



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LINN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – ROOM 200
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023**

The Linn County Board of Commissioners met for the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, October 17, 2023.

Those present at various times for the matters as indicated below were: Todd Noble, Linn County Health Services Administrator; Dr. Adam Brady, Linn County Health Officer; Shane Sanderson, Linn County Public Health Program Manager; Diana Denham, Fiscal Services/Health Administrative Manager, Linn County Health Administration; Kris Barnes, Linn County Fair and Expo Director; Reagan Maudlin, Linn County Special/Rural Transportation Coordinator; Michelle Hawkins, Linn County Treasurer; Phil Van Leuven, Deputy County Attorney for Linn County; Joel Kalberer, Attorney, Weatherford Thompson; Ron Edwards; Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer 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 and Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger were present, as well as, Darrin Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer and Marsha Meyer, Recorder for the Board of Commissioners. Will Tucker, Vice-Chair participated telephonically.

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 12, 2023 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve the September 12, 2023 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Nyquist stated that prior to moving on to Agenda Item No. 6, he asked the Board, if they would agree to now hear Agenda Item No. 10-D – Discussion and potential approval of Resolution & Order 2023-386 a Purchase and Sale Agreement between Ohanamula, LLC and Linn County for the property and building at 421 Water Ave, NE, Albany, 97321. The Board agreed.

Darrin Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer, provided background information about this item including information about the building and property referenced in the Resolution & Order.

Mr. Lane stated that the Purchase and Sale Agreement was between Linn County and Ohanamula, LLC for the property known as the Wheelhouse building. He stated that the County's attorney, Gene Karandy, County Attorney for Linn County, had been working with the owner's attorney and he believed it was worth the County's interest. Mr. Lane stated that he recommended the Board approve the Purchase and Sale Agreement to start the due diligence period and, at the conclusion, the Board would receive a recommendation to either purchase or not purchase the building based on the outcome.

Commissioner Nyquist asked Mr. Lane to provide a brief summary and description of the building. Mr. Lane stated that it was a four-story building built in 2010 with 24,000 square feet of office space. There are 92 parking spaces and it is located on the former Buzz Saw property. The building would be used by the County for office space in lieu of adding onto the Courthouse; it would be a third, or less, of the cost to add onto the Courthouse adding a significant amount of space.

Commissioner Sprenger stated that she's always cautious about purchasing a building and how the County would use it but, after realizing how cramped many of the County offices are and the need to add additional people, she was in support of this Purchase and Sale Agreement. She then asked Mr. Lane to put together a small team to give close scrutiny and to have conversations about what made the most sense for the Linn County citizens in what departments could be moved to the building. Commissioner Tucker stated that he believed it was a very smart investment for the citizens of Linn County and he would approve the agreement.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved and Commissioner Tucker seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2023-386 a Purchase and Sale Agreement.

Commissioner Nyquist stated that he hoped this acquisition would resolve the County's longstanding challenges in providing the desired Courthouse security while providing a welcoming environment for the general public to do business.

The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Tucker then left the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

6. Board of Health – Todd Noble, Linn County Health Services Administrator.

A. Communicable Disease and Vital Statistics Reports – Dr. Adam Brady, Linn County Health Officer.

Dr. Brady provided the Board with an overview of the Communicable Disease and Vital Statistics Reports for September, 2023. A copy of the reports are on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

Commissioner Nyquist asked Dr. Brady if there was anything the County should be doing as a public health entity that was not being done right now. Dr. Brady stated there had been lots of preparedness for the respiratory season and right now COVID transmission was relatively high but it was coming down. He stated that there were new vaccines for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) for older adults and the very young so they're ramping up their efforts to get the vaccine to those that need it. Lastly, promoting vaccinations for influenza and COVID-19 for those that are at the highest risk for complications as we start heading into the fall and winter seasons. Commissioner Nyquist asked if the health care system had adequate capacity to give those vaccines and Dr. Brady stated that COVID-19 vaccines were no longer free and are fairly expensive so there has been a shift to administer those through traditional channels. He stated that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has a "bridge" program to help fund vaccines for uninsured adults and a children's program. Discussion continued.

B. Environmental Health Monthly Activity Report – Shane Sanderson, Linn County Public Health Program Manager.

Mr. Sanderson provided the Board with an overview of the Environmental Health Monthly Activity Report for September, 2023. A copy of his report is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

Mr. Sanderson stated that his department had been working very hard, behind the scenes, over the last three years to have health navigators available to help people get connected and signed-up for health insurance who otherwise were not aware they were eligible. This process moved the Health Department into the top ranking of the Robert Wood Johnson County Health Rankings in Oregon for health outcomes because they've gotten hundreds of people insured and connected to the health care system. Discussion followed in regard to the availability of vaccinations.

C. Resolution & Order 2023-125 approving a Personal Services Contract between Community Helping Addicts Negotiate Change Effectively dba C.H.A.N.C.E. and Linn County.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved to approve Resolution & Order 2023-125. The vote was called. The motion passed.

D. Resolution & Order 2023-359 approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Oregon State University and Linn County.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved to approve Resolution & Order 2023-359. The vote was called. The motion passed.

E. Resolution & Order 2023-364 approving a Personal Services Contract between Century Farm Equestrian Center and Linn County.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved to approve Resolution & Order 2023-364.

Discussion followed regarding whether or not there was a Request for Proposal (RFP) for this program. Diane Denham, Fiscal Services/Health Administrative Manager, Linn County Health Administration, stated that they did reach out to several places to see if anyone else was doing this type of work and they were told that they did not have the ability to do the work. She stated that a Request for Proposal (RFP) was required if the amount was over \$100,000 but they could reduce that in the next round if the Board requested them to do so. Commissioner Nyquist indicated that he wanted to be sure that the County was being inclusive if there are other people who can do the work and Ms. Denham stated that the County was inclusive. Commissioner Sprenger stated that she would love to include others into the program. Ms. Denham stated that they run background checks on people working with the clients and they also need to have liability insurance so that could preclude others from participating.

The vote was called. The motion passed.

F. Resolution & Order 2023-374 approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Oregon Health Authority (Agreement No. 152539) and Linn County and delegating to execute originals.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved to approve Resolution & Order 2023-374. The vote was called. The motion passed.

G. Resolution & Order 2023-381 approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the Oregon Health and Science University and Linn County and delegating authority to execute originals.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved to approve Resolution & Order 2023-381. The vote was called. The motion passed.

H. Resolution & Order 2023-382 approving an Amendment No. 1 to an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Oregon Health Authority (Agreement No. 180198) and Linn County and delegating authority to execute originals.

Action - Commissioner Sprenger moved to approve Resolution & Order 2023-382. The vote was called. The motion passed.

I. Resolution & Order 2023-383 approving a Grant Agreement (No. SCP-23-27) between the State of Oregon Criminal Justice Commission and Linn County and delegating authority to execute originals.

Action - Commissioner Sprenger moved to approve Resolution & Order 2023-383. The vote was called. The motion passed.

J. Resolution & Order 2023-385 approving an Amendment No. 5 to an Intergovernmental Agreement for the Cacoon Program between Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) and Linn County and delegating authority to execute originals.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved to approve Resolution & Order 2023-385. The vote was called. The motion passed.

K. Request for Refund from Linn County Health Department to Oregon Department of Human Services-OFS - \$12,049.11.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved to approve the Request for Refund to the Department of Human Services. The vote was called. The motion passed.

7. Reports of Staff and Committees:

Fair/Expo Update – Kris Barnes, Linn County Fair and Expo Director.

Mr. Barnes provided the Board with a Fair/Expo Update for the month of September, 2023. A copy of his report is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

Mr. Barnes reviewed with the Board the upcoming events in October, 2023 and indicated that the Mennonite Fall Festival was scheduled at the same time the City of Albany was having their Trunk or Treat event. He mentioned that, in partnership with the City, they would be using the Fair/Expo's graveled parking lot and closing Timber Street to through traffic. This will have an impact on the folks attending the Mennonite festival event. Commissioner Sprenger asked why the City was being allowed to use the Fair/Expo's grounds when there was an event at the Fair/Expo at the same time. Mr. Barnes stated that the County had a partnership with the City and they help each other out; unfortunately, the events are on the same date. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Nyquist stated that the County and the City need to work on a new agreement as the old agreement was outdated. He stated that the Board has an upcoming meeting with the City of Albany and that this matter should be discussed at that time. Commissioner Nyquist stated that both the County and City do a great job working together.

8. Special Transportation – Reagan Maudlin, Linn County Special/Rural Transportation Coordinator.

A. Resolution & Order 2023-377 adopting the 2023 Linn County Coordinated Plan with the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved to approve Resolution & Order 2023-377. The vote was called. The motion passed.

B. Resolution & Order 2023-380 approving a Subrecipient Agreement for general transportation services between Senior Citizens of Sweet Home, Inc. dba Linn Shuttle.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved to approve Resolution & Order 2023-380. The vote was called. The motion passed.

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

10. Special Orders:

A. Personnel Action Forms.

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

B. Resolution & Order 2023-366 approving a First-Time Youth Wage Grant Agreement between Linn County and Berkey's Blueberries, LLC.

Action Taken Below.

C. Resolution & Order 2023-375 approving a First-Time Youth Wage Grant Agreement between Linn County and Malpass Farms, LLC.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved to approve Resolution & Orders 2023-366 and 375. The vote was called. The motion passed.

D. Discussion and potential approval of Resolution & Order 2023-386 a Purchase and Sale Agreement between Ohanamula, LLC and Linn County for the property and building located at 421 Water Ave, NE, Albany, 97321. *(This matter was heard after Agenda Item No. 5).*

Commissioner Nyquist informed Joel Kalberer, Attorney, Weatherford Thompson, that the Board had unanimously approved Agenda Item No. 10-D while Commissioner Tucker was available telephonically *(Mr. Kalberer was not present at the time this matter was heard)*. Commissioner Nyquist thanked Mr. Kalberer and his client for their work on this matter.

11. Unfinished Business and General Orders:

A. Calendar Update: The Commissioners updated their calendars.

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

13. Announcements: There was no announcements.

14. Business from the Public (3-minute limit per speaker):

Ron Edwards, Lebanon, OR – Mr. Edwards discussed with the Board the new growth happening on Crowfoot Drive; the traffic increased due to a new three-story building in his community; the hazard with cars parking along the road heading into Clear Lake Park and the concern for safety; and, the fish killed at Green Peter.

In regard to Green Peter, Mr. Edwards stated that he had received a letter from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Corps. of Engineers that he would like to show the Commissioners as it explained what was happening and the Board would have an opportunity to respond.

Commissioner Nyquist asked Mr. Edwards to briefly talk about his background as he believed Mr. Edwards was a good source for information in regard to the Corps. Mr. Edwards stated that he supervised and trained at a nuclear plant and was with the U.S. Corps. of Engineers since 1979 working at every level of operation. There was discussion about the letter Mr. Edward had, as well as, a letter that was available online that the Board could access. Commissioner Nyquist stated that if Mr. Edwards gave the letter to the Board it would need to be entered into the record. Mr. Edwards stated that the letters were personally addressed to him.

Lastly, Mr. Edwards talked about the solar farms.


Commissioner Nyquist thanked Mr. Edwards for his service.

Commissioner Nyquist then asked if there was anyone wishing to speak telephonically.

Alex McHaddad, City Administrator/Recorder for the City of Sodaville, stated that he had talked with the Linn County Assessment and Taxation office about getting a new address and was told that the City of Sodaville was not an incorporated city. He stated that he wanted to clarify that the City of Sodaville was incorporated in 1880 and, if anyone had any questions, they were free to contact City Hall. Commissioner Nyquist thanked Mr. McHaddad for clarifying that for the record.

15. Adjournment. There being no other business to come before the Board; the Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m. by unanimous consent.

The next regular public meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, October 24, 2023.

 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 - 31 - 2023