



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING
LINN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – ROOM 200
JANUARY 29, 2019**

The Linn County Board of Commissioners met for the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 29, 2019.

Those present at various times for the matters as indicated below were: Jim Yon, Linn County Sheriff; Ted Langley, Captain Corrections Division, Linn County Sheriff's Office; Micah Smith, Lieutenant Support Division, Linn County Sheriff's Office; Mark Volmert, Linn County Special/Rural Transportation Coordinator; Stephanie Newton; Rich Kellum; Alan Kwan 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 Marsha Meyer, Recorder for the Board of Commissioners.

4. Approval of Agenda.

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

5. Reports of Staff and Committees: There were no reports of Staff and Committees.

6. Sheriff's Office – Micah Smith, Lieutenant Support Division, Linn County Sheriff's Office.

A. Resolution & Order 2018-387 approving a contract between Siemens Industry, Inc. and Linn County.

Lieutenant Smith stated that the Sheriff's Office had conducted a long and well thought out investigation in regard to the replacement of an antiquated jail door control and camera system. He reviewed the details of the contract with the Board.

Commissioner Nyquist stated, for the record and clarification, that the public's safety had not been in danger nor had there been any incident or injury as a result of the current system. Captain Ted Langley, Captain Corrections Division, Linn County Sheriff's Office, stated that Commissioner Nyquist was correct.

Commissioner Nyquist asked what the timeframe was for the new system to be installed and Lieutenant Smith stated that the project was set to begin on Monday, February 4, 2019 and would take between 8 - 10 weeks. Discussion followed.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2018-387. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

Lieutenant Smith extended an invitation to the Board to take a tour once the new system was installed.

B. Resolution 2019-027 adopting a new classification for Computer Resources Manager (Range 18-Management/Exempt-SO).

Lieutenant Smith stated that this classification had been presented at the time of Budget for the current fiscal year. He stated that effective May 14, 2019 the Linn County Sheriff's Office would go live with all the Benton County agencies under their safety policy and Linn County Sheriff's Office would be in charge of serving 269,000 people across both counties for the public safety needs. Lieutenant Smith stated that this new position would be partially funded through an Intergovernmental Agreement and those agencies would be contributing \$40,000 of system management fees.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2019-027.

Commissioner Nyquist stated that he understood the need for the position but that he continued to be concerned about the labor it takes to manage technology; it is a proposition that should make us more efficient and reduce our labor costs but that is not how it has worked out in areas in the last 20 years.

He stated that he supported the motion but asked the Sheriff to continue to look around and, when he is able to gain efficiencies in technology, that he reshapes the organization in a way that saves position(s) if that becomes possible.

The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Special Transportation – Mark Volmert, Linn County Special/Rural Transportation Coordinator.

A. Resolution 2018-394 amending the bylaws of the Linn County Transportation Advisory Committee.

Mr. Volmert stated that this was an amendment of the bylaws for the Transportation Advisory Committee that was approved at the Tuesday, December 4, 2018 Board meeting and included the definition of “low income”. Later, at the request of ODOT, they asked that there be a specific definition of “high percentage of low income” in the Bylaws; and, therefore, Mr. Volmert asked the Board to approve the amended bylaws for the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved to approve Resolution 2018-394 amending the bylaws to redefine the definition of low income.

Commissioner Lindsey asked if the amendment had been approved by the Transportation Advisory Committee and Mr. Volmert replied yes.

Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Resolution 2019-029 appointing and reappointing members to the Linn County Transportation Advisory Committee.

Mr. Volmert stated that this Resolution would appoint and reappoint members to the committee. He stated that four members were being reappointed and have served from a range of six years to 22 years. They are very involved, knowledgeable and are very fair. There is one new member from Sweet Home who is a user of transit and a financial staff person for the City of Sweet Home.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2019-029. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Nyquist asked Mr. Volmert about how the local governments were coming with the plans that they will be submitting to the Board for approval of transit funding. Mr. Volmert stated that he would be meeting this afternoon, Tuesday, January 29, 2019 with transportation providers. It is a work in progress and was moving forward with a logical plan to address some pressing needs of the residents of Linn County. Commissioner Nyquist stated that he was concerned about the residents and the new transit tax that is now on employees pay stubs. He stated that it needed to be done in a way that was defensible to the citizens of Linn County who are now being taxed to provide the revenue. Mr. Volmert stated that he had talked with the Chamber manager's in Albany and Lebanon in terms of any feedback that they may have received. He stated that there hadn't been the consideration yet that says what the new tax is for. Commissioner Nyquist stated, from his perspective, it has to be defensible on how this payroll tax is being spent. Mr. Volmert agreed and stated that it was certainly the intent and he would continue to discuss this with the advisory committee, transportation service providers and their communities.

Commissioner Nyquist asked Mr. Volmert what the timing was when the plans for funding would come before the Board and he stated the allocations would come before the Board in mid-March, 2019 and the plan (or application) would come before them in late April, 2019. Discussion followed. Mr. Volmert stated that he had sent the Board a preliminary page of what the allocations would look like up to this point and stated he would be willing to resend that information to them. The Board agreed. Commissioner Lindsey stated that Mr. Volmert was the hardest working man in the transportation field. Mr. Volmert appreciated the comment.

8. Correspondence: There was no correspondence to come before the Board, however, Commissioner Tucker stated that he received a request from RAIN (Regional Accelerator & Innovation Network) for a letter of support for Senator Roblan's restoration to rural communities in support of the business accelerators. He stated if the Board didn't mind, he would draft a letter and send around for the Board's review. Commissioner Lindsey stated that he would like to see what the Senator's proposal was and Commissioner Tucker stated he would make sure that he saw it and believed it was in Commissioner Lindsey's email. Commissioner Nyquist stated that he looked at Senate Bill 258 and it was not that clear to him.

He had a copy in front of him and reviewed it with the Board. A copy of Senate Bill 258 is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File. Commissioner Nyquist stated that they're asking for a letter of support which supports everyone other than Linn County. He stated that before he would be comfortable writing a letter of support he would need more information from RAIN which he asked for in an email to them.

9. Special Orders:

A. Personnel Action Forms were read into the record for: Leanne Cunningham and Katherine Melton (Developmental Disabilities); Nathaniel Tisdell (Environmental Health); Laura Alcorn and David Bacio (General Services); Robert Mink (Juvenile Detention); Jason Chin, Brenda Foster, Michelle Hastings, Lavanya Kancherla, Ashlie Newbill and Michelle Wong (Mental Health) and Allison Kingsella and Joseph Wainman (Road Department).

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.

B. Resolution & Order 2019-031 approving a Step 4 Response to a Grievance filed by SEIU Local 503 on December 20, 2018.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2019-031. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Resolution & Order 2019-032 approving an Amendment No. 1 to an Intergovernmental Agreement for the Linn County Transient Lodging Tax between the City of Albany and Linn County.

Commissioner Tucker stated that the original Intergovernmental Agreement stated the City of Albany would report taxes to the County by the first of the month each quarter and this does not give the City enough time to process the payments and, therefore, they asked that the deadline be changed to the 15th of the month for each quarter in order to keep both parties in compliance with each other.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2019-032. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Unfinished Business and General Orders:

A. Calendar Update: The Commissioners updated their calendars.

Commissioner Nyquist stated that he had met with Ray Towry, City Manager, City of Sweet Home and two representatives of Sweet Home Economic Development Group (SHEDG) yesterday, Monday, January 28, 2019 to discuss the mill site property that the County received through foreclosure and the properties the County still owns. He stated a lot had happened since the County acquired the property and there have been many conversations and grand plan concepts by the community. He thought that the County is going to just sit on the property and wait for someone to show up with a check is a flawed process. Commissioner Nyquist stated that, at this point after the environmental work has been done, it seemed reasonable to put the tax lots (without any environmental issues) on the market. The market place would tell whether or not there are interested buyers and/or what they are willing to pay. That is the most likely way the properties would transition into a valuable asset for the community of Sweet Home in his view. Commissioner Nyquist stated that where he left it after his meeting yesterday was that the City Manager and Council were having a retreat and would talk about their vision for the property. He asked them to let the County know if they thought any of that property was zoned in a way that would meet their vision. The City Manager thought he could get back to the County within the next 30-days.

Mr. Wyatt stated that there have been discussions and Russ Williams, Linn County General Services and Property Management Director, has gotten the message that the Board wants options and he is prepared to come before the Board next week to talk about them. Mr. Wyatt stated that what Commissioner Nyquist was talking about fit within what Mr. Williams is ready to discuss. Commissioner Nyquist stated that was great and he was ready to take action. Commissioner Tucker stated that the County Attorney was going to tell the Board that the property needs to be put up for auction first because of how it is zoned. A lengthy discussion followed including a discussion of potentially donating or dedicating property to Samaritan for an urgent care center. The Board supports improved medical facilities in Sweet Home for their citizens and that Samaritan has been a great partner.

The Board agreed that it was time to put these properties on the market. Mr. Wyatt stated that Mr. Williams would come before the Board next week to start the process and would have a timeline for getting these properties up for auction.

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

13. Announcements:

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

15. Adjournment. There being no other business to come before the Board; the Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m. by unanimous consent.

The next regular public meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, February 5, 2019.



Recorder

For Board of Commissioners
Marsha Meyer

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Roger Nyquist, Chairman



John K. Lindsey, Commissioner



William C. Tucker, Commissioner

Date February 5th, 2019