

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 9:00 A.M.

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

Chairperson Rogers called the meeting to order.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Oleson to approve minutes of August 27 & 31, 2020 as printed.

The Board heard updates from the following Elected Officials:

Brian Gardner, Sheriff - only two inmates in the jail were asymptomatic for COVID; drop box is working well (will meet public at the door as well); working on physical barriers in their office (open to public in next two or three weeks); spent time in Palo dealing with after effects of home invasion; two weekends of deputy testing were held due to the storm (16 people eligible).

Discussion continued regarding the impact of pay compared to other jurisdictions. Gardner stated that there is minimal impact.

Joan McCalmant, Recorder - appointment system is working as long as the internet is stable; passport business is picking up; Governor issued proclamation through December 20th that they will replace documents lost due to the storm for free; today is the first day ATV's, snowmobiles, etc. can be renewed; expecting real estate documents to pick up if people receive FEMA loans.

Sharon Gonzalez, Treasurer - tax sale will not be held in the month of September; new plate being released September 14th; tax bills sent out last Wednesday; staff is stressed with workload and attendance issues.

A lengthy discussion continued regarding the best approach to help her office address customer service issues including a possible call center, hiring additional staff, and future budget impacts.

Rebecca McDonald, Deputy Treasurer, stated that they would favor hiring additional staff (three) over a call center. She feels that a call center would add to the frustration of customers.

The Board advocates to help their office find a sustainable solution.

Rebecca Stonawski, Deputy Auditor - 51 polling locations have been finalized; only approximately 6,000 absentee ballot requests are valid and approximately 46,000 are not; will be sending orange follow up postcards; military ballots will be sent mid-September; drop boxes are a concern (Secretary of State does not agree with using them); ballots will be mailed October 5th and processed on site; NewBo and Lindale Mall are early voting locations; in person voting will take place at the Elections Depot and Lindale Mall October 5th-November 2nd.

Rhonda Betsworth, Deputy Auditor - two week delay in software projects due to the storm; working with vendors on revised schedules; payroll team is working with HR and Options regarding returning from furlough; remaining status quo in regards to presidential order and FICA tax.

Becky Shoop, Deputy Auditor - Real Estate is receiving a lot of the abandoned Treasurer phone calls (about tax bills) and backlog of phone calls due to phones being down for two weeks.

Adjournment at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved by:

BEN ROGERS, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors