

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA  
TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 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 heard updates from the following Elected Officials:

Col. Doug Riniker, Sheriff's Office - new hire testing (deputies); video visitation visits are going well in the jail; additional vacancies in jail.

Supervisor Rogers asked if inmates can receive vaccinations while in custody and Riniker stated that they are not at that point yet. Rogers also asked about a public safety bill that would require the county to pay for accumulated sick leave upon retirement or transfer to a spouse due to death. Riniker stated that he had not heard about this bill.

Chairperson Walker asked Riniker's stance on new gun legislation and Riniker stated he doesn't know their stance but he does have concerns with this legislation.

Joan McCalmant, Recorder - in favor of a bill that would give money to the Iowa Land Records System (how they receive documents electronically for filing); co-presenting a webinar Thursday on disaster recovery.

Supervisor Rogers asked McCalmant if she has any concerns re-opening the building and if her office would be comfortable if they were to re-open tomorrow. McCalmant said she is not 100% on board with opening although a lot of her staff have been vaccinated.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the re-opening of the building and departments voiced their concerns noting that the Treasurer's Office would like a deputy present to monitor how many people enter the building. The majority of the Auditor's Office would be comfortable with the building opening.

Walker is advocating that they meet regularly to determine budget impacts of a deputy in this building, if this building opens, other buildings have to open as well.

Sharon Gonzalez, Treasurer - upcoming tax sale in June; the blackout plates have generated \$310,000 for Linn County alone.

Joel Miller, Auditor - Real Estate - busy with address changes due to assessment mailings and payment of property taxes; Accounts Payable - GovSense process is going smoothly; Payroll - retired the use of GEMS and all departments are live on DayForce; Property Tax - Ag/Family Farm state credit report was filed by April 1<sup>st</sup> due date.

Rebecca Stonawksi, Deputy Auditor - November 2<sup>nd</sup> election, filing deadlines are approaching; the number of days for absentee ballots has been reduced; voting period has been reduced to 20 days; plan to use Lindale Mall for satellite voting; plan to vote at the Public Service Center; ballot has to be in hand by 8 p.m. on Tuesday (postmark is no longer allowed); November 30<sup>th</sup> is runoff election for Mayor; plan to use 67 polling places; redistricting next year; SF658 changes to election law.

The Board recessed at 10:28 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 Walker, Vice Chairperson Rogers and Supervisor Zumbach.

Other county staff present in person or via phone: Dennis Goemaat, Conservation; Jon Resler, Asst. County Engineer; Charlie Nichols, Planning & Development; Sara Bearrows, Finance; Tamara Marcus, Sustainability Coordinator and Col. Riniker, Sheriff's Office. (Joel?)

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

County Sustainability Dept. - Tamara Marcus gave a highlight of her duties including completing the first greenhouse gas inventory.

Sheriff's Office - Col. Riniker discussed the protocol for investigating animal neglect cases. Farm Bureau members added that Rescue 57 is very beneficial to rural residents.

County Conservation and Conservation Bond - Dennis Goemaat discussed the Dow's Ground including the solar array and water quality bond. Farm Bureau members voiced their concerns regarding Dow's farm noting that the county is competing with farmers and driving up the cost of land.

Supervisor Rogers left the meeting at this time 5:24 p.m.

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Goemaat also discussed restoring woodlands at Wickiup Hill and Wanatee Park due to the damage from the Derecho. They are looking at additional camping opportunities as well.

Planning and Zoning - Charlie Nichols discussed ag exemptions, agri-tourism operations and solar zoning on large commercial farms. Farm Bureau members asked for clarification regarding what is taxed for solar panels. They also voiced concerns regarding the Marion Airport Zoning Overlay district that was passed and what Farm Bureau members felt was a lack of communication during that process.

Secondary Roads - Farm Bureau members shared that they felt upkeep of the roads was very good this year and want to make sure that the county stays on top of the bridges.

Adjournment at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JOEL D. MILLER, Linn County Auditor  
By: Amanda Hoy, Executive Assistant

Approved by:

STACEY WALKER, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors