



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LINN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – ROOM 200
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2024**

The Linn County Board of Commissioners met for the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, October 1, 2024.

Those present at various times for the matters as indicated below were: Ryan Vogt, Executive Director, Cascades West Council of Governments; Dee Baley-Hyder, Linn County Veterans Services Program Manager; Steve Wills, Linn County Planning and Building Director; Alyssa Boles, Planning Manager, Linn County Planning and Building Department; Micah Smith, Linn County Undersheriff; Phil Van Leuven, Deputy County Attorney for Linn County; other audience members; 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; Will Tucker, Vice-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.

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 24, 2024 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve the September 24, 2024 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

6. 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.

He referenced the lending program; small business loans and the grant writing program. Mr. Vogt stated that the biggest news, right off the press, was the change of roles for the Cascades West Council of Governments (COG) and Community Services Consortium (CSC); he is now the Executive Director for both agencies. The Board congratulated him on his new role. Commissioner Nyquist stated that the Board supported such a move because there seemed to be some duplication between the two agencies and that there may be some financial savings that would allow for delivery of more services. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Nyquist stated that the one thing that had been a constant focus was maximizing the financial resources and opportunities for both agencies to deliver needed services to the citizens of this region. He stated that he was confident that it would continue and, if at any point there was a stray from that, he and the Board wanted to be the first to know. Commissioner Nyquist stated that both agencies have had widespread support in the community and that needed to continue.

Commissioner Sprenger added that, due to a pending retirement at the end of this year, this change had come at a good time. She stated that there were people in both agencies that have the right chemistry to move both organizations forward for consumers and the people who use the services. She gave credit to Pegge McGuire, Executive Director, CSC; Kayla Armstrong, Deputy Director, CSC and Mr. Vogt who created this opportunity; the timing is right. All three of them are extraordinarily focused on delivering services to consumers.

7. Reports of Staff and Committees:

A. Veterans Services Quarterly Report – Dee Baley-Hyder, Linn County Veterans Services Program Manager.

Ms. Baley-Hyder provided the Board with a Veterans Services Quarterly Update. A copy of her report is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioner Staff File.

She updated the Board on the amount of recovery tax-free money that was awarded to veterans and/or family members from the claims her office had filed; the number of new appointments and connections that were made with veterans during the Linn County Fair; the new Veteran Services building; seeing the new location of the office has prompted new veterans to come in, as well as, hearing the ads on the radio; and, the hiring of a new Assistant Veteran Services Officer, as well as, a new counselor out of the Eugene Veterans office. The counselor is available twice a month to meet with Linn County veterans at the Linn County Veterans Services Office. Ms. Baley-Hyder stated that they've seen four new women veterans compared to one last year. Also, Veterans

Services participated in the “Stand Down”, the “Suicide Prevention Walk”; partnered with the Lebanon area “Mental Health Alliance”; South Willamette Valley “Honor Flight” with 17 participating from Linn County; and, the Albany Gun Show.

Commissioner Sprenger asked if the counselor was a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT). Ms. Baley-Hyder responded that she believed so, he’s an Adjustment Counselor through Veterans Affairs.

Commissioner Nyquist thanked Ms. Baley-Hyder for the great work.

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

9. 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 2024-342 amending a classification and title from Emergency Management Coordinator to Emergency Management Response Specialist and amending the Pay Range from 15 to 18 (DSA-Pay Range 18).

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2024-342. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Unfinished Business and General Orders:

A. Calendar Update: The Commissioners updated their calendars. Commissioner Tucker noted that on Thursday, September 27, 2024 two Commissioners attended the Honor Flight send off at the Linn County Courthouse.

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

12. Announcement: There will be an Elected Official’s meeting from Noon to 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center in Conference Room 4.

13. Business from the Public (3-minute limit per speaker): Darrin Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer, stated that he was speaking as a member of the public and as a veteran. He thanked the Board for prioritizing and giving resources to Linn County Veterans Services for their new office. It has provided the room they needed to hire a new staff person and a place for veterans to meet with a counselor. As a veteran, he wanted the Board to know that their support was crucial; you’re supporting veterans every day.

Commissioner Nyquist recessed the regular Board meeting at 9:53 a.m.

Commissioner Nyquist reconvened the regular Board meeting at 10:00 a.m.

14. Public Hearing – PD24-0259; an Application for a Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment. The Plan Text Amendment is to amend and add policies to Plan Sections 905.120 and 905.610 to establish a Dever Conner Agricultural District – Alyssa Boles, Planning Manager, Linn County Planning and Building Department.

Commissioner Nyquist called upon Ms. Boles to review the Staff Report with the Board. A copy of her report is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

Commissioner Nyquist asked Ms. Boles who the Applicant was and she stated Linn County was the Applicant.

Commissioner Nyquist stated that this hearing was to establish an Agricultural District with the intent to preserve agriculture activity. He asked if 1,000 acres of solar panels was agriculture activity and Ms. Boles stated that it was not categorized as farm use; it would be a conditional use so it would not be agricultural activity. She stated that the amendments before the Board today would not prohibit someone from applying for that type of use in that area.

Commissioner Tucker stated that he appreciated Ms. Boles' work on this matter; he believed the County had honored their commitment and the intent to set it aside for the next 50 years.

Commissioner Nyquist stated that, in keeping with the Linn County Hearings Procedures, anyone wishing to speak who signed the sign-in sheet would have up to three minutes to testify in support, opposition or make a general comment.

Blair Batson, Staff Attorney for 1,000 Friends of Oregon, Portland, OR – Supporter.

Ms. Batson stated that she was in support of Linn County's proposed plan amendments to establish the Dever-Conner Agricultural District. She thanked Linn County for entering into an agreement with the City of Millersburg before they even knew that 1,000 Friends would appeal the proposed Goal 3 and 14 exceptions for the access road. Linn County trusted us and they appreciated it. Ms. Batson stated that 1,000 Friends also trusted Linn County by letting their deadlines pass for filing an appeal with LUBA on the exception because Timberlab, Inc. stated that filing an appeal would prevent them from meeting critical deadlines to get established in Millersburg even if they later dismiss the appeal.

Ms. Batson stated that Linn County should be commended for protecting the Dever-Conner Agricultural District. The agreement recognizes the value of both the manufacturing and the agricultural industries for the long-term benefit of the local and

state economies, as well as, the value of the Oregon land use program. Congratulations on a job well done.

Robert Liberty, 3431 SE Tibbets, Portland, OR 973202 – Supporter.

Mr. Liberty stated that he had been involved in land use for over four decades and was very happy to support the proposed amendment that represents an event of people coming together to find a solution that helps to bring jobs and providing certainty for jobs on farm land. Mr. Liberty stated that it took trust, creativity and leadership from the Board, the County Administrative Officer, leadership of Millersburg, Friends of Linn County, 1,000 Friends and the farmers in Dever-Conner who were inspired to provide leadership to find a solution. Looking forward, Mr. Liberty stated that he hoped the farmers would create an official advisory group that would insure regular and useful communication between the farmers and the Dever-Conner Agricultural District and would maintain the knowledge and purpose of the District.

Dave Nofziger, 38018 Conser Rd, Albany, OR 97321 – Supporter.

Mr. Nofziger stated that he was speaking on behalf of the farmers in the Dever-Conner area. He owns and operates a farm there. He stated that he was in favor of Linn County File PD24-0259 and provided background information of when this process started. Mr. Nofziger stated that he appreciated the work done by Darrin Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer, and personally thanked everyone involved in those conversations. He stated that they have done outreach to confirm that the farmers and other landowners in the proposed Dever-Conner Agricultural District supported this designation. Everyone is excited that Linn County would take these steps to protect their community and the resource lands within it. In regard to having a formal voice in planning matters, they are currently working through the process.

Mr. Nofziger's complete written testimony is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

Commissioner Nyquist asked if there was anyone else wishing to testify in support, opposition or speak as a neutral party. There was no one wishing to speak.

Commissioner Nyquist closed the Public Hearing.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to accept into the record the Staff Report dated Tuesday, September 24, 2024. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve PD24-0259 to add and amend policies in LCC Chapter 905 Agricultural Lands Urbanization to establish the new Dever-Conner Agricultural District.

Commissioner Sprenger stated that she was grateful for all the hard work that was done on this matter and being able to come to an agreement. She stated that she was

particularly pleased and proud of Linn County's Administrative Officer who facilitated that process and did a great job. Commissioner Tucker agreed and stated that all the parties worked hard and it was good to see communities working together.

The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

15. 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. Tuesday, October 8, 2024.

[REDACTED], Recorder
For Board of Commissioners
Marsha Meyer

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

[REDACTED]
Roger Nyquist, Chair

[REDACTED]
William C. Tucker, Vice-Chair

[REDACTED]
Sherrie Sprenger, Commissioner

Date 10-8-2024