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.

Chairperson Rogers called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

Motion by Walker, seconded by Oleson to approve Consent Agenda as follows:

Authorize Chair to sign a Vacancy Form for a new job classification, Land Records Analyst, for the Linn County Auditor’s Office.

Authorize negotiations between Linn County and the Sustainable Iowa Land Trust (SILT) for operation and management of approximately 45 acres at Dow’s Farm.

Authorize Chair to sign letter of agreement to each of three finalists (Madeline Wiener, DiBari & Associates, Iian Averbuch) for the Harris Building exterior public art project.

Authorize Chair to sign letter of agreement to each of three finalists (Gail Christofferson, John Schwartzkopf, Greeta McLaren) for the Harris Building interior public art project.

Resolution 2020-4-55
WHEREAS, the Linn County Board of Supervisors shall establish priorities for granting property tax exemptions, natural conservation or wildlife areas pursuant to Iowa Code Section 427.1(22) and shall establish the limitations on the acreage allowed to be exempted, and; WHEREAS, the current list of priorities has not changed from the prior year and the total acreage designated as exempt for fiscal year 2020 has equaled the limitation set for fiscal year 2020 of 2,622 acres.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Linn County Board of Supervisors, this date met in lawful session that certified applications for tax exemption pursuant to Iowa Code Section 427.1(22) for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, shall be considered as follows:

The total number of acres of real property in Linn County to be exempted pursuant to Iowa Code Section 427.1(22) for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, shall be increased to the maximum allowable acres, not to exceed three thousand (3,000) acres; In determining whether or not to grant a tax exemption, applications shall be considered according to the following priorities, ranking from highest to lowest; Open prairies; River and stream banks; Forest covers; Rivers and streams Recreational lakes.

Any of the above tracts of land containing abandoned buildings or structures, unless such building or structures have historical significance, in which case the property may be considered as having its otherwise assigned priority;

Other than applying the above priorities, there shall be no limit on each type of property up to the aggregate limit of three thousand (3,000) acres. All other criteria and/or procedures set forth in Iowa Code Section 427.1(22) are incorporated herein.

Resolution 2020-4-56
A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE CZECH VILLAGE NEW BOHEMIA URBAN MAIN STREET IN CEDAR RAPIDS AS AN “IOWA CULTURAL AND ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT” WHEREAS, there is a possible agreement between the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, Cedar Rapids’ Czech Village—New Bohemia Urban Main Street District, and Linn County, Iowa, for the purpose of designating Cedar Rapids’ Czech Village New Bohemia Urban Main Street District as an Iowa Cultural and Entertainment District; and WHEREAS, the Linn County Board of Supervisors endorses and recognizes the Czech Village New Bohemia Urban Main Street District as a well-identified, walkable, mixed-use, and compact area of Linn County in which a high concentration of cultural facilities serve as the anchors.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Linn County Board of Supervisors that Linn County hereby supports the designation of Cedar Rapids’ Czech Village New Bohemia Urban Main Street District as an Iowa Cultural and Entertainment District.

Resolution 2020-4-57
A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE CZECH VILLAGE—NEW BOHEMIA URBAN MAIN STREET DISTRICT IN CEDAR RAPIDS AS PART OF THE “IOWA GREAT PLACES” PROGRAM WHEREAS, there is a possible agreement between the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, Cedar Rapids’ Czech Village New Bohemia Urban Main Street District, and Linn County, Iowa, for the purpose of designating Cedar Rapids’ Czech Village—New Bohemia Urban Main Street District as one of “Iowa’s Great Places; and WHEREAS, the Linn County Board of Supervisors of Linn County, Iowa, endorses and recognizes the Czech Village—New Bohemia Urban Main Street District as an area of development for new and existing infrastructure intended to cultivate the unique and authentic cultural qualities of neighborhoods, communities and regions in Iowa.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Linn County Board of Supervisors of Linn County hereby supports the designation of Cedar Rapids’ Czech Village—New Bohemia Urban Main Street District as one of “Iowa’s Great Places.”

Approve and authorize Chair to sign a certificate of insurance for Election Services to operate a curbside voting operation at 823 3rd Street SW from the dates of May 4, 2020 – June 1, 2020.
Approve and authorize Chair to sign Tower Terrace Road BUILD Grant (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Memorandum of Understanding between Linn County and the Cities of Cedar Rapids, Hiawatha, Marion, and Robins, with Linn County to serve as the Lead Agency.

Approve and authorize Chair to sign Professional Services Agreement between Linn County and Snyder & Associates, Inc. with regard to the Tower Terrace Road BUILD Grant Application.

Approve and authorize Chair to sign a Second Amendment to the Break Thru Series Collaboration Contract between the Iowa Department of Human Services and the Linn County Board of Supervisors effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

Approve and authorize Chair to sign the Iowa Secretary of State Vote Safe Iowa Initiative Grant Agreement for $26,100.

Approve and authorize Chair to sign a purchase order for erosion control material to Coleman Moore Co. in the amount of $7,619.08 for the Secondary Road Department.

Approve and authorize Chair to sign a purchase order for corrugated metal culvert to Northern Iowa Construction Products in the amount of $8,050.00 for the Secondary Road Department.

Approve Class B Beer Permit for Bass Farms, 1325 Hwy 30, Mt. Vernon, noting all conditions have been met.

Motion by Walker, seconded by Oleson to approve minutes of April 27 & 28, 2020 as printed.

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

- Pramod Dwivedi, Public Health Dir. - 658 cases with 42 deaths. New incident action plan was released this morning. Working on reopening guidance for businesses and participating in the Board Support Team.

- Sara Bearrows, Budget Dir., stated that they have no new COVID-19 funding requests.

- Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin., staff recommends extending Linn County’s closure date of certain Linn County government buildings through May 15, 2020.

Motion by Walker, seconded by Oleson to extend Linn County’s closure date of certain Linn County government buildings through May 15, 2020.

Motion by Walker, seconded by Oleson to remove from the table resolution to approve final plat for Rolling Acres Greens First Addition, Case JF20-0001 which was previously tabled on April 8, 2020.

Stephanie Lientz, Planning & Development (via phone), stated that she has been in contact with the county’s legal counsel and it is their opinion that conditions could be added.

Jon Gallagher, Soil & Water Conservation (via phone), presented the following revised conditions:

1. No offsite fill to be allowed for use on proposed lots for the purposes of altering lot grades or elevations.
2. No additional subsurface drainage installation or open ditch construction that would outlet directly into existing surface ditches.
3. A plan for maximum hard surface area per lot including proposed lot grades will be developed and accepted prior to approval of plat.
4. Stormwater management plan to be developed and approved for each lot. Plan shall include infiltration of the water quality volume as described in the Iowa Stormwater Management Manual.
5. A vegetative management plan consisting of a native grass and forb matrix shall be submitted and approved for the proposed stormwater easement area as identified on the proposed plat.
6. Development of a stormwater pollution prevention plan for each lot prior to construction.

Mike Brain, Brain Engineering (via phone), stated that some of his conditions are redundant or does not necessarily apply. He would like to talk to Jon Gallagher about those conditions.

Supervisor Oleson stated that the Final Plat was tabled due to an abundance of concerns about this property.

Motion by Oleson, seconded by Walker to add the six conditions proposed by Jon Gallagher to resolution to approve final plat for Rolling Acres Greens First Addition.

Discussion: Mike Brain voiced concern with the added conditions and noted that the water is controlled by the Linn County road and the drainage issue down the road.
Attorney Marty Stoll representing Paul Pate stated that she agrees with Mr. Brain and she too would like to have a conversation with Mr. Gallagher as there was no conversation with the applicant about these restrictions.

Stoll and Brain requested that the Board table the case for one week.

Motion by Oleson, seconded by Walker to rescind motion.

Motion by Oleson, seconded by Walker to table for one week resolution to approve final plat for Rolling Acres Greens First Addition.

Discussion: Supervisor Walker presented emails from Tom Weyant and Rick Moyle voicing concern regarding this Final Plat. He stated that he has received several phone calls as well.

Vote: All Aye.

Sara Bearrows, Budget Dir., presented the fiscal year 2020 budget amendment requests.

Supervisor Walker noted that Public Health is looking to hire 16 temporary employees to assist them with contact tracing for Test Iowa COVID-19.

Dawn Jindrich, Finance Dir., stated that those costs will not be included in this budget amendment.

Steve Estenson, Risk Manager, stated that the cost is to be paid from Public Health’s operations budget (approximately $12,000).

Motion by Oleson, seconded by Walker to set May 20, 2020 at Noon for a public hearing on the proposed amended budget.

Motion by Oleson, seconded by Walker to approve Claims #70613801-#70613843 in the amt. of $27,683.02 and ACH in the amt. of $317,665.66.

Board Member Reports: Supervisor Oleson stated that they secured $700,000 in next year’s MPO appropriations for the Hwy. 100 trail segment. They have matching money and are ready to go.

Supervisor Walker stated that a snapshot of what he does during a typical week is as follows: every day at 9:00 he has a call with community leaders and stakeholders in response to COVID-19; then the Unified Command meeting to try to develop recommendations; then a call with state house, senate and congressional leaders. Press Conferences are held on Monday’s and Thursday’s to make relevant information available to the public. He attended the Academy for Scholastic Success board meeting; met with Elected Officials and Dept. Heads at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday. Weekly Board of Health meetings and participating in Zoom meetings with families of immigrants who have relatives being detained by ICE at the Linn County Jail. Attending several SET Task Force meetings as they have found many young folks not in school and a slight uptick of gun violence; and Friday’s are Town Hall meetings.

Adjournment at 1:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

BEN ROGERS, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors