

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA  
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022 11:00 A.M.

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

Chairperson Rogers called the meeting to order.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve minutes of April 19 & 20, 2022 as printed.

Chairperson Rogers read the National Nurses Week Proclamation.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve the following:

- Proclamation: National Nurses Week - May 6-12, 2022
- Proclamation: National Correctional Officers and Employees Week - May 1-2, 2022
- Proclamation: National Emergency Medical Services Week - May 15-21, 2022
- Proclamation: National Police Week - May 15-21, 2022

Jody Bridgewater, MHDD East Central Region, presented a Linn County Fund balance project request for change of scope to allow Foundation 2 to purchase a vehicle for Mobile Crisis Outreach. Fund must be expended by June 30, 2022.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Walker to approve a Linn County Fund balance project request for change of scope to allow Foundation 2 to purchase a vehicle for Mobile Crisis Outreach.

Discussion: Supervisor Zumbach stated that Bridgewater explained to him why they are asking to purchase a vehicle and he asked her to explain for those watching and listening.

Bridgewater stated that this is an opportunity to purchase a vehicle for Mobile Crisis Outreach to get help to folks quicker.

VOTE: All Aye

Public Comment: Wendy Hartman, 2716 Franklin Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids, stated that she spoke at the Board meeting last week regarding communication and accessing information. She thought she would be proactive and subscribed to the Gazette this morning (a minimum of \$36/month). She wanted to make a point for people in the community to be involved in local government and subscribe if they cannot attend meetings. If no subscription, they can go to the library and access the newspaper for free. Another way is to have an internet subscription. She stated that there is a disconnect between the Board of Supervisors and communicating with their employees and people in the community. Not everyone has a phone, able to afford an internet subscription or equipment to connect. She is particularly concerned about the elderly because there is an inherent cost for all of it in order to be informed about what is going on. They cannot afford accessing it or do not have the technology. The Board is elected. Their wage for meeting about an hour three times a week comes out to \$200/person. Whereas members of the community (that are not elected) has no financial incentive to be involved. She is concerned about communication. She stated that the advicerial exchange last week with Chairperson Rogers was her fault because she was complaining and not offering suggestions. Yesterday she issued an email to the Board including different ways to communicate with people in the community. She is a county employee, works for Home Health, and is the only person today representing anyone from the community. She stated that moving forward she hopes there is better communication. She noted that on the website there are individual board emails and then a general email. She asked for more clarification regarding who receives the emails that are sent to the general address. In conclusion, she stated that she does not want an advicerial relationship.

Ben Rogers, speaking as a member of the Board of Supervisors, stated that Ms. Hartman has brought up phenomenal points and the challenge and opportunity for the Board is to find different communication channels that meet the needs of people. Their challenge for years is to find the best way to communicate with people who access information differently (people that do not have a subscription to the Gazette or may not have Facebook or are not technologically savvy). He agreed that people could access free services at the library and view the minutes/videos of board meetings; other official county newspapers that contain minutes; and can get four free articles a week from the Gazette online. He did not think their email chain was adversarial at all. He also clarified that the general email address goes to the Board as well as other support staff. He thanked Ms. Hartman for taking the time to attend this meeting today and highlighting a challenge that they continue to face. They can always do better when it comes to communication and they strive to make accessing government much easier. Decisions are made by those who show up (physically or armed with information). They want to be transparent, open and accessible.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Walker to approve Employment Change Roster (payroll authorizations) as follows:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Administrative Asst. Emily Schutz Transfer/promotion 04/18/22 53E \$20.89 – 23 Min \$23.54 Replaces B. Schmitz

AUDITOR'S OFFICE

Account Technician Barb Nemeth End of probation 04/24/22 58A \$24.61 – 58B \$22.01

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Universal Clerk Robert Jett End of probation 04/25/22 56A \$20.95 – 56B \$22.01

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Intern Brady Hill New hire – temporary 06/13/22 \$15.00/hr

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Deputy Sheriff Michael Norman Transfer from Patrol to Detention 04/16/22

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

LIFTS Driver Jacob Upland Termination/resignation 04/08/22

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Child Care Worker Sherri Kunce Transfer from PT permanent to on-call 05/07/22 48B \$12.38 – 48A \$11.77

PUBLIC HEALTH

HIV/HCV/STI Outreach Coord. Anna Herber-Downey Correction to hourly wage 01/10/22 39A \$29.59

HIV/HCV/STI Outreach Coord. Anna Herber-Downey End of probation 04/10/22 39A \$29.59 – 39B \$31.13

Environmental Chemist Seth Zimmermann Step increase/contract 04/19/22 39B \$31.13 – 39C \$32.79

ENGINEERING

Senior Mechanic Jacob Goldsmith Step increase/contract 05/04/22 21C \$28.09 – 21D \$29.22

Heavy Equipment Oper. Alex Hamer Step increase/contract 05/23/22 19C \$26.03 – 19D \$26.95

Senior Mechanic Phillip Hayes End of probation 05/07/22 21A \$26.03 – 21B \$26.95

Adjournment at 11:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JOEL D. MILLER, Linn County Auditor

By: Rebecca Shoop, Deputy Auditor

Approved by:

BEN ROGERS, Chairperson

Board of Supervisors