

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA  
MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2020 12:00 P.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.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Walker to approve minutes of April 9, 2020 as printed.

Update on Linn County's response to COVID-19:

- Pramod Dwivedi, Public Health Dir. - 258 cases in Linn County with 18 deaths. Unified Command Structure meeting held. Incident Action Plan is now running. EMA ordered additional masks and gloves. Unified messages sent out on mental health. Working closely with Foundation 2 crisis line.
- Steve Estenson, Continuity of Operations Officer - will be sending out guidance for county employees to do self-check temperatures daily (starting at the Public Service Center today). Temperatures will be taken before going into their offices and employees are encouraged to check their temperatures before leaving for work. This is being modeled after what Public Health is doing. If temperature is 100.4 and above, they are to stay home. Thermometers are on order for the remaining buildings and will be distributed.
- Chairperson Rogers stated that he asked Darrin Gage to convene the Board's Support Team regarding several issues. The Cedar Rapids School Dist. Superintendent stated that the Governor will have an announcement on Thursday regarding schools. Depending on that announcement, there could be an impact on county employees.

Dawn Jindrich, Finance Dir., gave a COVID-19 budget update. She stated that there are no changes or updates. She added that they have not received any requests from departments for additional overtime due to COVID-19. She has asked the Auditor's Office to run a payroll report in an effort to keep track.

Chairperson Rogers stated that they had a robust discussion with the County Attorney's office last week and he sent an email to the county workforce (on behalf of the Board) regarding what happens when there is a next exposure and what the balance is between privacy laws and people wanting enough information to make decisions for themselves. The Board has appointed Steve Estenson as the Continuity of Operations Officer and he has been empowered to make certain decisions if he cannot be in contact with the Board. Estenson is the central point of contact for any department head or elected official once they are made aware that an employee has been tested positive. Estenson will keep the Board informed. He has been empowered to initiate any facilities actions required to enhance cleaning authorized to approve facilities cleaning and reporting to the Board if there is to be any department or building closure.

Estenson stated that he received a lot of helpful guidance from Tricia Kitzmann from Public Health with identifying and defining exposures and contact tracings. Educating the employees is key.

Supervisor Oleson stated that they know that certain county buildings will be closed to the public through April 30. If there is a potential exposure or actual confirmed exposure in any one of those buildings (employee or not), that decision to close and clean is not necessarily the entire building. It depends on a number of factors. Once they have received a bona fide potential exposure or actual exposure, there is a notification process in place.

Estenson stated that decisions are made based on information provided. That determines what gets closed or cleaned. They have had other departments that have requested to have their areas cleaned for illnesses not related to COVID 19. They will continue to do that and continue to encourage departments that if they want to be cleaned and sanitized, they can ask. At the same time if they know something is present, they will initiate action.

Chairperson Rogers stated that what they are hearing from employees is more of a "want to know" additional information that is turning into a "need to know" information that is above and beyond privacy laws. That is the challenge they are facing.

Estenson stated that he is of the mindset that they have community spread and it should be assumed that people around you are positive. That is why they are social distancing and cleaning.

Supervisor Walker stated that what he has learned over the past couple days, is that there are varying levels of understanding. Everyone should behave as if they have the virus and they are trying to prevent the spread to others. There are some that are operating as if everywhere they go and are social distancing, that they are safe. They have learned that there are varying levels of understanding. This employee was not in the building for several days and it is likely that the virus died several days before they initiated the sanitizing processes (on top of enhanced cleaning measures). It is incumbent upon everyone to try the best they can to continually educate. They could all be benefited if employees and the general public had more science based information about the virus.

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

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Special Prosecutor Alexander Geocaris New hire – amended hire date 04/20/20 \$3,115.39/biweekly Replaces E. Dupuich

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Intern Rachael Schaefer New hire – Intern 05/04/20 \$15.00/hr New position

FACILITIES

Custodian Perfecto Trejo Bid award – PT to FT 04/11/20 10C \$18.13 + \$ .25 Replaces S. Banner

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Deputy Sheriff Richard Byrd New hire – FT 04/20/20 DB \$27.25 + \$ .40 Replaces M. Schump

Female Correctional Officer Dianna Ristau Correction to step increase wages from 04/06/20 roster 05/06/20 56B

\$21.12 + \$ .25 + \$ .25 – 56C \$22.31 + \$ .25 + \$ .25

Duty Officer Brittany Brecht Correction to step increase wages from 04/06/20 roster 05/01/20 56D

\$23.51 + \$ .25 + \$ .25 – 56E \$24.78 + \$ .25 + \$ .25

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Direct Support Staff Jason Wheeler End of probation 04/13/20 56A \$20.10 – 56B \$21.12

JUVENILE DETENTION

Intervention Counselor Javier Rivera Morales Step increase/contract 04/16/20 36C \$25.37 + \$ .25 – 36D \$26.76 + \$ .25

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Nurse Practitioner Nichole Pruchno End of probation 04/13/20 42A \$43.97 – 42B \$46.47

ENGINEERING

Light Equipment Oper. Alex Hamer End of probation 04/13/20 17A \$21.51 – 17B \$22.31

Heavy Equipment Oper. Brian Wood End of probation 04/13/20 19A \$23.12 – 19B \$24.04

Adjournment at 12:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

BEN ROGERS, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors