rapids, Marion, Hiawatha to openly burn tree debris from the August 2020 derecho and subsequent storms. He stated he lives north of Rogers Rd. (within the city) and his property abuts up to unincorporated Linn County. He and his neighbor's property sits up high. The area of south of Rogers Rd. sits low in the valley. Smoke from down below drifts up to them. Speaking as a member of the public, this happens every year when people start burning and the language on the agenda includes subsequent storms which will result in non-ending burning. He encouraged the Board to not approve the extension because it is a true inconvenience to residents like him.

Joshua Pate, 5629 Vermont St., Cedar Rapids, spoke with regard to sustainable economic development. On Sept. 25, 2015 the United States joined 192 countries in signing the UN Action on Sustainable Development Plan. As the Board discusses topics relating to economic development, environmental justice and relations with ECICOG, it is important that they view sustainable economic social and environmental development along with (but not exclusively) economic development.

Motion by Zumbach, seconded by Rogers to approve minutes of April 5, 2023, as printed.

Motion by Zumbach, seconded by Rogers to adopt Proclamation: National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week – April 9-15, 2023.

Supervisor Rogers read the Proclamation.

VOTE: All Aye

The Board discussed allowing residents who live in unincorporated Linn County in the half-mile buffer zone around the cities of Cedar Rapids, Marion, Hiawatha zoned as Urban Services Residential (USR) to openly burn tree debris from the August 2020 derecho and subsequent storms.

Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin., stated that the Board approved an extension on April 4, 2022 until June 30, 2022. The reasons for the extension at the time was because residents had difficulty securing a contractor available after the storm as well as the volume of tree waste. The Board granted the extension based on those facts. The Board's staff recently took a call asking about another extension.

Wanda Reiter Kintz, Public Health Air Quality Branch Manager, stated that this is a difficult subject, noting that the Derecho was 2.5 years ago. There are facts such as the capacity of the Solid Waste Agency for landscape debris and right now EPA is reviewing the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and they are tightening up on those regulations. Her job is to provide guidance and to protect air quality. She also wants to be cognizant of health issues such as asthma, COPD, etc. If the Board issues a variance, it has to be a shorter time period. She stated that they would have to apply for a permit and abide by permit requirements. In closing, she stated that being a good citizen and good steward of air quality she recommends that they not grant the extension.

Sheriff Gardner stated that this topic was discussed at his command staff meeting this morning and advised the Board that regarding enforcement, it is almost impossible for his staff to know what is being burned, Derecho or otherwise.

Chairperson Zumbach stated that he asked for this issue to be placed on the agenda, noting that he has received several calls in the Bertram area where debris is down in a valley. His thoughts are to look at it on a case-by-case basis with Public Health discretion. He believes that buildings from the Derecho should be cleaned up. Public Health could go out and make sure they are storm related trees.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that the Board heard from one person by email. Moving forward, she would like to hear from neighbors. If it is going to be a permitting structure, then it should be limited and tighten it up for a circumstance that would be left over from the Derecho. Air quality is a concern of hers. She also lives and represents a lot of areas within the ½ mile buffer zone. They need to find a good balance and take air quality into the highest consideration.

Supervisor Rogers stated that he is at a place now where if someone has not taken care of Derecho related debris, then they need to move on and not continue to have burning options. He does not want staff to go out to verify if trees were impacted by the Derecho or not. This Board has engaged in allowing burning in the past and now they have only received one request (last year it was 9). That shows that people have taken care of it and allowing burning is not a best practice. He will not support the extension and one person reaching out signals to him that people have taken care of their debris.

Chairperson Zumbach asked Reiter Kintz to write something up for Wednesday.

Charlie Nichols, Planning & Development Dir., presented a contract between the Iowa Economic Development Authority and Linn County for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funding.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve and authorize Chair to sign a contract between the Iowa Economic Development Authority and Linn County for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funding.

Nichols also presented a related resolution authorizing execution of a contract with East Central Iowa Council of Governments for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Grant Administration and Project Delivery Services for the Dows Pocket Neighborhood Project.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Running-Marquardt to adopt Resolution 2023-4-52  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH EAST CENTRAL IOWA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ECICOG) FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DISASTER RECOVERY (CDBG-DR) GRANT ADMINISTRATION AND PROJECT DELIVERY SERVICES FOR THE DOWS POCKET NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT WHEREAS, Linn County (COUNTY) was awarded a Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) grant by the Iowa Economic Development Authority for the Dows Pocket Neighborhood Project; and WHEREAS, THE Iowa Economic Development Authority requires grantees to contract with an experienced program administrator entity with staff who are Certified Grant Administrators by the State of Iowa; WHEREAS, the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) employs staff who are Certified Grant Administrators by the State of Iowa, and has experience with the grant administration and project delivery that will be required; and WHEREAS, the COUNTY previously entered into a service agreement with ECICOG for CDBG-DR grant application services, and agreed to enter into a contract with ECICOG for administration and project delivery if the grant was awarded; and WHEREAS, the COUNTY desires to enter into a contract with ECICOG for the grant administration and project delivery services for the Dows Pocket Neighborhood Project. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AUTHORIZES THE CHAIRPERSON TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THE EAST CENTRAL IOWA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FOR THE CDBG-DR ADMINISTRATION AND PROJECT DELIVERY SERVICES FOR THE DOWS POCKET NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT.

Discussion: Supervisor Running-Marquardt asked Nichols to provide the amount of money that ECICOG will receive for administering the contract.

VOTE: All Aye

Tamara Marcus, Sustainability Program Dir., explained the distinction between the different funding sources. She will have an item for the Board to approve Wednesday.

Marcus explained a resolution to submit a funding application and associated documents for the EPA's Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G) program grant. The Board will approve on Wednesday.

Jennifer Fencel, ECICOG Environ. Serv. Dir., presented a Service Agreement between Linn County and the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) for the preparation of Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) applications (generator for Central City and tree replacement for Conservation). Fencel stated that the following Resolutions are related to this topic:

- Resolution authorizing and directing the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) to submit a funding application and associated documents for the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Derecho Generator Program to the Iowa Economic Development Authority.
- Resolution authorizing and directing the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) to submit a funding application and associated documents for the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Derecho Tree Replacement Program to the Iowa Economic Development Authority

Supervisor Running-Marquardt asked if other communities have had the opportunity for generator assistance and Fencel stated that she is working on several. The Board will approve on Wednesday.

Treasurer Brent Oleson presented revisions to Board of Supervisors Policy FM-038, Investment of Funds. He stated that some changes were made to align with actual practice. He has attached a letter required by the Code. The Board will approve Wednesday.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve the following Employment Change Roster (payroll authorizations):

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Intern Camille Bonar Termination/internship complete 04/05/23

RECORDER'S OFFICE

Clerical Specialist Cassandra Snyder Step increase/contract 11/30/23 55C \$21.99 – 55D \$23.19

FACILITIES

Custodian Ryan Symonds Step increase/contract 05/16/23 10B \$18.59 + \$ .25 – 10C \$19.33 + \$ .25

Custodian Selina Bakunduukize Step increase/contract 05/18/23 10D \$19.90 + \$ .25 – 10E \$21.42 + \$ .25

Custodian Carine Ndizigiy Step increase/contract 05/18/23 10D \$19.90 + \$ .25 – 10E \$21.42 - \$ .25

Custodian Thomas Clark Step increase/contract 05/18/23 10D \$19.90 – 10E \$21.42

Custodian Shawn Marsden End of probation 05/20/23 10A \$18.01 + \$ .25 – 10B \$18.59 + \$ .25

Custodian Joshua Bader End of probation 05/20/23 10A \$18.01 + \$ .25 – 10B \$18.59 + \$ .25

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Senior Account Clerk Brenda Chalupa New hire – FT 04/17/23 55A \$19.92

Senior Account Clerk Shelly Vaske New hire – FT 04/17/23 55A \$19.92

LIFTS

LIFTS Driver Nathan Schnell Corrected wage 04/03/23 55E \$24.49

LIFTS Driver Bill Hepker Termination/retirement 03/31/23

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Home Health Aide Julienne Kabika Termination/retirement 03/31/23

Direct Support staff John Moore Termination/resignation 03/27/23

JUVENILE DETENTION

Youth Counselor Avery Mirocha Transfer from on-call to FT – internal applicant  
Eff Dte: 04/20/23 55A \$19.92 – 36A \$24.48 + \$ .25 Replaces J. Moore

PUBLIC HEALTH

Communications Spec. Riley Cole End of probation\_03/12/23 37A \$26.18 – 37B \$27.53

Health Equity Prog. Mgr. Anne Carter Step increase/contract 04/04/23 40B \$34.30 – 40C \$36.12

Environmental Chemist Seth Zimmermann Step increase/contract 04/19/23 39C \$33.53 – 39D \$35.28

SOIL CONSERVATION

Soil Health Coord. Alyssa Guritz Termination/resignation 04/21/23

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to appoint Robert Peck to the Building Board of Appeals, term ending 12/31/26.

Adjournment at 10:40 a.m.

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

APPROVED BY:

LOUIS J. ZUMBACH, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors