

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2021 9:00 A.M.

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

Chairperson Walker called the meeting to order.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Walker to approve minutes of July 28 and August 2, 2021  
as printed.

The Board received updates from the following Elected Officials:

The Board advised all elected officials that there could be some quick action by the  
Board for a mask mandate in county buildings again and were they on board. They all  
agreed that they would be in compliance.

Brian Gardner, Sheriff - Close to hiring Deputy Sheriff's and being fully staffed;  
Jail video visitation program is up and running; Jail still has COVID protocol and  
strongly urging employees to be vaccinated.

Chairperson Walker stated that he was contacted by a constituent concerned about the  
new video visitation program and the fact that there is no longer face-to-face visits.

Supervisor Rogers asked about future expansion or reconfiguration of the Jail, noting  
that it is located on an island.

Sheriff Gardner stated that they are okay for now (with regard to space) and explained  
various options that they have but the down side of some of those options is a  
reduction in revenue (from housing Federal prisoners).

Sharon Gonzalez explained a situation in the Treasurer's Office yesterday whereby a  
resident was upset and swore at a staff member. Discussion continued as to why the  
panic button was not used and a Deputy Treasurer told Chairperson Walker that they  
could not rely on law enforcement to come in time. Discussion continued regarding  
security at the Public Service Center and the assignment of a Deputy Sheriff to the  
building.

Joan McCalmant, Recorder - Passports are taking 18 weeks (324 issued since reopened  
the building); 28E Agreement with Iowa Land Records for Recorder's portal for  
electronic recording; and legislature did some Back the Blue legislation whereby names  
can be removed from public record.

Lisa Epp, Asst. County Atty., explained the Back the Blue legislation with the goal to  
break the link between a name and an address.

Sharon Gonzalez, Treasurer - held a tax sale in June (had double the online bidders);  
the office is caught up and no longer requiring overtime; staff meeting to be held  
next week with a focus on FMLA; and the issue of the public sitting on the floor and  
in the stairwell. She still advocates for the presence of security in the building  
(Per Mar left the end of July).

Joel Miller, Auditor - Deputy Betsworth gave a report on Accounting Services, staffing  
and processes and the status of tax list (hope to hand off to Treasurer by August 13).  
Deputy Stonawski gave an update on Election Services, North Linn School Bond Issue  
Sept. 14 and City/School election Nov. 2; polling place improvements (ADA  
accessibility). A lengthy discussion continued regarding new absentee voting laws  
including dates and deadlines. Auditor Miller recognized Deputy Stonawski for her  
years of service as Deputy Commissioner of Election, noting that her last day is  
August 6. The Board echoed Auditor Miller's sentiments. Auditor Miller introduced  
Elections Manager Matt Warfield who will be taking over while they search for a new  
Deputy.

Adjournment at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

STACEY WALKER, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors