

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA  
MONDAY, MAY 24, 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 May 19, 2021 as printed.

Charlie Nichols, Planning & Development Dir., presented a request for a variance application requested by Linn County Conservation for the reconstruction of a restroom within the floodplain in the 4200 block of Chain Bridge Road. Planning & Development recommends approval. The DNR and the Board of Adjustment will also review. The Board will approve on Wednesday.

Brent Oleson, Deputy Dir. of Policy & Comm. Relations, presented a post-bid quality assurance questionnaire for use in evaluation of qualifications of a bidder for Linn County construction projects.

Mike Sattler, Building Trades President, stated that the city of Cedar Rapids adopted this questionnaire and gave examples of why this should also be adopted by Linn County resulting in a positive economic impact.

Supervisors Walker and Rogers noted that they are in favor of the questionnaire.

Supervisor Zumbach stated that he would like more time to review and asked if legal had reviewed the questionnaire. Oleson responded that legal has reviewed and the Board will discuss further on Wednesday and asked that legal council be represented.

The Board discussed a Resolution to Rescind Resolution 2020-11-125 pertaining to the Linn County Board of Health Face Covering Regulation.

Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin., stated that this resolution would lift the face covering regulation currently in place. He also presented new legislation whereby the county shall not adopt an ordinance, resolution or amendment requiring face coverings.

Chairperson Walker stated that the Board of Health has a meeting scheduled for Wednesday to address the face covering regulation which is subject to change.

Motion by Zumbach, seconded by Rogers to adopt Resolution 2021-5-74  
A RESOLUTION TO RESCIND RESOLUTION 2020-11-125 PERTAINING TO  
THE LINN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH FACE COVERING REGULATION  
WHEREAS, on November 16, 2020, the Linn County Board of Health, in response to state and federal proclamations and declarations relating to the COVID-19 public health emergency, approved a Face Covering Regulation and submitted it for approval to the Linn County Board of Supervisors pursuant to Iowa Code Section 137.104(1)(b)(2); and WHEREAS, in response to the ongoing public health emergency and the Linn County Board of Health's action, the Linn County Board of Supervisors, on November 18, 2020, approved the Linn County Public Health Face Covering Regulation; and WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), on May 13, 2021, updated its guidance and public health recommendations for full vaccinated people to state that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance; and WHEREAS, many state and local government jurisdictions rescinded mask and face covering regulations in response to the updated CDC guidance.  
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Linn County Board of Supervisors that Resolution 2020-11-125, A Resolution Approving the Linn County Board of Health Face Covering Regulation, is hereby rescinded in its entirety.

Discussion: Chairperson Walker explained his hesitation in that this sends the wrong message to the public and he believes that the public is not reading the CDC guidance correctly. No citations were given and nobody has been put in jail. As public officials, they should encourage good public practice and it is hard for him to vote in favor of the Resolution.

VOTE: Rogers & Zumbach - Aye Walker - Aye

Darrin Gage also addressed rescinding Linn County Board of Supervisors Policy COVID-002 pertaining to employee face coverings in response to COVID-19. He stated that now that the face covering regulation has been rescinded and county buildings are scheduled to open to the public on June 7, he would like the Board to affirm or rescind this policy by that date.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to rescind Linn County Board of Supervisors Policy COVID-002 pertaining to employee face coverings in response to COVID-19.

Discussion: Chairperson Walker stated that the question that was asked most often after the CDC's latest guidance is how do they know who has and who has not been vaccinated.

He encouraged the Board to keep this policy in place until they are in a better spot with vaccination rates. They are responsible for keeping employees safe and should be a model of good behavior.

Supervisor Zumbach stated that he believe in personal responsibility and they should keep the Plexiglas in place. It makes sense to rescind.

Supervisor Rogers stated that since the CDC guidelines came out and the Governor signed her bill, he still wears a mask; however, he will support rescinding this policy. It will be an exercise in trust and will be challenging. He will plan to continue wearing his mask.

Gage noted that unless the Board states otherwise, it will go into effect immediately as does the Resolution.

Chairperson Walker stated that as his final comment, there is a vocal minority that finds their own facts and to their credit are quite persistent with emails, etc. He encouraged board members to know that they should have greater fidelity to the facts than satisfying those folks that do not share that same commitment.

Nick Maybanks, Asst. County Atty., clarified the mask policy at the Courthouse, noting that there is State and County employees housed there. On a personal note, he spoke about his 9 year old daughter that has asthma and had hopes that she could be among her friends and her class again.

Pramod Dwivedi, Public Health Dir., stated that sooner or later this had to happen. It is their job to protect the health and wellbeing of the public and everyone's comments are well taken.

VOTE: Rogers & Zumbach - Aye Walker - Nay

Gage stated that that the governor's declaration for conducting public meetings electronically ends May 31. Since county buildings do not open until June 7, they will have to allow those that want to attend meetings in-person to do so between May 31 and June 6.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve conducting in-person Linn County governmental public meetings on and between May 31 and June 6, 2021.

Discussion: Lisa Epp, Asst. County Atty., stated that this pertains to other boards such as Conservation Board, etc.

Gage stated that the Board of Supervisors has two meetings during that timeframe and they will have someone at the door to allow them in to attend.

VOTE: All Aye

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

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Zoning Division Mgr. Stephanie Lientz Promotion 05/24/21 39D \$33.82 - \$81,906/annually Replaces C. Nichols

HUMAN RESOURCES

Intern IBeza Kejella New hire - FT, temporary 06/01/21 \$12.00/hour

Human Resources Analyst Kirsten Nelson Termination/resignation : 06/03/21

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sergeant Corey Grote Step increase/contract 06/12/21 S1 \$44.02 - S2 \$44.68

Communications Oper. Sami Boekhoff Step increase/contract 06/01/21 CB \$23.70 - C1 \$24.40

Duty Officer Brittany Brecht Transfer to Treasurer's Office 05/07/21

Duty Officer Anita Parvin Bid award 06/05/21 56D \$24.03 - 56D \$24.03 + \$ .25 + \$ .25 Replaces D.

Collins - Gallo Senior Account Clerk Savanna Hutchins Step increase/contract 06/08/21 55B \$20.04 - 55C \$21.09

JUVENILE DETENTION

Youth Leader Matthew Brophy Termination/resignation 05/25/21

Tracker Aria Polglaze Transfer to Sheriff's Office 06/25/21

ENGINEERING

Temporary Roadway Mtc Wrkr Joe Carper New Hire - temporary 06/28/21 \$20.00/hours

Chairperson Walker read and placed on file an email from Russell Hotchkiss re: masks and COVID-19 vaccinations.

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Adjournment at 12:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

STACEY WALKER, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors