



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY MEETING  
LINN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – ROOM 200  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2022**

**The Linn County Board of Commissioners met for the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 27, 2022.**

Those present at various times for the matters as indicated below were: Ryan Vogt, Executive Director, Cascades West Council of Governments; Torri Lynn, Linn County Juvenile Department Director; Gene Karandy, County Attorney for Linn County; Alyssa Boles, Planning Manager, Linn County Planning and Building Department; Michelle Hawkins, Linn County Treasurer; Micah Smith, Linn County Undersheriff; Erik Petersen, Operations Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers; Ron Edwards; Ken Bronson; Alysia Rodgers, Economic Development Catalyst, City of Lebanon and Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer.

1, 2, 3. At 9:30 a.m. Chair Nyquist called the meeting to order. The flag salute and roll call followed. Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Chair and Will Tucker, Vice-Chair were present, as well as, Darrin Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer and Marsha Meyer, Recorder for the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger participated via telephone conference.

4. Approval of Agenda.

**Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.**

5. COG Quarterly Update – Ryan Vogt, Executive Director, Cascades West Council of Governments.

Mr. Vogt provided the Board with a COG Quarterly Update. A copy of his report is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

Mr. Vogt acknowledged the Board's interest in the ongoing progress of the Wetlands Feasibility Study. He stated that the consultant who had done the feasibility study would

be presenting their findings on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 regarding public lands wetlands bank and mitigating some of the cost of credits going forward. He invited the Board to attend the presentation. Discussion followed.

Mr. Vogt stated that at his last update he provided the Board with a preliminary map from the Child Care Working Group showing that there was a lack of child care resources in the Linn, Benton and Lincoln regions. He stated that Linn County's magnitude was still disproportionate to Lincoln and Benton Counties and the working group was moving forward to find additional funding and support to enhance the child care community. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Sprenger provided some additional information regarding what had happened in the legislature regarding this matter. She stated that, when collecting and looking at the data, sometimes it was determined by what the need was based on modeling and different factors. However, that resulted in a higher number than what the actual need was because a grandparent caring for a grandchild was not counted. She then asked Mr. Vogt to address that matter. Mr. Vogt stated that the data, in and of itself, was a snapshot; the data had limitations. Discussion continued.

Commissioner Sprenger stated that Mr. Vogt should pursue some legislation on this matter. Mr. Vogt agreed and stated COG had not previously been tasked with taking a role of advocating at the legislature or lobbying. He stated, with the strategic planning work, there was a much greater palette for COG to take a more assertive role in advocating for the region at the legislative level; he is happy to do so if that's the direction given.

Mr. Vogt stated that another interest of the Commissioners was the regional bias incident response study. He stated that their contractor had finished the outreach program. They had six sessions with 60 participants. The next step in the process would be to get additional feedback from the elected officials. A survey will be mailed out within the following two weeks.

Commissioner Tucker thanked Mr. Vogt and his team for successfully helping a consumer get housing. There were a lot of people who stepped up to help the consumer. Commissioner Tucker stated that they were able to get the consumer into the Veterans' Home in Lebanon.

Commissioner Nyquist then summarized the wetlands and child care issue. He stated that what they both had in common, as far as he was concerned, was that there were imbalances in the marketplace created by government and so he stated that it would be completely appropriate for a local government. It would be completely appropriate for a local government organization to give that input to policymakers at the state level as to what the consequences were to very well intentioned programs to allow them the opportunity and information to make adjustments should they deem appropriate. Commissioner Nyquist stated that he completely supported and encouraged Mr. Vogt to move forward. Mr. Vogt stated that he appreciated the support.

6. Reports of Staff and Committees:

A. Juvenile Update – Torri Lynn, Linn County Juvenile Department Director.

Mr. Lynn provided the Board with a Juvenile Update for the month of August, 2022. A copy of his report is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

Mr. Lynn stated that his department was seeing an uptick in referrals and petitions and crimes were up a little. He stated that, due to COVID, he was expecting to see an increase in those areas. Mr. Lynn stated that he had talked with several school administrators and school seemed to be off to a good start for this year.

B. Resolution & Order 2022-351 approving an Intergovernmental Agreement for transition services between Greater Albany Public School District and Linn County.

**Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2022-351.**

Commissioner Nyquist recused himself from voting on this matter since he is a school board member for the Greater Albany Public School District.

**The vote was called. The motion passed 2-0 with Commissioner Nyquist abstaining.**

7. County Attorney – Gene Karandy, County Attorney for Linn County.

A. Resolution 2022-324 amending the Linn County Personnel Policy (Policy 20).

Mr. Karandy stated that the proposed changes to the Personnel Policy were mainly housekeeping changes. The policy was amended to make changes that hadn't been incorporated into the policy, as well as, including recent additions made by the SEIU contract. The changes also clarified additional grounds for employee discipline.

**Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2022-324. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.**

8. Planning & Building Department – Alyssa Boles, Planning Manager, Linn County Planning & Building Department.

A. Resolution & Order 2022-325 amending the Linn County Land Development Code [(LCC Section 929.330(B)].

**Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2022-325. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.**

B. Ordinance 2022-326 amending the Linn County Land Development Code Codified at Title 9, Chapter 929.

**Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 2022-326. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.**

9. Treasurer's Office – Michelle Hawkins, Linn County Treasurer.

Ms. Hawkins provided background information on each item listed below:

A. Order 2022-344 approving a transfer of certain appropriations within the Grants Fund, \$70,000.

**Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Order 2022-344. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.**

B. Order 2022-358 approving a transfer of certain appropriations within the Road Fund, \$20,000.

**Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Order 2022-358. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.**

C. Order 2022-359 accepting an expenditure for a certain grant within the General Fund, \$22,968.

**Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Order 2022-359. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.**

D. Order 2022-360 approving a transfer of certain appropriations within the General Fund, \$120,400.

**Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Order 2022-360. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.**

10. Briefing from the U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers – Erik Petersen, Operations Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers.

Commissioner Nyquist stated that he was reluctant to hear this briefing as he anticipated that there would be some news that would not be popular with the Board and was outside the Board's control. The Board and the U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers had a history of working well together for the benefit of the citizens of Linn County, as well as, the entire region. Commissioner Nyquist then called upon Erik Petersen.

Mr. Petersen thanked the Board for the opportunity to come before them with a briefing. He stated that Linn County and the Board were good partners, including Brian Carroll, Linn County Parks and Recreation Director.

Mr. Petersen then informed the Board and discussed the matter regarding the compliance with an Injunctive Order the Corps. had from the federal court as consequence of litigation. He stated that it would have some impact on Linn County. Mr. Petersen also discussed the project for a "deep drawdown" of Green Peter Reservoir that would be implemented in the fall/winter of 2023 and how it that would affect the County. Mr. Petersen then reviewed the handout he had submitted earlier to the Board. A copy of the handout is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

Commissioner Nyquist opened the meeting up for comment from the public and called upon Blair Bronson. Commissioner Nyquist stated that Mr. Bronson puts on a very successful triathlon in the Sweet Home area and that the Board was very proud to host it in Linn County. Mr. Bronson introduced himself as the organizer for the Best of the West Events and he had a few questions for Mr. Petersen in regard to the drawdown on Green Peter and how it would affect their future events. Discussion followed.

Next, the Board heard from Ron Edwards from Lebanon, Oregon. Mr. Edwards had retired from the Corps. Mr. Petersen had agreed to meet with Mr. Edwards to discuss any concerns he had regarding this project.

Mr. Petersen informed the Board that the Corps. had planned to do community outreach in Sweet Home plus schedule three open houses to help the public understand the Injunctive Order and the effects of the drawdown of Green Peter in the fall/winter of 2023.

Commissioner Sprenger thanked Mr. Petersen for his presentation.

Commissioner Nyquist stated that we should learn from the experience with the spotted owl in regard to this injunction. It was the Board's duty to call upon legislators, statewide elected officials and our federal delegation to, at the very least, address the impacts and the consequences of that action when talking about planned power shut downs in a good portion of the County due, in no small part, to the national resource practices of the federal and state government; we have the same situation here. We need to pursue what we believe to be appropriate actions and appropriate conversations based on what we've heard today and the continued challenge of practices on the state and federal lands regarding timber as well. Commissioner Tucker concurred.

11. Correspondence: There was no correspondence to come before the Board.

12. Special Orders:

A. Personnel Action Forms.

**Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to accept the Personnel Action Forms list as Exhibit 1. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.**

B. Resolution & Order 2022-352 approving a First-Time Youth Wage Grant Agreement between Linn County and Boshart Trucking.

**Action Taken Below.**

C. Resolution & Order 2022-355 approving a First-Time Youth Wage Grant Agreement between Linn County and Duane Sherfy Enterprises.

**Action Taken Below.**

D. Resolution & Order 2022-356 approving a First-Time Youth Wage Grant Agreement between Linn County and Sweet Home Feed & Supply, Inc.

**Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Orders 2022-352, 355 and 356. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.**

E. Request for Refund from Linn County Environmental Health Department to Rock Hill Construction, \$1,450.

**Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve the Request for Refund. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.**

13. Unfinished Business and General Orders:

A. Calendar Update: The Commissioners updated their calendars. Commissioner Tucker stated that the Board was invited to a CSC Governing Board meeting and there was a possibility that all three Commissioners would be participating via Zoom.


14. New Business: There was no new business to come before the Board.

15. Announcements: There were no announcements.


16. Business from the Public (3-minute limit per speaker): Ron Edwards shared some history in regard to power and defined some definitions for the Board.

17. Adjournment. There being no other business to come before the Board; the Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m. by unanimous consent.


The next regular public meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 4, 2022.

 Recorder  
For Board of Commissioners  
Marsha Meyer

**LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

  
Roger Nyquist, Chair

  
William C. Tucker, Vice-Chair

  
Sherrie Sprenger, Commissioner

Date 10-25-2022