

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 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.

Chairperson Walker called the meeting to order.

The Board received updates from the following Department Heads:

Brian Gardner, Sheriff - Law enforcement/First Responders up next for COVID vaccines; working on a list of new hire applicants for Deputy Sheriff (six openings); Jail inmates will receive vaccinations from jail staff when the vaccine is in hand; psychiatric nurse at Jail is working very well and they are benefiting from her expertise; it is with great sadness, they have lost a former retired employee, Capt. Dave Knott.

The Board offered their condolences for the loss of Capt. Dave Knott.

Supervisor Rogers asked how the Jail inmates will receive their vaccinations and

Jerry Vander Sanden, Attorney - Linn County will receive a portion of proceeds from the Opioid litigation. Attorney General's lawyer suggests that proceeds be used towards future abatement efforts in terms of opioid abuse prevention and treatment. Office renovations in the criminal division are nearing completion. Jury trials are to resume soon.

Sharon Gonzalez, Treasurer - sadly they have lost a colleague unexpectedly, the Polk County Treasurer Mary Maloney; preparing for June 2021 tax sale; tomorrow starts new administrative rule for personalized plates; asked to be included in any building reopening discussions; and having many issues with phones dropping calls.

Discussion continued regarding the public's confusion with the building not being open and the need for better signage. Gonzalez stated that employees should not be allowed to park in the public parking lot, the public thinks they are open because of that. Also need better positioning of the drop off box.

Chairperson Walker wanted to publicly thank Deputy Nikki Finger for her assistance with a property tax question. She went beyond.

Joel Miller, Auditor and Deputy Auditor Stonawski - voting to begin next week at Lindale for the Marion and Alburnett school elections in March; working on polling place locations and ADA accessibility; County Attorney prosecuting three individuals for election misconduct; working on a large public records request (one of several since the General Election) which is consuming a lot of time. Looking at a software to assist; last summer filed an appeal to administrative action regarding a HAVA complaint filed on Secretary of State. The appeal to district court has been sitting there for 6 months now and private attorney is looking into that; the statewide voter registration system is 17 years old and now scheduled to be replaced in 2023; filing for an extension of grant received prior to general election to spend down the remainder; and drove to Moline to receive first COVID vaccine (set up by a relative).

Discussion continued regarding legislation that is being watched closely that will affect absentee voting in a negative way.

Miller continued to say that felon voting rights restoration came late in the general election cycle of 2020. It was not simple for those felons to vote and they need to make voting simple for them and other groups of people.

Adjournment at 9:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

STACEY WALKER, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors