



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LINN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – ROOM 200
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025**

The Linn County Board of Commissioners met for the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2025.

Those present at various times for the matters as indicated below were: Wayne Mink, Linn County Roadmaster; Michelle Hawkins, Linn County Treasurer; Gene Karandy, County Attorney for Linn County; Bill Palmer, Linn County Accounting Officer 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; 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.

Commissioner Nyquist asked the Board to amend the agenda and add an item under Agenda Item No. 12 – “New Business” to discuss the Federal Forest and Natural Resource policies at the federal level.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve amending the agenda to discuss federal resource management issues. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of the February 25, 2025 Commissioners’ Meeting Minutes.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve the February 25, 2025 Commissioners’ Meeting Minutes. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Reports of Staff and Committees: There were no reports of staff and committees.

7. Road Department – Wayne Mink, Linn County Roadmaster.

A. Resolution & Order 2025-077 delegating authority to the Roadmaster to execute a Purchase of Supplies Contract with Western Emulsions, Inc.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2025-077.

Commissioner Sprenger asked if there was an amount listed for the contract and Mr. Mink stated that the amount was set as they go along with the project; he will provide her with a ballpark figure.

The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Resolution & Order 2025-078 delegating authority to the Roadmaster to execute a Purchase of Supplies Contract with C.R. Contracting, LLC.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2025-078. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

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

A. Order 2025-080 accepting an expenditure of a certain grant within the Grants Fund, \$152,511.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Order 2025-080. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

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

10. 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 2025-091 approving an Amendment No. 1 to a Personal Services Contract between Aldrich CPA's + Advisors, LLP and Linn County.

Darrin Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer, asked Bill Palmer, Linn County Accounting Officer, to provide the Board with details for the amendment to the contract.

Mr. Palmer stated that the contract had gone before the Board prior to the contractor approving the terms; the contractor hadn't responded with any changes. Mr. Palmer worked with the County Attorney's Office to prepare an amendment revising the contract which is the amendment before the Board today.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2025-091. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Unfinished Business and General Orders:

A. Calendar Update: The Commissioners updated their calendars. Commissioner Tucker stated that he would not be at the Management Staff Meeting on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 as he would be in Sweet Home. He announced that two of the Commissioners may be on the same call today with the County's lobbyist to discuss legislative bills.

12. New Business: Commissioner Nyquist stated that there was a Presidential Order issued relating to forestry. He stated that, based on the fact that 30 percent of the land in Linn County was owned by the federal government, citizens had been under the threat of fire danger every summer; and, based on the fact that the Executive Order called for a study of the management of federal forest, it was imperative that the Board have a conversation with policymakers at the highest level possible regarding these issues and it was an opportunity for the Board to convey their thoughts and perspective on federal forest practices. He also stated that the three largest cities in Linn County were pondering how they're going to continue to provide clean drinkable water for their residents. Based on a judge's ruling and the U.S. Corp. of Engineers attempt to manage that ruling, there's natural resource issues around the management of the dam system at the federal level.

Commissioner Nyquist recommended that the Board hire a lobbyist, Michael Best Strategies, and that he was looking for a consensus to delegate authority to Darrin Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer, to attempt to negotiate a contract. The source for funding the lobbyist would come from the residual land the County retained in Millersburg as part of the intermodal project. Commissioner Tucker stated that he was in full support. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Sprenger stated that she had some questions regarding the contract and saw value and merit in the idea but, for her, it was all about how it's executed. She encouraged that, if the Board delegated authority to the County Administrative Officer to negotiate the contract, it was important for the Board to hold a strong negotiating position and not be dialed into one firm. She then asked how much it was going to cost. She stated that she could get on board if there were sideboards such as how much it would cost, what the maximum term of the contract would be and how it would be constructed. She stated that she had spent years watching ineffective lobbying firms mark their success by how many meetings they had with a legislator. Linn County would be using public dollars. She asked Commissioner Nyquist if he had a dollar figure in mind. Darrin Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer, shared that the County Code

allowed for up to \$250,000 a year for a contract like this without going through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. He stated that that would be the absolute top limit they'd be looking at and he suspected it would be less than that. Commissioner Sprenger stated that, for her, it needed to be a lot less than that. Mr. Lane stated that it would not go over that amount for absolute certain. She stated that she didn't want to weaken the potential outcome but didn't want to sign up for a year-long contract and recommended entertaining a six-month timeframe. Commissioner Sprenger stated that she was willing to trust Mr. Lane to negotiate a contract since the contract wouldn't be signed without coming before the Board. Mr. Lane stated the Board could delegate authority or have the contact come back to the Board; it's up to them. Discussion continued.

Commissioner Nyquist asked if Mr. Lane was comfortable going forward to craft something the best he could and, if by Friday, March 7, 2025 there was a finished product, it could be placed on the agenda. Mr. Lane stated that he understood what the Board was asking of him to do.

Next, Commissioner Sprenger stated that she didn't want it lost or forgotten that she was extremely grateful that Commissioner Nyquist did his homework and brought such an idea and concept before the Board for them to discuss. She stated, without any doubt, the Board was on the same page; it's the details that she was hung up on but it was a great concept. She then qualified some of her concerns as she had watched another county ten years ago ramp up to do great things for timber policy and she loved all their ideas but there were many people taking many trips going to D.C. and spending a lot of money and nothing changed. They were taken to the woodshed by their community for that. She stated that was where she was coming from; it's a cautionary tale. Commissioner Nyquist stated that he was confident that what the Board was wanting to do was not that.

Commissioner Nyquist thanked everyone for the conversation.

13. Announcements: There will be a Management Staff meeting held on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. in the Basement Meeting Room at the Linn County Courthouse. Commissioner Sprenger stated that she would not be there as she has a CASA event.


14. 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.


15. Adjournment. There being no other business to come before the Board; the Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m. by unanimous consent.

The next regular public meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

 , Recorder
For Board of Commissioners
Marsha Meyer

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Roger Nyquist, Chair


William C. Tucker, Vice-Chair


Sherrie Sprenger, Commissioner

Date 3-18-2025