

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017 8:45 A.M.

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

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Houser to approve minutes of February 14 & 15, 2017 as  
printed.

The Board heard updates from the following Elected Officials:

Sharon Gonzalez, Treasurer - bid publication of the tax sale again this year (awarded  
to West Branch Communications). Reviewing applications received to fill a vacant  
position. Les Beck reached out to her and they will be presenting a C3 initiative at  
their annual Treasurer's meeting in May. Their regular staff meeting will be March 9<sup>th</sup>  
(working with Facilities on signage). She would like approval from the Board for  
putting a drop box for payments outside of the building. Chairperson Oleson directed  
Gonzalez to work with Estenson on that. Gonzalez stated that she wrote a letter to  
Thomson Reuters that they are not pursuing E-Gov any further and requested a refund  
for \$12,600. Gonzalez and Charles Struck, IT, have collaborated with Polk County to  
make Linn County's own site.

Gonzalez presented and explained request for one new Universal Clerk position. There  
were three positions approved in FY18 offers, however Supervisor Harris encouraged  
hiring one now. This is on Wednesday's agenda for approval and funding will be  
discussed then.

Jerry Vander Sanden, Attorney - Expressed his appreciation for the new Administrative  
Assistant position in the Juvenile Division (upcoming retirement of experienced staff  
member in March). Criminal cases filed have increased since 2015 (if trend continues  
will need more help). Statewide traffic fatalities were the highest in eight years.  
OWI charges in Linn County dropped below 1,000 in 2016 with a 95% conviction rate.  
Discussed state legislation under consideration with HSB109, SF284 and HF358. They  
have made a pitch to the legislature that they need to better fund the judicial  
branch. January 30<sup>th</sup> he participated in local forum at the Cedar Rapids Library  
regarding the Prosecution of Hate Crimes at the federal and local level.

Supervisor Walker stated that he has made two requests to Vander Sanden as a peer in  
county government and is asking him on the record to find some time for a meeting to  
discuss a topic offline. Vander Sanden responded that he understands why Walker wants  
to meet with him but it might be prudent to put off that meeting due to possible civil  
litigation and lawsuits.

Brian Gardner, Sheriff - Had preliminary discussion with architect about reconfiguring  
space in the jail. He was contacted by the vendor of the body camera's and it was  
suggested to hold off on receiving the initial body camera's purchased due to the  
battery life. He hopes to have them by the end of the month. An article was in the  
Gazette about an application for a grant for two years to pay for a Crime Analyst  
position plus benefits for the county. There was also an article written regarding  
the diversity challenge with the hiring process. Gardner stated that a lot of people  
don't want to work in the jail when they are hired.

Discussion continued regarding the hiring process challenge including number of  
applicants and recruitment process, faster pay scales at the jail and diversity.

Stacey Law, Deputy Auditor - Auditor Miller is lobbying in Des Moines today. Deputy  
Shoop's staff have added 30 employees to Novatime in the Sheriff's Civil Division;  
several other departments have agreed to join (no training has been provided yet);  
Accounting Analyst starts March 6<sup>th</sup>. Managed Services Contract - waiting to hear if  
contract has been signed and when implementation will begin. Working with Chris,  
Thomson Reuters (TR), on homestead credit report issues. Tax list - issue has been  
corrected (TR working on long term fix) and created tax list for Deputy Bearrows for  
distribution. City, Township and other authority budgets are due March 15<sup>th</sup>. Working  
to provide Assessor's with new plats, splits, etc. for 2017 assessment year prior to  
February 28<sup>th</sup> deadline (April 1st Assessor deadline to mail assessment rolls).

Rebecca Stonawski, Deputy Auditor - Staff attending election training out of state;  
considering updates to the billing system to save time and money; processing National  
Change of Address (NCOA) voter cancellations; updating website to be more user  
friendly. Stonawski discussed request for an increase in hours from 20 hours to 30  
hours per week for the Election Office Coordinator and a reduction in hours from 20  
hours to 10 hours per week for the Voter Outreach Coordinator (more hours required  
during the election season). Lisa Powell, HR Dir., stated that she supports this  
change noting that the employee has worked over 30 hours all of last year and due to  
that benefits have to be provided. The position will go out for bid and the current  
employee can bid on the job. The Board will approve Wednesday.

Stonawski continued with her update: preparing for the potential August 1<sup>st</sup> election  
noting that there have been a number of concerns about the \$200,000 cost for the  
election. The deadline for submission of the petition is June 1<sup>st</sup>. September school  
elections are coming up. She will need a budget amendment for roughly \$150,000.

Discussed E-pollbooks as a possible budgeting issue (\$250,000 - \$300,000 initial cost and \$65,000 - \$70,000 annual maintenance).

Lisa Powell, HR Dir., met with the Board to discuss Affirmative Action Plan review and analysis proposal from Gallagher Benefits Services, Inc. She stated that the plan has been in place for over 20 years but hasn't been reviewed externally. It will look at the demographics of the entire county labor pool. She is requesting to use her unemployment line item to cover the cost.

Supervisor Walker stated that he thinks this is a great idea and asked about legal requirements related to using the term affirmative action. He thinks once the study is complete it will drive diversity. Powell responded that the plan looks at where they are in relation to the current labor pool and identifies areas they may be underrepresented. The Board will approve Wednesday.

Barbara Chadwick, Public Health, met with the Board to discuss request for new position for a Medical Coding/Billing Specialist for Public Health. She stated that their office has been doing medical insurance billing for four years with existing staff (has been a challenge). The funding source is from billing revenues. The Board will approve Wednesday.

Britt Hutchins, Purchasing Dir., met with the Board to discuss placement of pedestrian crosswalk indicators (RRFB) along 2<sup>nd</sup> St SW for employee/public crossing. The cost is \$7,274 but does not include the \$2,000 that Secondary Roads will charge for placement of them. The City of Cedar Rapids originally told Ben Merta, Secondary Roads, that this type of indicator was not allowed.

Supervisor Houser stated that he spoke with John Witt, Assistant Traffic Engineer, and was told that they are allowed. The City of Cedar Rapids will add these indicators to the current 28E agreement they have on file with the county. Dawn Jindrich, Finance, stated that it will be paid from the capital projects fund balance. The Board will approve Wednesday.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Houser to adopt Resolution 2017-2-30

WHEREAS, House File 295 (the proposed legislation), as introduced in the Iowa General Assembly, relates to prohibiting counties and cities from establishing certain regulations relating to civil rights, consumer merchandise and conditions of employment relating to but not limited to a minimum wage rate; and,  
WHEREAS, the practice of the State limiting the ability of counties and cities to establish certain regulations is commonly referred to as "pre-emption"; and,  
WHEREAS, in 1969 Iowa voters approved the Iowa Municipal Home Rule Amendment, which granted Iowa cities home rule authority, with 65 percent of the vote; and,  
WHEREAS, in 1978 Iowa voters approved the Iowa County Home Rule Amendment, which granted Iowa counties home rule authority, with 60 percent of the vote; and,  
WHEREAS, local leaders listen to community concerns about unique local conditions and problems and work to address those problems with a local response, and;  
WHEREAS, the most responsive government is that which is closest to the people; and,  
WHEREAS, State pre-emption of county and city governments limits local governments ability to address unique local conditions and problems; and,  
WHEREAS, from time-to-time the lack of action by the State government creates conditions or problems that communities ask local leaders to address; and,  
WHEREAS, the establishment of a county minimum wage is an example of local leaders adopting local regulations to address community concerns that the State has not addressed; and,  
WHEREAS, the voiding of city or county regulations in place at the time of the effective date of the proposed legislation, if approved, is a further deterioration of the home rule authority approved and granted by Iowa voters; and,  
WHEREAS, prohibiting local governments' capacity to respond to local conditions and problems will not address or solve those conditions and problems.  
NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED the Linn County Board of Supervisors hereby opposes the passage of House File 295 and encourages legislators to vote against the proposed legislation.

Motion by Houser, seconded by Rogers to approve Employment Change Roster (Payroll Authorizations) as follows:

FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

Custodian Joanie Jennings Corrected 2/6/17 \$11E \$19.46+\$.25-10E \$18.72+\$.25  
Rescinded Bid Award

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Food Service Coord Bounheuang Baccam Step increase 4/15/17 56D \$21.89-56E \$23.07  
Female Corr Officer Raelynn Kofron Step increase 4/11/17 56B \$19.68+\$.25+ \$.25 shift-56C  
\$20.78+\$.25+\$.25 shift  
Deputy Sheriff Tanner Pease Step increase 4/6/17 D-1 \$26.17+\$.25-D-2 \$27.23+\$.25  
Deputy Sheriff Michael Longwell Step increase 4/8/17 D-3 \$28.29+\$.25-D-4 \$29.37+\$.25  
Deputy Sheriff Matthew Leeper Step increase 4/14/17 D-2 \$27.23+\$.25+D-3 \$28.29+\$.25

JUVENILE DETENTION

Tracker Audrey Manternach New employee 3/1/17 56A \$18.72+\$.25  
Repl C. Betts 39 hrs/wk

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Facility Coord	Judy Walovich Monk	Termination/retirement 4/14/17
Direct Supp Staff	Jess Huber	Step increase 3/17/17 56C \$20.78-56D \$21.89
Direct Supp Staff	Katerina Kosc	Name correction per Social Security card

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Houser to enter into closed session to discuss pending litigation, pursuant to Code of Iowa 21.5(1)(c).

VOTE: Houser - Aye Oleson - Aye Walker - Aye Rogers - Aye

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Houser to go out of closed session.

VOTE: Houser - Aye Oleson - Aye Walker - Aye Rogers - Aye

Adjournment at 10:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

BRENT OLESON, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors