

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 9:00 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. Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve minutes of January 13 & 15, 2021 as printed.

The Board received updates from the following Department Heads:

Les Beck, Planning & Development Dir. - Budget is on track; customer satisfaction surveys have positive outcomes; two proposed solar farm applications are coming; filled all vacancies on boards and commissions with the exception of the Board of Adjustment; continuing discussions of Dows property; and permit activity report.

Supervisor Rogers asked for an explanation of the proposed solar farms as the Board has received correspondence objecting to one of them.

Beck stated that there is a demand for creating renewable energy and solar development is becoming more financially feasible. These are on a utility scale (collects the energy and sends to a substation to be distributed to the grid).

Chairperson Walker asked about concerns regarding land consumption with regard to solar farms and Supervisor Zumbach stated that the proposed solar farm near Coggon has done a poor job of notifying neighbors (has been in the process for two years).

Britt Hutchins, Purchasing Dir. - Key Performance Indicators; budget on track; personnel was out with COVID and vacation in December; postage pieces statistics; drop box in the parking lot of the Public Service Center contained a positive poster; assisting with various projects related to COVID and Derecho; working through purchase order process in new software (GovSense); and presented a list of purchases for various departments.

Supervisor Rogers stated that there are potential layoffs related to Options and has Hutchins been notified as his department is usually the first when bumping occurs. Hutchins has not been notified.

Steve Estenson, Risk Management Dir. - Derecho debris contractor finished cleanup just before Christmas and has since been cleaning up sites where debris was taken. There are some remaining points throughout the county (small piles in right of way). Have paid over \$11 million to debris contractor and \$1 million to debris monitoring contractor. Estenson explained that he writes the project work sheets and submits to FEMA for approval. FEMA obligates the money and then Linn County draws their portion (75%). The States is 10%. Working on Derecho building evaluations and insurance claims on damage to buildings; dealing with some slips and falls and received first mailbox claim; AED's throughout the county and future purchases.

Garth Fagerbakke, Facilities Mgr. - Second shift new employee Core Value classes have been put on hold due to COVID; Budget and utilities; fully staffed; toured several buildings for storm damage for FEMA. Community Services Bldg.: working on door hardware items. Public Service Center: adding soffits and metal caps on the roof; polishing terrazzo floors. Correctional Center: emergency water heater replacement; kitchen waste line starting to deteriorate and leak. Courthouse: County Attorney's office has new offices. Juvenile Detention Center: storm damage. Fillmore Building: continuing to evaluate roof. Mental Health Access Center: expect temporary occupancy mid-January; a lot of punch list items are occurring prior to building being occupied. Harris Building: Still working on punch list and continue to monitor. Sheriff's Office: repurposed an office in basement for mothers room; kitchenette installed on 2nd floor. LIFTS: remodel in progress.

Supervisor Rogers stated that he is frustrated at the pace of the Access Center (windows; electrical contractor) which is not a reflection on Fagerbakke or Erin Foster.

Tamara Marcus, Sustainability Program Mgr. - Submitting a column in the Gazette; co-presenting (virtually) at the Collaborative Learning Day at Kirkwood; continue collecting greenhouse gas inventory; working on AmeriCorps assistance and working with lobbyists.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to open public hearing on an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa, by amending provisions in Chapter 107, Unified Development Code.

Charlie Nichols, Planning & Development, stated that there is a bucket of code changes and substantial changes including the following: Allowable size for detached accessory structures; adding language to allow for small animals in rural residential areas (regulating number of chickens, rabbits, etc.) and allowing for contractor storage yards in village mixed use districts.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Walker to close public hearing.

Motion by Walker, seconded by Rogers to approve upon first consideration an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa, by amending provisions in Chapter 107, Unified Development Code.

Discussion: Supervisor Zumbach questioned the regulating of the number of small animals in rural Linn County noting that this affects more people than they realize and asked for more clarification.

Stephanie Lientz, Planning & Development staff, stated that Linn County currently does not allow small animals, unlike municipalities that do. This amendment would allow the animals and the number is based on the lot size.

Discussion continued regarding the fact that the small animals already exist in the rural residential areas which has not been enforced. This amendment will allow for flexibility.

VOTE: Rogers & Walker - Aye                      Zumbach - Nay

Supervisor Rogers congratulated Charlie Nichols for being named the new Planning and Development Dir., replacing Les Beck.

Jerod Kelley, Secondary Roads, presented requests for two (2) temporary engineering interns and five (5) temporary roadway maintenance workers for the Secondary Road Department. The Board will approve on Wednesday.

Supervisor Zumbach stated that he has had several emails and phone calls regarding the proposed solar farm near Coggon.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Walker to appoint Hillary Copeland Marvin to the Historical Preservation Commission, fill unexpired term ending 12/31/2022

Motion by Zumbach, seconded by Rogers to go into closed session to discuss pending litigation, pursuant to Code of Iowa 21.5(1)(c).

VOTE: Rogers - Aye                      Walker - Aye                      Zumbach - Aye

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Walker to go out of closed session.

VOTE: Rogers - Aye                      Walker - Aye                      Zumbach - Aye

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

<u>RECORDER'S OFFICE</u>		
Clerical Specialist	Anna Garcia	Step increase/contract 02/15/21 55D \$22.24 – 55E \$23.48
<u>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</u>		
Programmer/Analyst	Teresa Jamison	Termination/retirement 01/06/21
<u>PLANNING &amp; DEVELOPMENT</u>		
Combination Inspector	Matt Nuckolls	End of probation 01/19/21 21A \$25.52 – 21B \$26.42
Residential Combin. Inspector	Matt Ruff	Step increase/contract 01/25/21 22B \$27.54 – 22C \$28.65
<u>COMMUNITY SERVICES</u>		
Family Service Worker	Selina Mally	Step increase/contract 06/26/20 54C \$19.23 - 54D \$20.15
<u>JUVENILE DETENTION</u>		
JDDS Supervisor	Janelle Scott	Promotion 01/16/21 36E \$28.79 – Level 2 \$30.09 Replaces T. Tolson
Youth Leader	Kristi Powlitha	Internal application/PT On-call to FT 01/02/21 55A \$19.10 + \$ .25 Replaces L. Jordan
Intervention Counselor	Ben Potter	Promotion/internal application 01/02/21 56A \$21.58 + \$ .25 – 36A \$23.47 + \$ .25 Replaces T. Raymer
<u>ENGINEERING</u>		
Light Equipment Oper.	Matthew Scanlon	End of probation 01/19/21 17A \$21.98 – 17B \$22.80
Light Equipment Oper.	Kurt Smith	End of probation 01/19/21 17A \$21.98 – 17B \$22.80
Light Equipment Oper.	Shannon Lochner	End of probation 01/19/21 17A \$21.98 – 17B \$22.80
Account Technician	Beth Ludwig	Bid award/transfer to Auditor's Office 01/15/21 58E \$29.74

Adjournment at 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

STACEY WALKER, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors