



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LINN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – ROOM 200
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025**

The Linn County Board of Commissioners met for the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2025.

Those present at various times for the matters as indicated below were: Ryan Vogt, Executive Director, Cascades West Council of Governments; Matthew Lehman, Transportation and Economic Development Manager, Cascades West Council of Governments; Dee Baley-Hyder, Linn County Veterans Services Program Manager; Wayne Mink, Linn County Roadmaster; Gene Karandy, County Attorney for Linn County; Micah Smith, Linn County Undersheriff; Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer and Shayla Escudero, Reporter for Democrat-Herald.

1, 2, 3. At 9:30 a.m. Vice-Chair Tucker called the meeting to order. The flag salute and roll call followed. Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Chair (*via teleconferencing*); Will Tucker, Vice-Chair and Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger were present, as well as, Darrin Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer and Courtney Leland, Recorder for the Board of Commissioners.

4. Approval of Agenda.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved and Commissioner Nyquist seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of the December 31, 2024 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved and Commissioner Nyquist seconded the motion to approve the December 31, 2024 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Resolution & Order 2025-002 designating newspapers for official publications for year 2025 for Linn County.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved and Commissioner Nyquist seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2025-002. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

Darrin Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer, presented the following item.

7. Resolution 2025-003 declaring the Attorney General's Model Public Contracting Rules not applicable

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved and Commissioner Nyquist seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2025-003. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Resolution 2025-004 appointing the Justice of the Peace Pro Tempore (District 4A).

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved and Commissioner Nyquist seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2025-004. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Resolution 2025-005 appointing the Linn County Tax Collector.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved and Commissioner Nyquist seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2025-005.

Commissioner Sprenger indicated that Matthew Pitcher was being appointed as the Linn County Tax Collector.

The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Resolution 2025-006 approving the use of the Linn County Fair and Expo Center for the 2025 Linn County Fair.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved and Commissioner Nyquist seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2025-006.

Commissioner Nyquist, for the sake of full disclosure, indicated that he is an active Fair Board member.

The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

11. COG Quarterly Update – Ryan Vogt, Executive Director, Cascades West Council of Governments.

Mr. Vogt provided the Board with a COG Quarterly Update. A copy of his report is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

Mr. Vogt introduced the Board to Matthew Lehman, the new Transportation and Economic Development Program Manager for COG.

Mr. Vogt indicated that the organization was looking to hire a new agency manager and that they were fortunate enough to have a large applicant pool to select from. Discussion followed.

Mr. Vogt shared some of the organization's strategic planning efforts. He indicated that he would like to see each department director, within the organization, put together a strategic plan to deliver better services to the community. He also discussed this year's focus was to continue improving their effectiveness and efficiency, such as, digitizing records, updating their website, creating an intranet for Staff and continuing to enhance their partnership with Community Services Consortium (CSC). Discussion followed.

Commissioner Sprenger asked Mr. Vogt what active steps he was taking to assuage some concerns that individuals had regarding the size difference between CSC and COG. Mr. Vogt indicated that the importance he wanted to leave the Board with was the two organizations had been in the same community for almost 50 years but they served different purposes; combining the two organizations creates a wholesome benefit for the community. Mr. Vogt indicated that there were opportunities available that hadn't been taken. For instance, every time there was a change to a position in either organization they naturally had the conversation of whether or not it was the time to contemplate having one agency handling the service for both organizations but, at this time, they weren't making any changes in hopes of assuaging some concerns from Staff.

Commissioner Tucker referred to Mr. Vogt's report and asked if there was a way, not today but in the future, for him to provide closing information to the investigations they had performed regarding elder abuse. Mr. Vogt stated, yes. Discussion followed.

Mr. Vogt asked the Board if they preferred separate reports from each organization. Commissioner Tucker indicated that he would like to see individual reports. Commissioner Sprenger clarified that the report would be quarterly and Mr. Vogt stated yes. She indicated that, personally, she would like to see two separate reports with comments from the two executive directors. Commissioner Nyquist agreed.

12. Reports of Staff and Committees:

A. Veterans Services Quarterly Update – Dee Baley-Hyder, Linn County Veterans Services Program Manager.

Ms. Baley-Hyder provided the Board with a Veterans Services Quarterly Update. A copy of her report is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

Ms. Baley-Hyder indicated that there had been an increase of the number of veterans served since moving to their new location. Commissioner Sprenger asked if she solely attributed that to the new location and Ms. Baley-Hyder stated, yes. Discussion followed.

Ms. Baley-Hyder stated that the two transportation grants they received were doing well. She indicated that these grants started on January 1, 2024 and were subject to end June 30, 2025. Through these two grants, they had been able to provide approximately 404 medical transportation rides a month. She indicated that the department would be sending out correspondence to the veterans utilizing this service to let them know that it would no longer be offered after June 30, 2025. Commissioner Tucker asked how much it would cost to continue the program and Ms. Baley-Hyder stated, between the two grants, their average spending was around \$4,000 a month; the total spent up to this point was \$63,953.19. Commissioner Tucker asked her to prepare something to present to the Board at the time of budget hearings and Ms. Baley-Hyder agreed. Commissioner Sprenger asked if the initial misunderstanding for the use of these funds on behalf of veterans had now been cleared up and Ms. Baley-Hyder indicated yes. Discussion followed.

13. Road Department – Wayne Mink, Linn County Roadmaster.

A. Resolution & Order 2025-009 delegating authority to Wayne E. Mink, Roadmaster, to purchase a Concave Dump Body.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved and Commissioner Nyquist seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2025-009. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Resolution & Order 2025-010 approving an Engineering and Related Services Contract between David Evans and Associates, Inc. and Linn County and delegating authority to execute the contract.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved and Commissioner Nyquist seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2025-010. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Correspondence: There was no correspondence to come before the Board.

15. Special Orders:

A. Personnel Action Forms.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved and Commissioner Nyquist seconded the motion to accept the Personnel Action Forms list as Exhibit 1. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

16. Unfinished Business and General Orders:

A. Calendar Update: The Commissioners updated their calendars.

17. New Business: There was no new business to come before the Board.

18. Announcements: There will be a Management Staff meeting held on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. in the Basement Meeting Room at the Linn County Courthouse.

19. Business from the Public (3-minute limit per speaker): There was no one present from the public wishing to use this forum neither in person or telephonically.

20. Adjournment. There being no other business to come before the Board; the Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m. by unanimous consent.

The next regular public meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 14, 2025.

 Recorder
For Board of Commissioners
Courtney Leland

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Roger Nyquist, Chair


William C. Tucker, Vice-Chair


Sherrie Sprenger, Commissioner

Date 1-21-2025