

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021 9:03 A.M.

The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center.
Present: Chairperson Walker, Vice Chairperson Rogers and Supervisor Zumbach (arriving at 9:48 a.m.). Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Walker to approve minutes of December 30, 2020 and January 4, 2021 as printed.

The Board received updates from the following Elected Officials:

Jerry Vander Sanden, Attorney (via phone) - welcomed Mr. Zumbach to the Board of Supervisors. He reported that there has been substantial progress on the renovation of his office (criminal division); and tentative date to resume jury trials is now February 1 (mountainous backlog of trails).

Supervisor Rogers asked if the February 1 date is subject to change and Vander Sanden stated that this date was set in early November and could very well be pushed back again. The Board will also talk to Darrin Gage about the Capital Improvement Project.

Brian Gardner, Sheriff (via phone) - in the process of installing video visitation at the jail; Sheriff's Office structure changes have been made due to COVID; and going to retest for deputy sheriff applicants on Saturday (five openings).

Supervisor Rogers asked if the Sheriff had any legislative priorities to make the Board aware of at this time. Sheriff stated that he has forwarded information to Darrin Gage.

Chairperson Walker asked the Sheriff if his deputies (will they be a part of it) would run the marijuana diversion program. Sheriff stated that it wouldn't change the way that they conduct business.

Joel Miller, Auditor and deputies:

Rhonda Betsworth - filed Valuation report to the Dept. of Management on Dec. 23 using the Tyler system for the first time (smooth process). She thanked the Board for moving them to the Tyler software. Still migrating departments to new software (GovSense and Ceridian); and employee transfers in/out of Accounting Services.

Rebecca Stonawksi - Special Elections on March 2 (Marion Independent School and Alburnett School). Gambling referendum must be offered to the voters this year. Possible dates are March 2, Sept. 7 or Nov. 2. Had great success using Lindale Mall for the General Election as a voting location prior to the election.

Discussion continued regarding the census and how that effects the redistricting process.

Auditor Miller explained that the federal census has not been certified by congress which flows to the states. There could be several months delay. He also stated that this is the time when the Board could look at the number of townships as they have the option every ten years to do that. He would like Supervisor Zumbach involved in the discussion as his district involves the majority of the townships.

Chairperson Walker complimented the Auditor's office as he is incredibly proud of their execution of the general election in 2020. Most feedback was how easy and safe it was to vote.

Supervisor Zumbach arrived at this time.

Auditor Miller continued to discuss legislative initiatives.

Supervisor Zumbach questioned absentee ballot requests and the potential for fraud as well as concerns about fewer voting precincts in the General Election which caused the elderly to travel further to vote.

Motion by Rogers, seconded Walker to appoint Tawnya Salsbery to the Linn County Board of Health retroactive to January 1, 2021, term ending December 31, 2023.

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Adjournment at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

STACEY WALKER, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors