

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

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

Chairperson Harris called the meeting to order.

Motion by Houser, seconded by Rogers to approve minutes of April 4, 2018 as printed.

Ellen Kleckner, Iowa Ceramic Center Exec. Dir. and John Beckelman, Board member, met with the Board seeking funds to help in the creation of a Public Access Hot Glass Studio and explained the capital campaign. This is a \$105,960 project and they are asking for \$10,000 from Linn County. The Board indicated that they will make a decision in late May.

Nichole Brown, County Engineer Office Mgr., requested to change a retiring Senior Acct. Clerk's position to an Account Tech. This new position will be required to have a two-year accounting degree. The Board will approve on Wednesday.

Major Riniker requested approval of a Radio Communications Operator for the Sheriff's Office (approved in the FY 19 budget). He noted that he would like to start the hiring process (which is quite lengthy) and get this person on board in June with very little budget impact.

Supervisor Walker asked if this is the position that the four small towns would pay for and agreements were developed. Chairperson Harris clarified that it is and the city of Hiawatha still has some questions. The Board will approve position on Wednesday.

Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin., discussed a Resolution approving a reduction in the lump sum price for the Dr. Percy and Lileah Harris Building Project in the amount of \$28,632,286. Also present: Jim Meier-Gast OPN, Scott Friauf and Shane Baker, Rinderknecht Assoc.

Jim Meier-Gast stated that a team went through the value engineering process over the last two months to review and discuss ways to provide value to the building more economically. They received feedback from contractors and are recommending 50 strategies to achieve the savings. There are no changes to the overall form or function of the building, square footage or programming. Assuming the Board approves this Resolution on Wednesday, the next step is to work with Rinderknecht and subcontractors to get a foundation and structural steel package out as soon as possible to secure that pricing.

Scott Friauf stated that he wanted to congratulate the Board, OPN and the entire construction team who took a project of this magnitude and sat down with contractors, and went through processes to gain the most value and aesthetics design. The ground break is scheduled for May 18 and construction to begin on May 21. They expect three months of site work and hope by August to have a skeleton coming out of the ground. Substantial completion date is October 19, 2019 with final completion in November of 2019.

Supervisor Rogers stated that he is proud and impressed with the subject matter experts, OPN, Rinderknecht and staff. He is even more proud of the process that they chose. The Lease Purchase agreement gives the county a great deal of control. He sat in on value engineering meetings and could not be more pleased with what the picture of the building represents. He is thankful that OPN and Rinderknecht are partners in this.

Supervisor Walker echoed Supervisor Roger's comments and he too sat in on a few value engineering meetings and was thoroughly impressed with the expertise. He also wanted to take this moment to say that he was skeptical of the process in the beginning. It was the brainchild of Supervisor Oleson (who mentioned that change was hard), he had a vision to work with local contractors and local labor, and the vision was to realize cost savings in the process. He is appreciative of that leadership.

Chairperson Harris stated he had the privilege of sitting in on the value engineering meetings and the Board's selection for a contractor was the right decision. He also stated that they need not sell themselves short because it would have been easy for the Board to just say "you are \$2.5 million too high, go fix it". They decided to sit down with the team and work it out together and come to a good solution and that is what they ended up with.

Supervisor Houser asked if the picture of the building shown today with no windows on the side of the building is the final product and Meier-Gast stated that it is not final and the windows are still under discussion.

Supervisor Oleson stated that he was reading about Cedar Rapids hiring someone from out of state to come up with ideas with what to do with the casino site. He noted that they have so much talent within the labor shed that they do not have to go to Minneapolis or Chicago. They have professionals that can design and build. This

process started on the right foot. Communication is great, there is a lot of talent in this community, and he is glad that they are using it.

The Board canvassed results of the Mt. Vernon Community School District, Alburnett Community School District, and the City of Alburnett.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Craig Rathje, 385 27<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW, stated that it is interesting how Supervisor Houser brought up windows. Sunlight is good for health. He wanted to thank each board member for their due diligence and compassion. They each do a wonderful job. That may go down when there are three Supervisors because everything they have done is tremendous. When there are three, they may not get the work done that they have accomplished. He continued to address the mental health fund balance awarded last week. He does not know if after they made their votes if they had any flies caught in the ointment. If they do, do not come to any conclusions right away and allow the public time to speak. Supervisor Rogers hit the nail on the head when he said that drug and alcohol addiction has do with mental health. Drug and alcohol addiction is considered a disability, so whoever makes that decision, the money should be allowed for everyone that is asking for it in that regard. State and Federal money will not be coming and they need to catch up the lack of funding over the years because of what happened with legislation. The Board makes the decision but one thing that they have not heard from are the people in the community that have drug and alcohol addictions such as himself. He has gotten help and is employed. It is very important for people with drug and alcohol addiction that people do not give up on them and those asking for the money should be funded.

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

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Planning & Devel Proj Mgr	Amal Eltahir	Termination/another position Eff Dte: 04/16/18
Lead Permit Spec	Andrea Hendricks	Step increase/contract 05/09/18 57D \$24.25 – 57E \$25.58

AUDITOR'S OFFICE

Voter Outreach Coord.	Valarie Smith	Step increase/contract 03/29/18 56B \$20.17 + \$ .25 – 56C \$21.30 + \$ .25
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SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Secretary	Dorothy Miller	Termination/retirement 08/17/18
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COMMUNITY SERVICES

Family Service Wrkr	Meghan Ferol	Termination / on-call 03/27/18
Family Service Wrkr	Pamela Gusick	New employee / on-call 04/02/18 54A \$16.54/hour

PUBLIC HEALTH

Resource Coord	Robin Robinson	Bid Award 04/23/18 39D \$31.59 – 38E \$30.99 Fills new position
HIV/HCV/STI Outreach Coord	Alicia Steines	Step increase/contract 04/04/18 39B \$28.51 – 39C \$30.03
Comm Health Div Mgr	Tricia Kirzmann	New employee – FT 04/16/18 Grade 29 > Mid \$3,461.54/biweekly

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Houser to approve Claims #70601708-#70601736 in the amt. of \$326,259.93; wires in the amt. of \$1,877,816.16 and ACH in the amt. of \$46,990.32.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Supervisor Houser met with Rep. Art Staed who is opposed to legislation requiring Linn County to have representative Plan 3 with a 2/3 majority to change the plan.

Darrin Gage explained the bill and also stated that the backfill bill is not resolved yet.

Adjournment at 9:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

JOHN HARRIS, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors