

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017 9:00 A.M.

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

Chairperson Oleson called the meeting to order.

Motion by Houser, seconded by Rogers to approve minutes of March 21 & 22, 2017 as printed.

A public hearing was called to order on the designation of the Linn County Urban Renewal Area and on an urban renewal plan and project. Proof of publication was presented.

Les Beck, Planning & Development, presented the purposes and process for designating an Urban Renewal Plan per Iowa Code Chapter 403. Maps were presented showing the boundaries of proposed Urban Renewal Area as well as Land Use Plan Designations. Beck also presented the Urban Renewal Project as follows:

- Acquire approximately 485 acres of land
- Possible expansion of Squaw Creek Park
- Possible trail extension from Mt. Vernon Rd. to Squaw Creek Park
- Agreements with cities of Cedar Rapids & Marion regarding use of portions of the property
- Recreation and conservation uses
- Development or redevelopment of non-strategic conservation land along Hwy. 13 and/or Mt. Vernon Rd.

Chairperson Oleson stated that he wants to make sure that they are flexible with the Land Use Plan Designations noting that a unique plan could come in. He also stated that the Board will be going through some major changes over the next few years and this won't be done. As guidance to the next Board, he wants to say that Planning & Development has done amazing work and this is limitless in its possibilities. They have a good opportunity for some special things with a large piece of property.

Supervisor Houser asked if the parcel on the lower left corner (old Squaw Creek school) will have any unintended consequences and Beck responded that there is no burdens off the top.

There were no oral or written objections.

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

Les Beck presented a proposed Urban Renewal Agreement between Linn County and the City of Cedar Rapids (similar to agreement that the Board entered into with Marion). The Board will approve on Wednesday.

Steve Tucker, Finance Dir., presented a resolution to set April 12 for a public hearing on general obligation urban renewal county purpose loan agreement in an amount not to exceed \$7,325,000. This is so that they can buy the land commonly known as the Dows property. They are scheduled to close in mid-April. The Board will set the date on Wednesday.

Supervisor Houser read a resolution supporting collective bargaining rights for county employees.

Motion by Houser, seconded by Rogers to adopt Resolution 2017-3-52

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES
WHEREAS, House File 291 (the legislation), signed into law by Governor Branstad on February 17, 2017, makes dramatic changes to Iowa Code Chapter 20, the public employment relations/collective bargaining law; and,
WHEREAS, among other changes, the legislation limits the scope of negotiations, creates additional burdens for bargaining unit re-certification, eliminates payroll deduction for union dues and limits the decision-making authority of arbitrators; and,
WHEREAS, the legislation creates separate classes of employees by exempting public safety workers from major changes to Chapter 20; and,
WHEREAS, the changes will have a negative impact on employee morale, recruitment and retention and lead to the loss of valuable public servants; and,
WHEREAS, over 600 Linn County employees, approximately four-fifths of all Linn County employees, are enrolled in a collective bargaining unit; and,
WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors values all county employees and believes that everyone benefits when employees are involved in creating and implementing workplace practices, policies and procedures; and,
WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors subscribes to the essence of Iowa Code Section 20.1(1) which states in part "The general assembly declares that it is the public policy of the state to promote harmonious and cooperative relationships between government and its employees."

NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED the Linn County Board of Supervisors is committed to fair employee representation and input during future consideration of wages and other

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compensation matters, hours, leave, insurance, health and safety matters, evaluation procedures, training, grievance procedures and other workplace condition matters.

Discussion: Rick Moyle, Hawkeye Labor Council, encouraged the Board to adopt the resolution stating that it shows that the county values its employees. He continued to say that when this bill was on the floor this Board voted to oppose that and hopefully will unanimously again.

Supervisor Houser stated that Supervisor Walker wanted it on record that he supports the resolution.

Supervisor Harris stated that he would think that in certain areas of the state that the action by the state legislature is viewed as a good thing, but in Linn County this Board has worked hard to cultivate a relationship with their employees that exhibits trust and respect and he will vote for this resolution because it does not really fit with what they are trying to accomplish in Linn County.

Chairperson Oleson stated that he looks at everyone's point of view. He has a great relationship with the building and trades but his relationship with AFSCME could be improved. However, he has good relationships with individual members. He continued to say that he has promoted things that AFSCME wanted at the consternation of Gary Jarvis and Lisa Powell. He has also been asked to do things by the union that he was not comfortable with. He heard legislators get up and say it will help management with AFSCME forcing lucrative contracts. He stated that they need to come to Linn County and see how it is done. They have a great balance of taxpayers getting a good deal and yet achieve good morale and always entering into negotiations in good faith. There is a balance in Linn County and hopefully future boards will see what has been built. He stated that Lisa Powell and Gary Jarvis have done a phenomenal job and they have good collective bargaining partners.

Supervisor Rogers reiterated that they enter into negotiations with good faith and they achieve a good balance. It is harmonious with no arbitration. They have rebuilt using local labor and they have had some model contracts.

Supervisor Houser stated that Rep. Zumbach attended a union meeting and said that all they were doing is tweaking collective bargaining. Houser stated that he has since talked to Rep. Zumbach and asked him about what a tweak was noting that the collective bargaining chapter has been decimated. Rep. Zumbach just smiled and walked away from him (which is very upsetting).

Supervisor Oleson stated that they need people that can see both sides and this is not just a tweak.

VOTE: All Aye.

The Board discussed disposal of county property in lieu of storing items at the O'Brien Building. Also present: Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin.; Britt Hutchins, Purchasing Dir.; Garth Fagerbakke, Facilities Mgr. and Lisa Powell, HR Dir.

Supervisor Rogers stated that he asked that this be on the agenda after a discussion last week regarding surplus property in the Auditor's Office. He noted that there will be surplus property coming up from the current Public Health and Child Development buildings and he does not want items parked back in the O'Brien Building. Joyce Sramek in particular has spent a lot of time trying to improve their processes at the O'Brien building and they do not want it to be a dumping ground again. Supervisor Rogers stated that he is being sensitive to the policy but he wants to give greater flexibility rather than having Department Heads coming to the Board. He would like to see them sold on a government website (currently handled by HR) and if not sold then give to a non-profit/dispose of it. Create a practice to not move things twice.

Supervisor Houser stated that the Purchasing Director handles purchases so he should take care of proper disposal of the property (assign it to his department).

Britt Hutchins stated that he strongly disagrees with that statement. Currently when a department has surplus property, a picture is taken (he would have to go around the county and take pictures). They offer the property to other county departments. From there is where they run into a problem. He does a helpdesk ticket for Facilities to move it to the O'Brien Building. He would like to give Facilities the opportunity to dispose of it as the policy states and as they see fit.

Garth Fagerbakke stated that they need more options. There is no option to give to a non-profit without Board approval. For example, Restore would take the Auditor's file cabinets.

Discussion continued regarding offering the items to the public (which the website meets that requirement), recycling or sell at a garage sale (quarterly or semi-annually).

Darrin Gage stated that they will revise the policy and bring a draft back to the Board for review.

Darrin Gage discussed a proposal from Pipe Pro for the installation of two natural gas unit heaters at the Secondary Road Main Shop in the amount of \$17,890. Pipe Pro is the time and materials contractor. The Board will approve on Wednesday.

The Board discussed signature requirements for contracts entered into by Linn County Community Services.

Supervisor Harris stated that he placed this item on the agenda after a discussion with the Auditor's Office. In the past, John Brandt and managers in his department have been authorized to sign contracts. Now that Brandt is retiring, this is a good time to change that practice. He will place on the Board's agenda Wednesday to require Board signature.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Chairperson Oleson stated that more than a few years ago he said he was wrong about voting against the amphitheater. If he had to do it over he would have voted for it. Now this time after reading an interesting article in the paper last weekend on minimum wage and that business owners will not go back even though they could, he is thinking that he was probably wrong in trying to extend the waiting time before Linn County's minimum wage ordinance went into effect until July 1. He has always been in favor of the minimum wage ordinance and was instrumental in drafting it and proud of it. He was wrong in trying to do that and he hopes people know that this board did a good thing. It affected people's lives and if it has benefited even one person, that is a good thing. He wanted to say for the record what they did was good and he is glad that he was on the losing side that time.

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

AUDITOR'S OFFICE

GIS Specialist	Hannah Whitehouse	Step inc/contract 04/06/17 38C \$27.20 – 38D \$28.68
Voter Outreach Coord.	Valerie Smith	New emp. – PT 03/29/17 56A \$18.72 + \$.25 shift 10 hrs/week Replaces E. Valladares

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Permit Specialist	Susan Bennett	Step inc/contract 05/09/17 56D \$21.89 – 56E \$23.07
Permit Specialist	Jill Mathey	Step inc/contract 03/30/17 56D \$21.89 – 56E \$23.07

FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

Senior Custodian	David Hedrick	Step inc/contract 03/20/17 11D \$17.99 + \$.25 – 11E \$19.46 + \$.25
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SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Cook	Debra Twachtmann	Termination/resignation 03/28/17
Account Clerk	Vicke Vail	Bumps 04/03/17 53B \$15.78 Replaces J. Simons 32 hrs/wk
Deputy Sheriff	Eric Cain	Step inc/contract 05/04/17 D-1 \$26.17 + \$.25 – D-2 \$27.23 + \$.25
Mechanic	Jonathan Long	Step inc/contract 05/31/17 57B \$21.385 + \$.25 – 57C \$22.46 + \$.25

LIFTS

Mobility Coord.	Terry Bergen	End of Prob. 04/03/17 37A \$22.88 – 37B \$24.05
Mechanic	Don Waters	Termination/resignation 03/14/17
LIFTS Driver	Terry Dawson	Termination/resignation 12/10/16

PURCHASING

Clerk	Vicke Vail	Layoff/bump to Sheriff's Office 04/02/17 51C \$14.38
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COMMUNITY SERVICES

Targeted Case Mgr.	Tina Smith	Termination/resignation 03/24/17
LCCS Executive Dir.	John Brandt	Termination/retirement 03/31/17

ENGINEERING

Engr Tech I	Austin Bain	Step inc/contract 04/04/17 17B \$20.78 – 17C \$21.53
Engr Tech I	Paul Beazer	Step inc/contract 04/14/17 17D \$22.39 – 17E \$24.05

Motion by Houser, seconded by Harris to approve ACH in the amt. of \$34,020.74 and Checks #70594725-#70594754 in the amt. of \$2,854,859.69.

Supervisor Harris placed on file an email and invoice from Steve Knospe for using his equipment to remove snow from a county road. Supervisor Harris also included his response.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Darrin Gage stated that there are two bills on the Senate's debate calendar today: Workers Comp. and Preemption bills.

Auditor Miller gave an update on the Voter Modernization bill (voter I.D.). He stated that among the amendments is reducing the number of days to vote early (from 40 days to 29) and the requirement to rotate names on the ballot for each office for every precinct which Linn County's new voting machine system cannot do. Miller stated that he hopes it goes to a conference committee and noted that the Secretary of State is aware of it. There are also other amendments to the bill that he disputes.

Supervisor Oleson stated that he is glad that Miller is in office for the next four years to navigate these changes.

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Adjournment at 9:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

BRENT OLESON, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors