

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021 9:00 A.M.

The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center.  
Present: Chairperson Walker (via phone) and Vice Chairperson Rogers. Absent:  
Supervisor Zumbach (personal business). Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise  
noted.

Vice Chairperson Rogers called the meeting to order.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Walker to approve minutes of February 22, 2021 as  
printed.

The Board received updates from the following Department Heads:

David Thielen, LCCS Executive Dir. - Child Youth Dev. Center staff beginning to  
receive COVID vaccines; General Assistance Advisory Board and LCCS Board approved  
increasing stipends (through the end of June) for those receiving assistance; Overflow  
Shelter numbers are 70-75/day (the system is maxed out and they are in the problem  
solving mode); Ryan White Program was awarded their four year funding; Home Health is  
now required to provide electronic visitation information; OPTIONS consumers are now a  
part of the vaccine group; they continue to monitor financials as attendance numbers  
go up on a regular basis; HR started the layoff process for the direct service  
providers (have been on furlough up to this point); DHS regulations now require the  
inclusion language regarding employment in the consumer planning for individuals;  
Mental Health Access Center received occupancy permit (ribbon cutting is March 5);  
Early Childhood Iowa DCAT is out for bids; asked to join a funders resource group to  
work on identifying gaps in the community; and also asked to be a part of the  
community resiliency group led by Leslie Wright.

Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir. - starting to get some activity on some of their  
projects (moving into the construction season) and status of projects was given;  
advertising for Project Coordinator; Pinicon Ridge dam modification (plans are nearing  
completion); wetland planning and implementation (contractor has been mobilized); Hwy.  
100 Trail Phase I near Xavier High School (reached a license agreement); parks have  
been busy with winter activities; lease option for solar array in western Linn County;  
developed a Derecho Response Plan (restoration of woodlands); working with  
Sustainability Office and planning a tree planting program (just under 300 county  
employees signed up); and have a confirmed case of an Emerald Ash Borer at Wanatee  
Park (will not chemically treat).

Pramod Dwivedi, Health Department Dir. - staffing update; received funding to carry  
out vaccine efforts; COVID 19 incident command; case numbers declining since November;  
Linn County has vaccinated 41,400 (10,671 received both doses); Linn County has had  
19,308 positive cases (1,562 active, 321 deaths, 17 hospitalized); working with  
partners on vaccine planning; Public Health clinic statistics (working on vaccine  
hesitancy); air quality and septic permits issued; Child Lead Poisoning Prevention  
Program (concerning due to pandemic); nuisance complaints (working with Planning &  
Development); working with DNR on the on-line permitting module; air quality website  
on line by February 2021; wood burning appliance change out program; applied for  
reaccreditation (there will be a virtual audit of their work); and met with Rep.  
Hinson regarding various issues concerning Public Health.

Jon Gallagher, Soil Conservation - conservation program sign-ups (65 contracts  
expiring this year and will conduct field reviews); state cost share moneys available;  
financial assistance available for reestablishing windbreaks; fall construction  
projects; planning a virtual field day on March 3; outreach efforts (Trees Forever and  
Center Point awarded project); Linn Soil & Water tree sale; Weed Management Assoc.  
website development completed; and slough bill sign-up (new forms available).

Nichole Kehres, Veterans Affairs Dir. - areas of the budget is underspent; working  
closely with LCCS staff and Terry Whitson; working with community providers to gain  
access to resources and tools; temporary expanding eligibility to enhance assistance  
to veterans; looking for ways to streamline their processes; continuing to provide  
services by phone, email, mail and the drop box. Kehres also shared her professional  
and military history.

Phil Lowder, I.T. Dir. - Helpdesk statistics; budget is underspent; staffing vacancies  
(starting over with hiring a management position). Current status of phone issues  
(starting with the Derecho). Continue to struggle with the quality of service. Would  
like to have a phone system set up with multiple vendors (3) in multiple locations  
(5). Cyber Security continues to be a primary focus (Tyler software had 70 intrusion  
attempts in a 24 hr. period). Ransomware is evolving into extortion and there are  
other concerns with different types of attacks (Solarwinds was hacked).

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Adjournment at 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

BEN ROGERS, Vice Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors