



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LINN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – ROOM 200
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023**

The Linn County Board of Commissioners met for the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, October 3, 2023.

Those present at various times for the matters as indicated below were: Ryan Vogt, Executive Director, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments; Meg Walker, Communications Officer, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments; Dee Baley-Hyder, Linn County Veterans Services Officer; Stacey Whaley, Linn County Parks and Recreation Director; Breeanna Oxford, Deputy Treasurer; Steve Wills, Linn County Planning and Building Director; Marcie Richey, Deputy Clerk; Sean Wilson, Records Supervisor, Linn County Clerk's Office; Derrick Sterling, Elections Supervisor, Linn County Clerk's Office; Michelle Duncan, Linn County Sheriff; Micah Smith, Linn County Undersheriff; Ted Langley, Captain Corrections Division, Linn County Sheriff's Office; Marsha Meyer, Senior Commissioners' Administrative Assistant, Linn County Board of Commissioners; Kevan McCulloch, Deputy County Attorney for Linn County; Susan Coleman, Mayor of Sweet Home; Kelcey Young, City Manager of Sweet Home; Rebecca Grizzle, Executive Director, Lebanon Chamber of Commerce; Janet Steele, President, Albany Chamber of Commerce; Michele Eldridge, City Administrator for Harrisburg and Shayla Escudero, Reporter for Democrat-Herald.

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; Will Tucker, Vice-Chair and Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger were present, as well as, Courtney Leland, Recorder for the Board of Commissioners. Darrin Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer, was excused.

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. Approval of the September 19, 2023 and September 26, 2023 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve the September 19, 2023 and September 26, 2023 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Resolution & Order 2023-367 filling a vacancy for the Office of the County Clerk for Linn County.

Commissioner Tucker read, into the record, Resolution & Order 2023-367 which defined the duties of the new Linn County Clerk.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2023-367. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Richey thanked the Board for trusting her as the new Linn County Clerk.

7. Announcement:

A. There will be a Swearing-in Ceremony for the newly Appointed Linn County Clerk at Noon on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at the Linn County Courthouse in Courtroom 1.

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

Mr. Vogt indicated that they secured a large grant from the Federal government to perform a broadband study and that there were three sites in Linn County that participated. He stated that phase 1 of the County broadband study had ended and the final report for Linn County revealed that there were 5,481 households that were under served. Commissioner Sprenger asked what the difference in the study was today and would the results be implemented. He indicated that the real difference was, there is actually money available from the Federal government this time whereas there hadn't been in the past. Discussion continued.

Commissioner Sprenger thanked Mr. Vogt and offered him her support.

Mr. Vogt indicated that COG was concluding their bargaining season with the SEIU Union and shared with the Board that they had difficulty reaching an agreement this year but he was happy to announce that they had reached a tentative agreement and by Thursday, October 5, 2023 he should know the terms of that agreement.

Commissioner Nyquist thanked Mr. Vogt for his hard work.

9. Reports of Staff and Committees:

A. Veterans Services Quarterly Update – Dee Baley-Hyder, Linn County Veterans Services Officer.

Ms. Baley-Hyder provided the Board with a Veterans Services Report for the last quarter. A copy of her report is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

Ms. Baley-Hyder indicated that since April, 2023 the amount of Veteran's they serve increased by 211.

She indicated that the transportation they provide for the Veteran's was going well and the Veterans are thankful for this service.

Next, Ms. Baley-Hyder indicated that 21 Veterans from Linn County participated in the Veterans Honor Flight.

10. Parks and Recreation Department – Stacey Whaley, Linn County Parks and Recreation Director.

A. Resolution & Order 2023-369 approving a Grant Agreement for the Boating Facility Grant between the State of Oregon State Marine Board and Linn County and delegating authority to execute originals.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2023-369. [This item was incorrectly identified during the meeting as Resolution & Order 2023-368]. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Breanna Oxford, Deputy Treasurer, presented the following item on behalf of the Treasurer.

A. Order 2023-368 accepting an expenditure and a revenue increase within the General Fund for reimbursements from the State of Oregon, \$210,460.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Order 2023-368. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Planning and Building Department – Steve Wills, Linn County Planning and Building Director.

A. Request for Refund from Planning and Building Department to Axis Electric, \$2,739.74.

Action taken below.

B. Request for Refund from Planning and Building Department to Valley Electric, \$1,108.81.

Action taken below.

C. Request for Refund from Planning and Building Department to Trade Pro Electric, \$1,746.08.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve the Requests for Refunds to Axis Electric in the amount of \$2,739.74, Valley Electric in the amount of \$1,108.81 and Trade Pro Electric in the amount of \$1,746.08. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Correspondence: Discussion of communication with State leaders about Measure 110.

Commissioner Nyquist expressed that this was the third attempt to reach out to leadership at the State level in regard to Measure 110. He indicated that there was a letter issued to the Governor back in February, 2023 discussing the challenges created from Measure 110. Commissioner Nyquist suggested that the Board write another letter to the Governor and propose that Measure 110 be put back on the ballot for a revote. Commissioner Sprenger discussed her position on how Measure 110 effects the homelessness in the community and that the State was pouring money into the homelessness but, since Measure 110 was passed, she expressed concern in the two being directly related. Commissioner Tucker discussed his frustration with Measure 110 and that there was no accountability for drug users anymore whereas there use to be a benefit to drug court being offered.

Michelle Duncan, Linn County Sheriff, stated that she was part of the Lebanon Chamber Board and recently attended a meeting where there were a lot of State leaders who weren't interested in hearing about the repercussions of Measure 110. She discussed that the majority of the funding passed in Measure 110 for treatment had now been placed into harm reduction and housing; when you make a more comfortable environment for people to use, the homelessness in the community isn't going to resolve. Sheriff Duncan discussed that multiple voters indicated to her that they didn't know what they were voting for when Measure 110 was on the ballot and that she would sign another letter to the Governor. Commissioner Sprenger indicated that the Sheriff should help craft the letter due to her experiences and knowledge. Commissioner Nyquist indicated that older kids were providing drugs to younger kids in schools and there wasn't anything schools could do about it. Kelcey Young, City Manager of Sweet

Home, thanked the Board for holding this discussion and emphasized the negative impact that Measure 110 has had on the community of Sweet Home. She indicated that there were three overdoses and one fatality just last month.

Janet Steele, Albany Chamber of Commerce, indicated that she attended a meeting last Friday, September 29, 2023 with 20 different Chamber of Commerce entities present. They met with Legislators and discussed the negative impacts of Measure 110. Ms. Steele indicated that she was able to hand deliver a copy of the letter from February, 2023 to Legislators in that meeting and she reassured the Board of her support to help repeal Measure 110. Rebecca Grizzle, Executive Director, Lebanon Chamber of Commerce, indicated that she would also sign the letter to the Governor.

Commissioner Nyquist indicated that a letter to the Governor would be prepared within the next few days and it would be circulated through community members to sign.

14. 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 2023-365 approving a First-Time Youth Wage Grant Agreement between Linn County and the Coffee Hut, LLC.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2023-365. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

15. Unfinished Business and General Orders:

A. Calendar Update: The Commissioners updated their calendars. Commissioner Tucker indicated that he would be out of the office for the next two weeks.


16. New Business: Susan Colman, Mayor of Sweet Home, thanked the Board for their efforts in checking in during the fire season. Ms. Coleman personally thanked Commissioner Tucker for his assistance in seeking grant money to retrieve funds that the City of Sweet Home spent in order to help mitigate the homelessness in their community. Ms. Coleman, on behalf of herself and the City Council, provided Commissioner Tucker with the first challenge coin from the City of Sweet Home, to extend their gratitude to him.

Michele Eldridge, City Manager for Harrisburg, shared with the Board that the City of Harrisburg was working on their work plan for the next year and that they would be signing a Memorandum of Understanding with RAIN Catalyst to continue their pursuit toward economic development.

17. Business from the Public (3-minute limit per speaker): There was no one present from the public wishing to use this forum neither in person or telephonically.

18. Adjournment. There being no other business to come before the Board; the Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 10:14 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 10, 2023.

 Recorder
For Board of Commissioners
Courtney Leland

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Roger Nyquist, Chair


William C. Tucker, Vice-Chair


Sherrie Sprenger, Commissioner

Date 10-10-2023