



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING
LINN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – ROOM 200
April 28, 2020**

The Linn County Board of Commissioners met for the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2020.

Those present at various times for the matters as indicated below were: Torri Lynn, Linn County Juvenile Department Director; Todd Noble, Linn County Health Services Administrator; Diana Denham, Fiscal Services/Health Administrative Manager, Linn County Health Administrative Services; Jim Yon, Linn County Sheriff; Gene Karandy, County Attorney for Linn County; Darrin Lane, Linn County Roadmaster; Rachel Adamec, Office Specialist/Property Management, Linn County General Services; Janet Steele, President, Albany Chamber of Commerce; Rebecca Grizzle, Executive Director, Lebanon Chamber of Commerce; Steve Carothers, Owner, Relco Truss; Representative Sherrie Sprenger; Kerry Johnson and Alex Paul, Reporter for the Democrat-Herald.

1, 2, 3. At 9:30 a.m. Chairman Nyquist called the meeting to order. The flag salute and roll call followed. Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Chairman; John K. Lindsey, Vice-Chairman and Will Tucker were present, as well as, Ralph Wyatt, Linn County Administrative Officer and Heather Gravelle, Recorder for the Board of Commissioners.

4. Approval of Agenda.

Commissioner Nyquist noted that he was adding an Executive Session Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h) at 10:30 a.m.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to approve the agenda as revised. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of the April 21, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to approve the April 21, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

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 March, 2020. A copy of his report is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

Mr. Lynn provided the statistics for Linn and Benton detentions centers; probation referrals and Measure 11 Youth. He explained that there were no youth in the Time for Change Program and that they were unable to do work crew due to COVID-19; they were anxiously waiting for the stay at home restrictions to be lifted. Mr. Lynn stated that probation officers were working from home but were maintaining contact verbally with the kids and were making sure they were set up for what they needed for school. Discussion followed. The Board thanked Mr. Lynn for his work and the update.

7. Health Department – Todd Noble, Linn County Health Services Administrator.

Mr. Noble provided the Board with background information regarding the following items:

A. Resolution & Order 2020-120 approving a Personal Services Contract between One II Another and Linn County.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2020-120. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Resolution & Order 2020-125 approving an Amendment No. 6 to an Agreement between Protocall Services, Inc. and Linn County and delegating authority to execute originals.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2020-125. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

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

A. Resolution 2020-129 amending the Linn County COVID-19 Emergency Leave Policy (Special Order 8).

Mr. Karandy provided the Board with details regarding Resolution 2020-129.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2020-129. The vote was called. The motion passed 2-1 with Commissioner Nyquist opposed.

9. Road Department – Darrin Lane, Linn County Roadmaster.

Mr. Lane provided the Board with background information regarding the following items:

A. Roadmaster’s Bid Award Recommendation for North Santiam River (Mill City) Bridge Project.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to approve the Roadmaster’s Bid Award Recommendation. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Resolution & Order 2020-111 approving a Construction Contract for the Berlin Road Hamilton Creek Bridge Project between Marcum & Sons, LLC and Linn County.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2020-111. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Resolution & Order 2020-122 approving a Construction Contract for One Horse Slough (Brewster Rd) Bridge Project between Carter & Company, Inc. and Linn County.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2020-122. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Resolution 2020-135 delegating authority to Darrin L. Lane, Roadmaster, to purchase a New Holland Tractor equipped with an Alamo Boom Mower.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2020-135. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

10. General Services – Rachel Adamec, Office Specialist/Property Management, Linn County General Services.

A. Sealed Bid Opening – Account No. 881038.

Ms. Adamec provided the Board with background information regarding the property and explained that they had received one bid; the real market value was \$190 and there was no minimum bid required. She then proceeded to open the bid as follows:

1. Evan Brammer - \$200.00 plus a deposit of \$20.00.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to accept the bid for \$200.00 for Account No. 881038 and approved to sell the property to Evan Brammer. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Discussion regarding Governor Brown’s Executive Order and strategy to re-open the economy with Linn County business leaders Janet Steele, President, Albany Chamber of Commerce; Rebecca Grizzle, Executive Director, Lebanon Chamber of Commerce and Steve Carothers, Owner, Relco Truss.

Steve Carothers, Owner, Relco Truss, explained that he owned Relco Truss Inc. and that he had been in business since 1973 and that, as a citizen of Linn County, he trusted the Board and their leadership. He explained that he had reached out to several local businesses and had asked them to draft up a re-opening plan and he would forward those plans to the Board for their review after the meeting. Mr. Carothers stated that, as business owners and as patrons of the State, they were not being respected; they were not stupid, they went to school and they have an education so let us take care of our employees and our customers; without them, we would not be in business. He added that they did not want their employees and customers to get sick and they have implemented many guidelines to ensure that they don’t. Mr. Carothers asked that the Board ask the Governor to give the American people, the State of Oregon and the citizens of Linn County some credit; they don’t need to be told what to do, they were already doing it.

Rebecca Grizzle, Executive Director, Lebanon Chamber of Commerce, explained that many businesses in Lebanon had closed and that about twenty percent would not re-open and, depending upon how long they had to stay closed, that number would be higher. She added that she understood that there would be a balance of having to open back up in a responsible way and find a way to meet the gating criteria. As they increased testing, the criteria would become more difficult to meet and she knows they were not looking for a zero-risk game; she was not promised zero-risk on her drive to Albany today from Lebanon. Ms. Grizzle stated that she does not envy the Board having to submit a plan that matches the State in order get the County opened as quickly as possible.

Janet Steele, President, Albany Chamber of Commerce, commented that she echoed what Mr. Carothers said as he spoke for the multitude of businesses. She stated that she wanted to know what businesses were not essential; they would not have started the business if they did not think it was essential. Ms. Steele shared that she never thought that she would see in her lifetime the government coming in and telling them they had to stop working and to close their businesses. She added that she had heard from many businesses in the community who have had to furlough their employees that the employees were not looking for other jobs because the government incentives and unemployment paid them more. Ms. Steele asked was it essential to buy shoes, clothing, or going to the dentist, the doctor, getting haircuts, having your house cleaned, etc. this has hit everyone, there was not a single business that has not been hurt by this. Discussion followed regarding Linn County assisting the Albany and Lebanon Chambers with PPE's if they were to be the local source for businesses and organizations in need.

Commissioner Nyquist noted that he appreciated the conversation today. He explained that the Federal Order expired on Friday, May 1, 2020 and the Governor's Executive Order did not expire until September, 2020. He added that they had the opportunity to petition the Governor to re-open the County for business and that his approach would be an executive summary of a business plan. Commissioner Nyquist stated that, in regard to PPE, he needed to speak to Dr. Muth or the Public Health Officer to determine if it would be of substantial benefit because, for ten weeks, they were told it was not and now they were being told it was. If the County was going to put as part of their plan that PPE was required for all businesses to open then that would necessitate a different type of demand for businesses then if we did not put it in the plan.

Mr. Noble stated that wearing masks was part of the State's list of recommendations and that you could not have it both ways; if you want the businesses to re-open and part of the recommendation was to wear a mask and you don't do it – you won't be reopened. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Nyquist thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for having this very important discussion.

Commissioner Nyquist recessed the regular Board meeting at 10:40 a.m.

12. Executive Session Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h). *(This item was added during the Board meeting).*

By unanimous consent, the Board closed the Executive Session.

Commissioner Nyquist reconvened the regular Board meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Commissioner Nyquist stated that there was no action taken or voted on in the Executive Session.

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

14. Special Orders:

A. Personnel Action Forms were read into the record for: Jeremiah Provence (Alcohol & Drug); Jodi Gollehon and Kevan McCulloch (County Attorney); Josh Leahy (General Services) and Jacquelyn Cloud and Malia Delohery Dart (Mental Health).

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to accept the Personnel Action Forms as read into the record. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

15. Unfinished Business and General Orders:

A. Calendar Update: The Commissioners updated their calendars.

16. New Business: Commissioner Nyquist stated that he did not think that the County should do the First-Time Employment Youth Wage Grant Program this year because high school kids would have greater opportunity for employment than any other time in the last twenty years. He added that the funds for the program were paid through economic development lottery dollars which have taken a hit in the last 45 days, as well as, a great portion of those funds had been dedicated to AMEDC. Commissioners' Tucker and Lindsey both concurred with Commissioner Nyquist.

17. Announcements: Commissioner Nyquist announced that he was a small business owner in Linn County and could likely be financially impacted by any plan submitted to the Governor by the Linn County Board of Commissioners. He added that it was likely that he was a member of a class but that he would check and seek guidance on the matter. Commissioner Lindsey disclosed that he was a President of a non-profit corporation that runs a restaurant in Linn County that has lottery machines but he did not make any profit from it.

18. Business from the Public (3 minute limit per speaker): There was no one present from the public wishing to use this forum.

19. Adjournment. There being no other business to come before the Board; the Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m. by unanimous consent.

The next regular public meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2020.


_____, Recorder
For Board of Commissioners
Heather Gravelle

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Roger Nyquist, Chairman



John K. Lindsey, Commissioner



William C. Tucker, Commissioner

Date 5-5-2020