

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2018 9:00 A.M.

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

Chairperson Harris called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir., asked that the Board delay action
on an agenda item today which is the annexation of county owned land south of Hwy.
100. The Conservation Board has not had an opportunity to discuss this issue at length
and he is currently working to schedule a joint meeting between them and the Board of
Supervisors on March 26th to have this discussion. If it moves forward, he would like
to have an annexation agreement recognizing Squaw Creek Park as a regional asset to
the entire county.

Robin Kash, 1806 Grand Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, stated that his interest was peaked when
looking at today's agenda and noticed that the Board was discussing some financial
issues. That reminded him of his previous ventures with the Board on the matter of the
best use of tax money in Linn County. He underscores that by offering an alternative
to bonding of which the Board will be or have done quite a bit. There is the
Conservation approach that got support from county voters and financing of the Harris
Building that he understands will be bonded when the County purchases it from
Rinderknecht. The alternative to that is Public Banking. Some Board members have
looked into it but for a variety of reasons have not pursued a full study (as many
municipalities and taxing jurisdictions have). The city of Los Angeles has embraced
Public Banking for their city and there are several other communities that are
studying to see if that would be a workable approach to finance for them and making
better use of taxpayers money. This is not just in terms of saving large amounts of
interest paid on bonds but also enabling them to finance other projects at the least
expense to taxpayers. He is in the process of forming an advocacy group so if the
county, cities and school boards will not explore, they will. They will try to
educate the public on Public Banking. He thanked the Board for their attention and he
is looking forward their discussion today.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Oleson to approve minutes of February 28, 2018 as
printed.

A public hearing was called to order for rezoning request of property located in the
2900 block of East Post Road from AG (Agricultural) district to USR (Urban Services
Residential) district. MidAmerican Energy Company is the property owner and Scott &
Wendy Draper are the petitioners. Proof of publication was presented. There were no
oral or written objections.

Stephanie Lientz, Planning and Development, presented the case and stated that this
property is located north of Lakeside Drive and was triggered by an associated final
plat case. The applicants are interested in acquiring a portion that included trees
(1.5 acres) outside the pipeline area. Staff recommends approval.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Walker to close public hearing.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Walker to approve upon first consideration rezoning
case JR17-0003, request to rezone property located in the 2900 block of East Post Road
from AG (Agricultural) district to USR (Urban Services Residential) district,
approximately 0.69 acres, MidAmerican Energy Company, property owner; Scott & Wendy
Draper, petitioner.

Susan Forinash, Hall & Hall, met with the Board to explain the following which are all
related to the Prospect Meadows Project: 15-Foot Utility Easement Agreement for a
perpetual and continual easement for the installation of and maintenance of utility
facilities; Drainage Easement Agreement for a perpetual and continual easement for the
installation of and maintenance of drainage facilities; Easement Agreement for a
perpetual and continual easement for the installation of and maintenance of signage;
Temporary Construction Easement for the purpose of grading, shaping and seeding real
property; and Wetland Easement Agreement for a perpetual and continual easement for
the purpose of protecting wetlands. The Board will approve on Wednesday.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Walker to authorize Chair to sign, retroactive to
February 28, 2018, letter to Iowa Department of Transportation requesting a 6-month
extension to Linn County/Prospect Meadows Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE)
Agreement No. 2014-R-019.

Major Doug Riniker presented a request for six deputy positions for the Sheriff's
Office. He stated that there are currently four deputy positions that are open and he
is including two more deputies that were approved with the FY19 budget (which may
result in a budget amendment of \$25,000).

Discussion continued regarding the Sheriff's recent recruitment program and their
outreach efforts to attract women and minorities as well as the Board's interest in
diversifying the Sheriff's Office. The Board will discuss again on Wednesday.

The Board discussed Communications Services Agreements for public safety dispatching between Linn County and the Cities of Hiawatha, Lisbon, Mount Vernon and Robins.

Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin., stated that the agreements are for the current fiscal year and renewable for FY 19 and beyond. New invoices will be generated and sent along with the agreements. The Board will approve on Wednesday.

Staci Meade, LCCS Finance Dir., discussed a contract between Linn County Community Services and Netsmart Technologies, Inc. for ongoing hosting services for the Evolve Software system. She stated that there is a onetime fee of \$25,400 for professional services and first year recurring fee of \$20,100. The County IT Dept. concurs with this hosted environment as they are not able to install the complex upgrades as efficiently as Netsmart staff. The Board will approve on Wednesday.

Garth Fagerbakke, Facilities Manager, presented a request for two temporary custodial positions to cover medical leaves for Facilities. The Board will approve on Wednesday.

Les Beck, Planning & Development, met with the Board to discuss filing of a Voluntary Annexation request for approximately 973 acres of county-owned land located south of Hwy. 100 and west of Hwy. 13 to the City of Marion (Squaw Creek Park and recently acquired Dows Farm property). Beck explained the different types of annexations per the Code of Iowa.

Kesha Billings, Marion staff member, explained that Marion does not have any formal 28E agreements for boundary annexations in this area.

Supervisor Oleson stated that he reached out to Les Beck to place this item on the agenda and wanted to have conversations in an effort to move forward and come up with an agreement advantageous to all parties. He is trying to look out 20 years so that certain things do not happen. He wants to have the best possible position to run a regional park and at the same time control the number of jurisdictions having to deal with. He stated that it is to Linn County's advantage to begin the process to get the property into the city of Marion, but before they submit the application, he wants to work with Marion, Conservation Board and Les Beck and come up with a mutual agreement regarding topics like hunting and adjacent roads. He would like to have that agreement in place by April 13th. The Board of Supervisors and Conservation Board can discuss this in their joint meeting on March 26th.

Chairperson Harris stated that he would also like input from the city of Cedar Rapids as well.

Chairperson Harris stated that a while back the Board gave the nod to the Auditor to test the waters on alternative software that might serve the County better for a property tax and financial system. The Auditor took the lead on that and last week county departments received a presentation from a company that provides that software. Harris thanked the Auditor and his staff for their diligence at looking around and appreciates their work. Now is the time for the Board to take the next step and assign the Finance Director the task to further evaluate this software program.

Supervisor Rogers clarified that this would not be a board appointed committee and would be giving the Financial Director the authority and discretion on whom he would like on the team. He stated that there should be a representative of the Auditor and Treasurer and Chairperson Harris stated that the Financial Director has recognized that those departments should be a part of the review.

Supervisor Walker stated that he would like to echo those sentiments and thanked the Auditor's Office for taking the lead to bring in an alternative for a software program. They planned the whole day to meet with them and also allowed ample time for the Board to ask questions. It was done in a professional manner and he looks forward to the next steps.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Walker to authorize Finance Director to assemble a team to evaluate an alternative tax and financial program.

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

<u>AUDITOR'S OFFICE</u>		
Accounting Analyst	Rhonda Betsworth	Step increase/contract 03/06/18 38B \$26.49 – 38C \$27.88
<u>SHERIFF'S OFFICE</u>		
Deputy Sheriff	Tyler Annis	New employee – FT 03/05/18 DB \$25.81 + \$.40
Deputy Sheriff	Tyler Blaha	New employee FT 03/05/18 DB \$25.81 + \$.40
Deputy Sheriff	Dmitry Nikolaev	New employee – FT 03/19/18 DB \$25.81 + \$.40
Deputy Sheriff	Holly Parish	New employee – FT 03/19/18 DB \$25.81 + \$.40
Deputy Sheriff	Colton Desmarais	New employee – FT 04/02/18 DB \$25.81 + \$.40
<u>LIFTS</u>		
Lead Mechanic	Brandon Pierce	Promotion 02/20/18 57E \$25.58 – 58D \$26.33 Fills new position
<u>ENGINEERING</u>		
Light Equipment Oper.	Kyle Stonebraker	Termination/resignation 03/16/18

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The Board received and placed on file the following correspondence: Witwer Grant thank you letters from Mt. Vernon/Lisbon Comm. Development Group, Catherine McAuley Center and Young Parents Network; Notice of voluntary annexation of the city of Ely and letter from city of Center Point regarding Urban Renewal Area Plan Amendment.

Adjournment at 9:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

JOHN HARRIS, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors