

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023 8:00 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.

The Board met with Elected Officials and Department Heads to discuss County-related issues including:

Kurt Birchmeier, Wellmark, gave an executive summary of the 2022 claims and condition analysis.

Jen Musick, Health Solutions, presented the quarterly Wellness Program update noting that the last day for screenings to be completed is 9/30/23.

Motion by Zumbach, seconded by Rogers to approve minutes of August 21, 2023 as printed.

The Board heard updates from the following Department Heads:

David Thielen, LCCS Executive Dir. – budget update; General Assistance: Thielen is filling in while employee is on maternity leave; Community Resource Hub launched 8/1; ERA2 funds still a work in progress; Juvenile Detention: numbers increased last year; length of stay is increasing; staffing issues due to the need to segregate the population; Access Center: 160 walk-ins in July; working on law enforcement referrals; outreach to local colleges and universities (focusing on counseling departments and RA's); Child & Youth Development: waiting on a date for a site visit from NAEYC; working on fall enrollment; Ryan White: program viral suppression rate is 88%; Options: nursing contract ended and new part time nurse position beings September 5th; Willy Ray's BBQ was on site August 17th for programming; ECI/DECAT: state has been consolidation programs; Home Health: working with IT to purchase surface pros to have in the field.

Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir. – reminded the Board of the joint Board of Supervisor's and Conservation Board meeting next Tuesday at Pinicon Ridge Park.

Chairperson Zumbach addressed the dam project in Central City that he receives lots of feedback on and asked if there is any reason they can't build it up more on the rock sides or build the water up and Goemaat stated that a hydraulic engineer would need to look at it. The Wapsi is the lowest they have ever seen it even compared to the middle of the winter.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt thanked Goemaat and his staff for meeting with her. She appreciates their dedication to all things education and conservation in the county.

Pramod Dwivedi, Health Department Dir. – awarded \$150,000 through the Linn County Opioid Settlement Funds Grant program and will be purchasing seven vending machines for naloxone distribution; the department is a leader in eastern Iowa for initial refugee health exam and civil surgeon processes; Back-to-School Vaccination Campaign is now underway; Mobile Health Clinic order has been submitted; ongoing regionalization of local health departments; work has started on the strategic plan; scheduled meetings with their partners; technology installation in the Harris Bldg.; attended several speaking engagements.

Dustin Peterson, Veterans Affairs Dir. – budget update; highlighted services to veterans; served 105 veterans in July; provided assistance to 27 children with back to school assistance; Hy-Vee hosted a Coffee and Camaraderie event; upcoming Five Seasons Stand Down and Be Brave recovery community outreach event; subscribed to an appointment reminder website due to an increase in customers missing appointments without prior communication with his office; two new Commissioners; attended military Retiree Appreciation Day; 3,232 Linn County veterans received \$5,275,680 in federal benefits.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that she is really excited for the Coffee and Camaraderie events. She thanked the outgoing commissioners for their service and expressed her extreme consideration and condolences to the Hahn family.

Phil Lowder, IT Dir. – budget update; fully staffed in September; KPI's; statistics; security updates; upcoming contracts will be on the Board's agenda; new resource hub released earlier this month (thanked staff members for their help with this project).

Discussion continued regarding tips and tricks for employees not clicking on phishing links.

Tamara Marcus, Sustainability Dir. – attended San Juan Trek; rain barrel event; potential Food Symposium; upcoming new appointments; Greenhouse Gas Report; participating in Health Equity Plan; working on recommissioning project; working on disaster preparedness template; proposing a landscape change for Public Health; Garden and Nutrition class in partnership with the Academy for Scholastic and personal success wrapped up; held energy saver kit outreach event; hired Karen Kawala as Resiliency Coordinator.

Page 2
August 22, 2023

Carolyn Siebrecht, Recorder – office hours are changing to 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. effective September 1st to be more in line with the Treasurer's Office; staff member will be presented with an award at ISAC; passport revenue is up; real estate revenue is down; upcoming online renewal system for ATV's, snowmobiles, etc. (thanked IT and Recorder's Office staff who took the lead on this project).

Supervisor Running-Marquardt confirmed with Siebrecht that passports pay for themselves and for the employees to do other county work.

Jon Gallagher, Soil Conservation – Indian Creek Soil Health Partnership is ongoing for another year; approved additional water monitoring within Indian Creek Watershed; continued outreach to producers within the watershed on conservation planning and fall cover crop sign up; Linn County has 20th driest year in history; Cedar Rapids Water Partnership Batch and Build Project has been awarded; reaffirmed with Cedar Rapids representatives Soil Conservation's interest in moving forward on funding options through USDA Watershed Flood Prevention and Operations program to perform an environmental and develop a watershed plan; City of Center Point began construction activities associated with their Urban Water Quality Initiative contract.

Adjournment at 10:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JOEL D. MILLER, Linn County Auditor
By: Amanda Hoy, Executive Assistant

APPROVED BY:

LOUIS J. ZUMBACH, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors