

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA  
MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2021 11:00 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.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve minutes of March 24, 2021 as printed.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to open public hearing for the first consideration of an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa by amending provisions in Chapter 107, Unified Development Code, which would formally allow for the keeping of chickens and other small animals on lots in residential zoning districts.

Charlie Nichols, Planning & Development, stated that small animals have been on these properties and this is making it legal. They have talked to a number of animal experts in the area. Animals that are 8 months old or younger will not be included in the count of 12/acre and show animals will be exempt. Proof of publication was presented and there were no oral or written objections.

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

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve first consideration on an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa by amending provisions in Chapter 107, Unified Development Code which would formally allow for the keeping of chickens and other small animals on lots in residential zoning districts.

Stephanie Lientz, Planning & Development, presented a proposed Temporary Use Permit request by Larry Hess, owner, and Dean Paup, petitioner, for a seasonal campground, located in the 900 & 1000 Block of Lnenicka Lane, from April 1 to October 31, 2021. Lientz stated that some of the cabins were removed and switched to a campground for campers. The Technical Review Committee has no concerns related to COVID (campers have their own restrooms) and they received no concerns from Public Health. There are to be no more than 10 sites allowed. Staff recommends approval. The Board will approve on Wednesday.

Charlie Nichols presented a resolution confirming the schedule of assessment for nuisance abatements located at 5511 Hickorywood Court. This is an unsafe structure with years of neglect. Public Health and Planning & Development have been working with this individual by offering resources and second chances but unfortunately, he has not taken advantage of resources. If a set plan to bring it up to code is not submitted by end of summer, they will seek a demolition order.

Supervisor Rogers publically commended all departments involved for dealing with the degree of sensitivity that they have. He feels for the neighbors but also the individual who has severe and profound mental illness. The Board will approve Wednesday.

Nichols presented a Preliminary Plat Application requested by Dows Agri Community Development LLC, petitioner, for the Dows Farm property. He stated that the County owns the land and will need to sign. This will lay out the conceptual location for lots. The Board will approved Wednesday.

Nichols discussed a public participation plan for upcoming utility scale solar project applications. They are looking at the Palo Community Center for the project near Palo for the public workshop, which is for the purpose of educating the public and allowing them to ask questions. Once the application is filed, which may be in June, they will allow the appropriate number of persons in the building. They recommend hiring a Deputy Sheriff to enforce the wearing of masks and making sure they do not exceed the number allowed in the building.

Chairperson Walker stated that he has received a public comment from Kimberly Dickey, Nextera Energy, talking about their willingness to build strong partnerships in the community. The Board will approve on Wednesday.

Brent Oleson, Deputy Dir. of Policy & Comm. Relations, stated that they are in receipt of U.S. Board on Geographic Names letter approving the name change from Squaw Creek to Wanatee Creek. Oleson will draft a letter for the Chairperson's signature to notify department heads of the name change and to make whatever adjustments to records that are necessary.

The Board commended and expressed all of their gratitude to all of those that worked on this renaming project.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Walker to approve and authorize Chairperson to sign a letter of support for the Affordable Housing Network's application to the Iowa Finance Authority's HOME Tenant-Based Rental Assistance program.

Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin., discussed Ceres returning in April to collect the remaining Derecho related debris placed in county right of way by November 9, 2020.

Discussion continued regarding a ½-mile radius with a no burn permit requirement and outside of that radius would follow the usual permit process. This addresses tracking the amount of debris and how much will be burned.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve the above-mentioned handling of the remaining Derecho related debris.

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

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Policy & Comm. Relations Dep. Dir. Brent Oleson End of probation 04/04/21 40A \$37.15 – 40B \$39.31

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Universal Clerk Erica Pecinovsky Transfer to County Attorney/bid award 04/02/21

Universal Clerk Melissa Higginbotham Transfer to County Attorney/bid award 04/02/21

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Intern David Banta New hire – temporary 06/01/21 \$15.00/hr

Special Prosecutor Dillan Edwards Pay increase 04/03/21 \$61,218.04/annually - \$70,000.00/annually

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Senior Combination Innspr Jeremy Elkin Step increase/contract 04/04/21 23D \$31.03 – 23E \$33.34

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Deputy Sheriff Colton Desmarais Step increase/contract 04/02/21 D2 \$30.90 – D3 \$32.0

Deputy Sheriff Corey Sandersfeld Step increase/contract 04/18/21 D5 \$34.57 – D6 \$35.58

Deputy Sheriff Richard Byrd End of probation 04/20/21 DB \$28.47 – D1 \$29.71

Female Correctional Officer Kaitlin Armstrong New hire – FT 04/05/21 56A \$20.54 + \$ .25 + \$ .25 Replaces L. Stone

Secretary Jody Bennett Termination/resignation 04/06/21

Account Technician Melissa Ash Step increase/contract 04/20/21 58B \$25.39 – 58C \$26.82

Deputy Sheriff Jacob Sharpe Step increase/contract 04/05/21 D5 \$34.17 – D6 \$35.1

Account Clerk Jesica Powell Step increase/contract 04/02/21 53D \$19.19 – 53E \$20.24

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Assistant Teacher Jana Tibbott Bid award from layoff 03/24/21 53E \$20.24 Replaces L. Case

SOIL CONSERVATION

Soil Health Coord. Emery Davis Step increase/contract 03/25/21 35C \$24.52 – 35D \$25.75

The Board placed on file correspondence from Kimberly Dickey from Nextera Energy and letter re: Wanatee Creek.

Legislative update: Darrin Gage reported on an Agricultural Tourism bill.

Adjournment at 11:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

STACEY WALKER, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors