

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2018 8:00 A.M.

The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center.
Present: Chairperson Harris, Vice Chairperson Houser, Supervisors Rogers and Oleson (leaving at 9:48 a.m.). Absent: Supervisor Walker (other county business). Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

Chairperson Harris called the meeting to order.

Ashley Stickney, Health Solutions, presented highlights of results of the fall screenings. They attracted 58% of eligible county employees which is an increase of 12% from last year. Employees in the high risk category is trending down. She also presented highlights of the Wellness Rewards Program (448 participants). Their next step is to see what is prohibiting the nonparticipants from participating.

Brandon Johnson, Human Resources, gave an update on the approved FY 19 Offers for LC3.

Les Beck, Planning & Development Dir., gave an update and presentation of the Linn County Code of Ordinances Recodification prepared by Municode.

The Board recessed at 8:31 a.m. and reconvened at 8:36 a.m. to receive updates from the following Department Heads:

David Thielen, LCCS Exec. Dir. - Options: operating in the black; Options Director spoke at a public hearing on tiered rates; The Gazette is doing a story regarding the impact of DHS changes. Child & Youth Development: Wraparound funds (for children with a mental health diagnosis) are underspent. LCCS Board approved raising the annual cap per individual by \$500.00 through this fiscal year. East Central Region - group of providers continue to meet with Supervisor Rogers to discuss Linn County ECR fund and the Access Center. MHDD Case Management: - Continuing to wind down and boxing up files to be stored for seven years; tomorrow is the last day for the Fee for Service clients; working with IT and other departments to address closing of the laptops, monitors, printers, copiers, etc. related to closing the office. General Assistance/Ryan White/Home Health: Ryan White will have annual site visit; met with Public Health regarding remaining funding for this year and next. Home health will see an increase. Early Childhood Iowa & DECAT - Awarded contract for translation services which was called back because the parent company is folding. LCCS Core - LCCS budget committee has decided where surplus funds would go for meal programs. Director is retiring next week. Thielen stated that all departments have been impacted by the recent Case Management layoffs.

Supervisor Rogers asked if the Ryan White program is at risk, similar to Case Management and Thielen confirmed that there is no threat to that program, noting that the program is strong and funded by a grant.

Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir., gave an overview of the Linn County Water & Land Legacy Bond projects. He is working on a joint meeting with the Conservation Board at Wickiup in March.

Supervisor Oleson stated that Auditor Miller has made comments about the county conservation's shelter competing with the private sector (vendors/venues) for weddings, etc. He asked Goemaat to explain the differences.

Goemaat explained that it is an open air shelter with no air conditioning that closes at 10:00 p.m. It is not the same type of experience as the Lynn Dunn Building at the Fairgrounds (for example). He does not see it as competition.

Jon Gallagher, Soil & Water Conservation Dir. - Thanked the Board for their support of the Iowa Partners for Conservation Grant (five year position working to contact local landowners/farmers in the Indian Creek Watershed as well as some Urban activities); appreciation from Maquoketa River Watershed Management Authority for Linn County's contribution to meet their goal to reach a funding level to submit their preproposal to the state; continue work on Morgan Creek (Linn County Conservation and Cedar Rapids Comm. School) storm water management and flood control; allocated more than \$90,000 in federal funds for installation of conservation practices this spring and fall; Weed Commissioner meeting this week (changes at the state level). Assistance to various communities: Marion exploring options to recreation improvements to Indian Creek; City of Ely has some flooding issues to address; working with district to wrap up this year's Slough Bill's.

Don Tyne, Veterans Affairs Dir. - Thanked the Board for corresponding with Commissioners about future space; bumped staff member; report of Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures from the State (with more certified offices the amount will increase).

Supervisor Oleson encouraged Tyne to consider applying for some of the Mental Health monies as he has had constituents in the rural area that have voiced concern for the veterans in those isolated areas. He asked if he could arrange for something for those veterans that may require funding. Tyne stated that he has had similar stories shared with him and he will look into it.

Phil Lowder, I.T. Dir. - Helpdesk statistics; budget is on target; two staffing vacancies; Key Performance Indicator status; and Aumentum (patches, fixes and tickets).

Jason Siebrecht, GIS Coord., demonstrated online products

Britt Hutchins, Purchasing Dir. - LC3 Training (video clips); purchases for IT, Engineering, Risk Management, Elections, Facilities, LIFTS, Jail, County Attorney, Juvenile Detention. Training for presort services that will start March 1; layoffs have affected his department.

Correspondence: Supervisor Oleson reported that he received an odd exchange with Robin Kash. He has asked the County to consider Public Banking which Oleson has looked into. Oleson stated that this was an odd exchange and he wanted the Board to be aware of it as it was regarding the financing of the Harris Building. Kash also advocated for Oleson's defeat.

At this time, Supervisor Oleson left meeting.

Les Beck, Planning & Development Dir. - LC3 activities; Dows Farm Project and Process (public open house in March); Flood Commemoration planning committee (high water mark campaign); Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan (contracted with ECICOG to provide those services); BSA permit software training; board and commissioner appointments and orientations; and staffing updates (will wait to re-advertise for Planning & Development Division Manager and Project Manager); met with city of Marion staff and reviewed Squaw Creek Park/Dows Farm North Marion Annexation.

Supervisor Rogers voiced his frustration over qualified candidates that have failed Linn County's outdated software (as it relates to the Project Manager). Department Heads should have the discretion and be empowered in these cases (with the support of the Board).

Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin. - The Board's budget is on target; it is possible that there is funding in this fiscal year to hire his assistant (approved budget Offer for FY 19); Board KPI's are on target; LC3 product improvements (Boards and Commissions); Legislative updates (backfill bill, lease/purchase bill and needle exchange program). In the process of value engineering the Harris Building. Rinderknecht and subs are working on revised pricing. The OPN design team is working on modifications in support of that pricing effort. Right now they are focusing on materiality and products of the building (siding, material of pipes, changing wood to concrete, leaving out decorative limestone), nothing that affects programming. They are optimistic that they will meet the \$2.4 million value-engineering target without affecting programming. Moving generator from offsite parking to the site (\$500,000 savings) and eliminating geo thermal (\$500,000). They anticipate that they will be back to the Board around March 21 and present them with a list to cut \$2.4 million.

Chairperson Harris asked Gage to see what the additional cost of utilities will be over the next 10 years because they do not have a geo thermal system. Gage stated that he could do that based on assumptions.

Gage continued to say that he and Garth Fagerbakke will start meeting every Tuesday from 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. with the OPN design team, Rinderknecht and subs to hear the latest discussions. The Board is invited. He is also working on a dispatch contract for FY 18 for the four cities and then will have a separate agreement for FY 19 to be renewed annually. New invoices will be sent with the agreements. Working on the Fly Local Travel Policy that was proposed. He is supportive of the concept but will be making suggested changes leaving out specificity.

Adjournment at 10:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

JOHN HARRIS, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors