

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA  
TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023 9:00 A.M.

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

The meeting will only appear on Facebook.

Chairperson Zumbach called the meeting to order and announced that Supervisor Running-Marquardt had an unexpected situation that she cannot attend today's meeting. They will only be taking public comment today and will not deliberate. The discussion will be postponed until all three Supervisors' are in attendance, tentatively Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Supervisor Rogers apologized for the short notice and stated that they want all three Supervisors to hear the same information at the same time. This is an important issue and after months and months of work, they all need to be informed at the same time.

Charlie Nichols, Planning & Development Dir., stated that he anticipates the meeting to last between two and three hours. They will discuss the statements which are available on the county's website.

Public Comment regarding Renewable Energy Review Committee Statements:

Bruce Lindholm, Cedar Rapids, stated that he served on the Battery Energy Storage Systems Advisory Team and is speaking today about "Good Neighbor", "Balancing Ag. and Solar", and "Lifecycle Costs" statements. He noted that these statements ask for new ordinances for Solar Development with challenging requirements for projects. He asked if all projects developed in Linn County will be required to meet the requirements or will such ordinances only discriminate against Solar Projects. He gave examples of a 300' setback-taking of owners' land and reducing lease income which negatively impacts landowners use of their properties for solar generation and reduces the electrical energy produced. Requiring additional 300' Wildlife/Habitat corridors and 300' setbacks is extreme and takes even more land from owners wanting solar use for their land and solar energy for the region. He also questioned Disaster Management Plans and should Linn County tell cities how and when to update their strategic growth plans? In closing, he asked the Board to not discriminate against Solar Projects.

Sara Alden, Center Point, thanked Supervisor Rogers for acknowledging the amount of time and effort that has been spent on this topic. She has invested and engaged in this issue for two years with sacrifices both personally and professionally. She did this because she believes in advocating for the community. She served on the Battery Energy Storage Systems Advisory Team and noted that the people serving on the commission groups worked together and it was not one sided. They worked together to advocate for the community, to make it livable, safe, and to protect the residents of Linn County. For them it was about livable communities and not to peek the interests of developers. The Board's decisions will last 30-40 years. There are impending projects coming up and how do they add balance. This is an opportunity to listen to those who live in the community and who want to balance renewable energy and the residents that want to raise kids in the community and grow. She would like the Board to please consider all the work and collaboration from the people that have opposing and pro-opinions. She was surprised by how well the groups worked together. They came together and talked about what was important to them. Nobody got everything they wanted.

Thomas Bean, Cedar Rapids and a member of the Land and Liberty Coalition, stated that a lot of time and effort was put into these statements. These recommendations may not be the best way to move forward. They are far overbearing for solar. This is a private deal between the landowner and the solar company. It is important to keep in mind that overregulating is a can of worms opened resulting in limited opportunities. He will return with more comments once Supervisor Running-Marquardt is present. Overregulating solar is unnecessary and will limit development in Linn County.

Steve Myers, Palo, stated that he was on the Battery Energy Storage Systems Advisory Team. Batteries are developing fast and he gave examples of failures and risk analysis and explained in detail.

Steve Emerson, Lewis Bottoms Rd., stated that setbacks and screening is a resounding issue and it should be the requirement of the developer. Setbacks will take care of most opposition.

Adjournment at 9:23 a.m.

Page 2  
May 23, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED BY:

LOUIS J. ZUMBACH, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors