

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 8:00 A.M.

The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center.
Present: Chairperson Walker and Vice Chairperson Rogers. Absent: Supervisor Zumbach
(personal business). 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 including:

Phil Lowder and Joi Alexander, discussed switching Linn County's website from dot org
to dot gov effective October 11th. Departments should use up all their inventory
(business cards, letterhead, etc.) as the dot org will be re-directed to dot gov.

The Board discussed President Biden's emergency rule regarding COVID-19 vaccination
and testing organizations with 100 or more employees: How will Linn County implement
the rule, and how will Linn County address employees unwilling to get vaccinated based
on religious or medical exemptions.

Elena Wolford, Asst. County Atty., explained that they are waiting on rules from OSHA
(federal) to be passed through to OSHA (State of Iowa) and then to the county.

Lisa Powell, HR Dir., stated that her office will be responsible for tracking vaccine
cards and testing. She assumes that the mandatory weekly testing will be the burden
of Linn County taxpayer's at a cost of \$1.8 million per year. No policy can be
adopted at this time, however Linn County is being proactive for when the rules are
handed down.

The Sheriff's Office and Juvenile Detention indicated that they are currently
struggling with vacancies and retaining staff and the impact of the mandate is
unknown.

Powell explained the current policies with regard to employee's that have COVID or
have been exposed to COVID noting that they are required to use their own paid time
off (no longer county COVID pay).

The Board heard updates from the following Department Heads:

Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir. - appreciated today's proactive discussion; making
good progress on various projects due to the good weather (Morgan Creek Park, Cedar
Valley Nature Trail, Morgan Creek Trail, Hwy. 100 Morgan Creek Park Trail; Cedar River
Trail bridge; Grant Wood Trail); Pinicon Ridge Park dam modification; park activity
very strong; awarded two tree planting grants; AmeriCorps will have people being
housed at Linn County.

Pramod Dwivedi, Health Department Dir. - reaccreditation process; performance
management system; meeting with both hospitals (elective surgeries postponed, staffing
shortage, admissions have gone down); received a funding opportunity for Preventing
Violence Affecting Young Lives and will work with Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation; two
Air Quality staff were accepted into the Department of State Air Quality Fellowship;
letter sent to Linn County schools generated significant media coverage; joint meeting
with Board of Health, Board of Supervisors and legislators on October 27th.

Nicole Kehres, Veterans Affairs Dir. - working on creating new products to streamline
emergency program guidelines; state commissioner training and fall school next week;
next distribution will be held in January; Hometown Hero's event; Cedar Memorial
cemetery meeting; looking for events in rural areas; Veteran's Stand-down took place.

Phil Lowder, IT Dir. - budget status; two staff vacancies; security continues to be an
issue; emergency patches done; October is National Cybersecurity month; introduced new
employee Drew Hoppenworth and he explained his previous job experience; countywide
Windows 10 update.

Jon Gallagher, Soil Conservation - discussed solar application requirements on his
end; attended field trip to Wapello solar farm; local soil and water district update;
attended field day.

Tamara Marcus, Sustainability Program Mgr. - final greenhouse gas inventory event took
place; presented to a class at Coe College; utility solar tour; AmeriCorp members
started last week; engagement and outreach efforts; met with Polk County regarding
adding new sustainability position; continues to meet with Ashley Balius regarding
housing needs in the county.

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Adjournment at 10:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

STACEY WALKER, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors