

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2021 8:00 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 met with Elected Officials and department Heads to discuss County-related issues including:

Jen Musick, Health Solutions, highlighted the kick off of the 2021-2022 program beginning July 1st.

Carrie Stone, Charles Struck and Gayle Keiser provided a resource acquisition request update regarding new and/or transferred employees.

Darrin Gage provided an American Rescue Plan update.

Lisa Powell discussed Covid protocols since the building has re-opened.

Dawn Jindrich discussed fiscal year 2022 budget conversion from cash basis to GAAP basis (accrual) due to the new financial software.

Supervisor Walker asked that Joi Alexander and her team be given a heads up before speaking with reporters.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to approve minutes of June 16, 2021 as printed.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Zumbach to move public comment to before the department head updates.

Tom Robinson, 2094 Linn Delaware Rd, Coggon, stated that his thoughts and prayers are with Linn County's deputy. He expressed his thoughts regarding the proposed solar projects and gave background of several companies that have contacted them beginning in 2018. He is concerned about what will happen to their property value since his farm ground and his brother's would be directly affected. He is asking the Board for an 18 month moratorium.

Kelly Merta, 4194 Quail Ridge Rd, Center Point, stated that she is here today to discuss the solar projects. She addressed issues with the current substation infrastructure and the lack of capacity for Linn County to accommodate the proposed solar projects. They have spent lots of time the last few weeks researching MISO. She provided the background for how the solar process works from the beginning to the end user. She feels that more work is to be done to avoid the unintended consequences from an industrial application the size that is anticipated. Merta asked the Board to please consider the moratorium that has been suggested.

The Board heard updates from the following Department Heads:

Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir. - challenging start to their spring; Morgan Creek Park redevelopment; Cedar Valley Trail paving underway; bids due tomorrow for master plan entrance signage; trail near completion by E Avenue; trail near 42nd St. and Xavier High School possible October letting; management plan work continues; Pinicon Ridge dam modification project; wetlands at Wanatee Park near completion; Grant Wood Trail; minor repairs to Hoover Trail by Ely; hiking trail at Pinicon Ridge; campgrounds are full; public information meeting about Morgan Creek Park; Wapsi Club shelter reservations.

Kent Rector, Conservation, highlighted some programs that are offered to children and high school students.

Pramod Dwivedi, Health Department Dir. - KPI's; stakeholder meetings have resumed; his Freedom Festival tribute to heroes and Dwivedi will be Freedom Festival parade marshal; American Rescue Plan Act needs for their dept.; COVID19 vaccine; food safety program.

Supervisor Walker discussed the need for a food rescue program.

Phil Lowder, IT Dir. - budget status; three vacancies; six patches last month; chip shortage still impacting them; cyber security and vulnerability; FBI issued an alert; continuing to monitor system and keep patches current.

Tamara Marcus, Sustainability Program Mgr. - Communications/engagement: greenhouse gas inventory strategy. Discussion continued regarding solar projects and future meeting to address the confusion based off public comment's made in today's meeting. Assessment: meeting with big companies regarding greenhouse gas inventory; meeting one on one with sustainability council members; working on draft report with Communications staff; Equitable adaptation: grow solar - first benchmark was met; submitted dept. of energy grant; American Rescue Plan (focus on resiliency).

Page 2
June 22, 2021

Adjournment at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

STACEY WALKER, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors