

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA  
TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 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, Houser and Walker. Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

The Board heard updates from the following Elected Officials:

Jerry Vander Sanden, Attorney - the GIS division took the initiative to reach out to his office regarding mapping services and visual aides to be used in court cases and jury trials (did a great job). Crime Victim's Rights 5k was held April 1<sup>st</sup>. Discussed HF517 gun bill regarding Cause of Action against the county and Stand Your Ground.

Discussion continued regarding the possibility of safe keeping the public's guns including a lock box and discharge bin.

Supervisor Houser stated that he received a phone call from Tom Little, Black Hawk County Supervisor, and they are going to be discussing their courthouse security at their Board of Supervisors meeting today along with their County Attorney. Black Hawk County was advised from their private security firm they use currently that they may be moved out of the courthouse because they do not have the authority to ask someone to see their concealed weapons permit. Vander Sanden stated that he was contacted by Little as well regarding what Linn County's policy is.

Vander Sanden discussed HSB197 Property Tax Assessments noting that the burden of proof shifts to the Assessor.

Supervisor Walker asked for Vander Sanden's opinion on Cause of Action and Stand Your Ground and Vander Sanden responded that he feels it is bad legislation and he is worried about it.

Supervisor Rogers addressed some concerns from Public Defender's regarding discovery and the cost of the materials provided. Vander Sanden responded that there is no way the County Attorney's office can store all of the video evidence produced by law enforcement and they did research on the cost that is charged. Rogers asked where the money goes into his budget and Vander Sanden responded that it offsets their expenses noting that it doesn't amount to a lot and they don't make a profit off of it.

Col. John Stuelke, Sheriff's Office - anticipated delivery date of the body camera's is June or July.

Supervisor Walker asked for his thoughts on the Cause of Action and Stand Your Ground bill along with storage of the body camera video's and Stuelke responded that they don't agree with the legislation and believe that the prior law was effective and well utilized. They factored the storage of videos into the purchase of the body cameras so they don't anticipate any problems.

Walker also asked for clarification of the body camera's and how the audio is turned on and off and if there will be any consequences for deputies who enter the field and their devices aren't charged or functioning properly. Stuelke responded that the audio will automatically turn on with the equipment they are receiving. Their policy will include language that deputies will test their equipment before their shift, however they have no control over technology so it is possible that the audio could fail. Walker added that he wants to put a lot of emphasis on their devices working properly.

Supervisor Rogers asked about the jail population and if they are seeing higher instances of inmates needing to detox and how it is handled and Stuelke responded that heroin has made a big impact in the last few years. Their overtime costs for hospital care are sky rocketing and it is a daily occurrence for them. There are also lots of mental health issues and committals.

Joan McCalmant, Recorder - processed \$44,000 in passports last month; still exchanging birth certificates; HF628 snowmobile operating will double the price and have only one registration; HF308 military records now available after 62 years to anyone; SF439 IRS liens don't have to save them forever after recording them and was invited to speak at a conference in Amana this year regarding flood recovery with vital and real estate records.

Supervisor Walker asked McCalmant about working with students from the University of Iowa on records and she stated that they are restoring their books. It has been a great partnership and they have about 250 books left to be restored.

Sharon Gonzalez, Treasurer - was invited to participate in a meeting for the Treasurer's Office and DOT; Aumentum - able to get one of the state tax credits (Ag) to work; staff are being proactive with preparing year end numbers in advance (excited to work with new Auditor's Office staff member and Deputy Law); Managed Services began but she is nervous due to printer issues and who the contact person is (lots of connectivity issues in her office); tax sale process is the same this year as last year and she is working on getting all of the tax payments applied.

Supervisor Rogers asked if she will be replacing the deputy position in her office and Gonzalez responded yes they are in the process of tweaking the position.

Gonzalez shared an email she received complimenting the customer service received while conducting a title transfer.

Becky Shoop, Deputy - reviewing policies and procedures in the accounts payable area and met with Wendy Lynn (proper segregation of duties); addressed employee preparing and signing claim forms; advised Lynn of issues with petty cash policy (under Finance and Budget) and addressed recent purchase of \$4,000 worth of gas cards by the Ryan White Program and no detailed receipt (alerted Lynn to this).

Supervisor Harris left the meeting at this time for other county business.

Shoop added that having a CPA in their office has been great.

Joel Miller, Auditor - some staff in his office are attending SEAT (State Election Administrators Training) in Des Moines; next election is the school election in September; no update on the petitioners; school budgets were due by 5 p.m. yesterday; Managed Services went into effect this morning; since his office took over updating addresses very few returns have been coming back; Aumentum - Homestead and Disabled Vet report had an error in it which resulted in giving \$7,400 back to the State; Elections - voter id training will be held May 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> (one more will be held for the public) to update people on the changes so they don't disenfranchise anyone.

Chairperson Oleson suggested that Miller work with Joi Alexander on a public service announcement campaign to educate people.

Miller stated that he believes the law goes into effect January 1, 2019 noting that school and city elections will be combined as well. Valerie Smith started as Voter Outreach Coordinator. He asked what the status of the video recording is and Rogers stated that they will email him with an update. Miller addressed his concerns about the County Attorney collecting revenues and Chairperson Oleson stated that they will follow up with Diane Albers and Steve Tucker.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Houser to change appointment date of Bertram Township Clerk Linda Fierstine to a term ending 12/31/18.

The Board received and placed on file the following correspondence: report from Disability Rights Iowa and letter from the City of Marion regarding annexation.

Adjournment at 10:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

BRENT OLESON, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors