

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020 9:00 A.M.

The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center.
Present: Chairperson Rogers, Vice Chairperson Oleson and Supervisor Walker. Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

The Board received updates from the following Elected Officials:

Brian Gardner, Sheriff - Correctional Center drain back-up (damaged limited to carpet and baseboards); explanation of Offer for a Correctional Center Captain (eliminating a vacant nurse position to reduce the cost of new position).

Supervisor Oleson voiced concern regarding the elimination of a nurse, noting that there needs to be further research into the nurse's salaries and how they can attract and maintain nurses.

Joan McCalmant, Recorder - Working with the Auditor's Real Estate division to interface with the new Tyler property tax software; concerned with the shared lobby with the Auditor's Office when the election season gears up along with her added traffic due to the "gold star" requirement; and explanation of Offer for an additional Clerk position to assist with passports.

Auditor's Office:

- Deputy Stonawski noted the number of complaints regarding Linn County's network/phone outages this morning along with the already upset residents regarding last evening's caucuses (conducted by the parties).
- Deputy Shoop reported that the Real Estate staff are testing Tyler data and Accounting Services wrapped up 1099's and W-2's.
- Auditor Miller explained an issue with the planned space at the Vets Memorial Coliseum for processing absentees (ADA compliance is holding it up); permanent satellite locations would alleviate the pressure on the shared lobby with the Recorder; explanation of request for a Temporary IT Manager as well as an Elections reorganization Offer. Discussion continued regarding the IT Director's concerns regarding the Offer that includes an Elections Technician.

The Board recessed at 10:00 a.m. and reconvened at 4:00 p.m. for a joint meeting with the Linn County Farm Bureau, 1323 Boyson Rd., Hiawatha, IA. Present: Chairperson Rogers, Vice Chairperson Oleson and Supervisor Walker.

Other county staff present: Dan Gibbins and Dennis Goemaat, Conservation; Jon Resler, Asst. County Engineer; Les Beck, Planning & Development; Dawn Jindrich and Sara Bearrows, Finance; Jerry Witt, County Assessor.

Tim Keegan, Farm Bureau County Action Committee Chair, welcomed everyone and the following topics were discussed:

Dows Ground - Dennis Goemaat explained that the 306 acres that connects to the Squaw Creek Park are going to be converted over the next two to three years to a natural area along with extending trails into that area for public use areas with the potential for some wetlands.

Future Projects - Goemaat explained the Middle Cedar River Watershed Partnership Grant extension along with starting wetland construction on county owned properties and stream improvements at Squaw Creek and Morgan Creek parks.

Farm Bureau members asked that the Board or county staff reach out to Farm Bureau if they need any help (ex. teaching farm).

Budget Update - Dawn Jindrich stated that the FY21 budget is not finalized yet. The levy rate will be \$6.40 noting a debt levy rate increase due to Conservation bonds, new Public Health bldg. and LIFTS bldg. and an increase for Mental Health.

Mental Health Access Center - Supervisor Rogers provided background history, highlighted the services that will be provided and explained potential funding sources for the new Access Center.

Jerry Witt, County Assessor, gave an overview of the taxable value increase of ag land for the last several years.

Prospect Meadows - Les Beck explained that the first phase of Prospect Meadows is up and running. He did note that there is a proposal to add a paintball course through a conditional use permit process.

Zoning Changes - Beck explained that he is working on zoning changes for the Marion Airport overlay and flood plain regulations.

Dows Property - Beck explained that 89 acres will be kept in Conservation open space; 25% of the site will remain a small farm operation growing produce, livestock, events, farm to table restaurant; and 25% will be developed using various building types.

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Secondary Roads - Goals - Jon Resler highlighted their goals including keeping bridges safe; improving the rock road system; adding calcium chloride to rock overlays in 2020; automated vehicle locating and preparing for the sun setting of LOST funding after FY24.

Upcoming Projects - Resler also explained the upcoming projects including bridges, grading and culverts, HMA paving, PCC paving, HMA pavement repair, seal coat and rock roads.

Ditch Pollinator Project - Started by Clark McCloud with no cost to the county. It started in the southeast quadrant of the county and they are working clockwise over the next four to five years.

Chairperson Rogers left the meeting at this time 6:02 p.m.

LOST Allocation - Resler noted that the state allocations are maxed out. They have shifted a million dollars of LOST money to rock roads noting that in 10-15 years down the road there will be additional needs for paved roads and bridges.

Adjournment at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JOEL D. MILLER, Linn County Auditor
By: Rebecca Shoop, Deputy Auditor
and Amanda Hoy, Executive Assistant

Approved by:

BEN ROGERS, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors