The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center. Present: Vice Chairperson Rogers and Supervisor Oleson. Absent: Chairperson Walker (personal business). Board members voting “AYE” unless otherwise noted.

Vice Chairperson Rogers called the meeting to order.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Oleson to approve minutes of July 1, 2019 as printed.

The Board received updates from the following Elected Officials:

Sharon Gonzalez, Treasurer – Sample of the new “black out” plate; tax sale statistics (1156 bidders with 630 being successful, 906 parcels sold and 11 mobile homes, brought in $1.7); Treasurer’s Assoc. meeting in Cedar Rapids next year (asked for the Chairperson to give a welcoming speech); attending a PSC security meeting this afternoon with the Board’s Support Team; kudos to staff due to feedback from the IDOT and a retired veteran; working on job description for Deputy vacancy and will be advertising soon.

Brian Gardner, Sheriff – picking up Bearcat (SWAT team vehicle) next week (contracted with a firm to conduct a three day course); US Marshall contract is being negotiated (planning on an increase); interviewing new deputies next week (four openings); interviewing for Nurses and Female Correctional Officers; and will have three boats in the water securing the waterway during the fireworks display in Cedar Rapids.

Discussion continued regarding the compensation of nurses (surveys show that Linn County is compensating better than the hospitals) and retention once they are hired. Also discussed the possible impact on the Correctional Center once the Access Center has opened. Sheriff Gardner would like to see 24/7 nursing staff at the Correctional Center in the future. There will probably be no impact on the budget with regard to the Access Center.

Joel Miller, Auditor, explained the Public Information Request that he sent to the Secretary of State yesterday regarding I-Voters. He also plans to withhold payment of an invoice from the state for I-Voters maintenance at this time until he gets some answers. Discussion continued regarding security and elections. Miller is also working with Johnson in joint PSAs to educate voters on upcoming requirements for November city/school election. Testified last week in a trial at the Polk County Courthouse regarding voter id law. Supervisor Oleson encouraged Miller to discuss the state’s invoice with the County Attorney’s Office.

Rebecca Stonawski, Deputy Auditor, explained that the PollPads that were purchased with FY2020 capital funds arrived yesterday and the remote monitoring of Alburnett polling places was successful.

Supervisor Rogers commented on security issues in the PSC specifically mentioned by the Recorder (is there an impact on the Auditor’s Office). Stonawski stated that she will be asking for security when they get closer to the fall election and she plans to pay for it.

Rhonda Betsworth, Deputy Auditor, explained that the tax levy rates will be on the Board’s agenda for approval tomorrow (examples of levy rates provided); update on the Tyler property tax software project (a detailed project plan to be provided tomorrow with Go-Live in April 2020). New financial software set for July 2020 Go-Live; FY2019 accounting wrap-up underway; working with HR to post Accounting Analyst position (Rhonda’s former position).

Miller thanked the Board for hiring project managers for the property tax and financial software systems.

Adjournment 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

BEN ROGERS, Vice Chairperson
Board of Supervisors