



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LINN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – ROOM 200
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

The Linn County Board of Commissioners met for the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

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; Kris Barnes, Linn County Fair and Expo Director; Wayne Mink, Linn County Roadmaster; Andy Stevens, Linn County Assessor/Tax Collector; Matt Pitcher, Chief Appraiser, Linn County Tax and Assessment Office; Amy Holt, Administrative Assistant II, Linn County Tax and Assessment Office; Heather Svensen, Senior Deed Clerk, Linn County Tax and Assessment Office; Rachel Adamec, Linn County Real Property Program Manager; Amber Boedigheimer, Linn County Law Librarian; Michelle Hawkins, Linn County Treasurer; Steve Wills, Linn County Planning and Building Director; Carol Gordon, Linn County Code Enforcement Officer; Kevan McCulloch, Deputy County Attorney for Linn County; Rebecca Grizzle, Executive Director, Lebanon Chamber of Commerce; Tre Kennedy, Attorney at Law; Shelia Nelson; 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 Courtney Leland, Recorder for the Board of Commissioners.

4. Approval of Agenda.

Commissioner Nyquist asked if it would please the Board to amend the Agenda and add a discussion about Linn County's Economic Development Grant process under New Business as item 15A.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to amend the agenda and add item 15A. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

5. 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 January, 2024. A copy of the reports is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

Commissioner Tucker asked if there were new COVID tests available and Mr. Noble indicated that the Linn County Health Department still had tests available in their lobby for the public.

- B. Environmental Health Monthly Activity Report – Shane Sanderson, Linn County Public Health Program Manager. Mr. Noble presented the following item on behalf of Mr. Sanderson.

Mr. Noble provided the Board with an overview of the Environmental Health Monthly Activity Report for January, 2024. A copy of his report is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

- C. Resolution & Order 2024-044 approving a Personal Services Contract between One2Another and Linn County.

Commissioner Nyquist asked where the funding source originated from and Mr. Noble indicated Samaritan Health Services.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2024-044. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Noble provided information in regard to the Linn Alcohol and Drug Department. He indicated that they saw 253 people in January, 2024 for the Alcohol and Drug program. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Tucker asked how crisis services were going with the new mobile van and Mr. Noble indicated that they needed to hire about seven employees in order to abide with the new crisis intervention rule; two staff members for each shift. He discussed the problem with the State hospital being closed for over two and a half years and the fact that there weren't any civil beds available because hospital beds were being used for forensic beds now. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Sprenger asked what behavior would qualify someone for a forensic bed and Mr. Noble stated person to person crimes; it wouldn't be for anything minor anymore and, due to Measure 110, there was now a group of people who are extremely hard to treat. Commissioner Nyquist clarified that forensic was a legal term and not a medical term; the court defines a forensic patient and Mr. Noble agreed. Commissioner Sprenger asked where Linn County was supposed to find available bed space for civil patients and Mr. Noble indicated, right now, in Portland. Commissioner Nyquist asked

how Linn County was supposed to provide crisis prevention services without certain facilities or staff to operate them and Mr. Noble indicated that, prior to the pandemic, Samaritan Health Services closed part of the hospital for outpatient care and it was strictly used for partial hospitalization. Mr. Noble indicated that, Commissioner Tucker and himself had been working with Samaritan Health Services to move the outpatient care facility and re-establish the part of the hospital that had been closed since before the pandemic. Commissioner Tucker indicated that Samaritan Health Services had committed the money but finding a suitable space was a challenge. Discussion continued.

6. Reports of Staff and Committees:

A. 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 January, 2024. A copy of his report is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

Mr. Barnes indicated that the Linn County Fair and Expo had been working hard to collect outstanding money from previous vendor shows and that their outstanding balance was reduced by \$63,472.

Commissioner Sprenger asked the difference between the "collected" revenue amount and the "event" revenue amount that was reflected on his reports and Mr. Barnes indicated that, the "collected" revenue amount was earnings for the month of January, 2024 and the "event" revenue amount was collected from a specific event.

Commissioner Nyquist indicated that the operating deficit for the Linn County Fair and Expo in the first year was somewhere around \$700,000 and, over time, that had reduced to \$250,000. Then, the Government closed the Fair and Expo and it became a wildfire relief site and a COVID vaccination site without any revenue. Commissioner Nyquist suggested that there be a reset on the Fair and Expo budget moving forward and Michelle Hawkins, Linn County Treasurer, indicated that mid-March, 2024 would be a good time to do that.

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

A. Resolution & Order 2024-051 approving an Engineering and Related Services Contract between David Evans and Associates, Inc. and Linn County and delegating authority to execute the Contract.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2024-051. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Resolution & Order 2024-053 re-recording a Deed to correct the amount of consideration for the acceptance of Certain Real Property granted to Linn County for Road purposes (County Road Number 0328, Goldfish Farm Road).

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2024-053. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Resolution & Order 2024-055 accepting an Easement for Public Road purposes, Lebanon, Linn County.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2024-055. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Assessor's Office – Andy Stevens, Linn County Assessor/Tax Collector.

Matthew Pitcher, Chief Appraiser, Linn County Assessment and Tax Office, presented the following item on behalf of Mr. Stevens.

A. Resolution & Order 2024-062 approving the reduction of the redemption period for a tax foreclosed property.

Mr. Pitcher explained that the Linn County Assessment and Tax Office was approached by the Linn County Code Enforcement Officer in regard to the code violations on the property located at 2187 Mill St, Lebanon OR, and were asked to reduce the redemption period. He indicated that Linn County received judgement of foreclosure of the property on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 and there was a two-year redemption period. They are requesting a Public Hearing be set for Tuesday, April 16, 2024 to determine if this would be subject to a reduced redemption period under ORS 312.122. Commissioner Nyquist asked if there was an identifiable owner of the property and Amy Holt, Administrative Assistant II, Linn County Assessment and Tax Office, indicated that the owner was deceased and they received very little response from their written attempts. Commissioner Sprenger expressed that there wasn't a livable infrastructure on the property and that she supported trying to reduce the redemption period.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2024-062. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Property Management – Rachel Adamec, Linn County Real Property Program Manager.

A. Resolution & Order 2024-046 termination of an easement to Joshua G. & Katherine D. Lekkerkerker to certain real property located in Linn County, Oregon.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2024-046. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Resolution & Order 2024-047 approving the transfer of real property to the City of Harrisburg.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2024-047.

Commissioner Tucker thanked Ms. Adamec for her hard work.

The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Law Library – Amber Boedigheimer, Linn County Law Librarian.

A. Resolution & Order 2024-049 authorizing the Linn County Law Librarian to apply for a Grant for the Library Services and Technology Act and delegating authority to Amber Boedigheimer, Law Librarian to execute the application.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2024-049. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

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

A. Order 2024-052 approving a transfer of certain appropriations within the General Fund, \$400,000.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Order 2024-052. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Order 2024-057 accepting an expenditure and revenue increase within the Health Fund, \$650,000.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Order 2024-057. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

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

13. 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 2024-056 appointing and re-appointing members to the Linn County Budget Committee.

Commissioner Nyquist stated that there was a long-standing process that each Commissioner was able to select a member to the Budget Committee and, after former Commissioner John Lindsay passed away, the Board hadn't followed through with that process, however, he would like to re-establish it today. He indicated that this year would be Commissioner Tucker's appointment, next year would be Commissioner Sprenger's and the following year would be his appointment. Commissioner Sprenger expressed that she saw value in rotating positions and that, when another member was appointed, it was not because the current member wasn't doing well; it's fair to support people growing up in their leadership to serve Linn County.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2024-056.

Commissioner Nyquist stated, for the record, the member being appointed was Rex Watkins.

The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Unfinished Business and General Orders:

A. Calendar Update: Commissioners' Tucker and Sprenger indicated that they would both be speaking at the Oregon Loggers Conference on Thursday, February 22, 2024.

15. New Business:

A. Commissioner Nyquist indicated that he was approached by the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce for financial support to help with the reconstruction of their building. Commissioner Nyquist discussed the history of the land owned by Linn County in Millersburg bordering the Intermodal site and that the first lease payment became current last Friday, February 16, 2024. Commissioner Nyquist indicated that he would like to see a grant application process occur to set a criterion for use of these funds. Commissioner Sprenger clarified that the amount of money needed was aside from what insurance covered and Rebecca Grizzle, Executive Director, Lebanon Chamber of Commerce discussed the history of their building and the fact that it's hardly been renovated over the years and since the accident occurred, in order to repair the building properly from years of "cover-ups" an additional \$70,000 dollars outside of insurance was needed. Commissioner Tucker asked if there was an urgent need for the funding

and Ms. Grizzle indicated that the Morley Thomas Law Firm accommodated space for them but that space was tight and they do begin demolition this week so securing funding was essential in moving forward. Commissioner Tucker indicated that he supported creating a criteria process for the funding moving forward but wanted to convey the difference between that process and this specific instance of urgent need. Commissioner Sprenger stated that she was aware of the fundraising and efforts provided by Ms. Grizzle and her team to repair the building.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved and Commissioner Tucker seconded the motion to approve, \$70,000 to the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Nyquist stated that what Linn County envisioned with the money was, distribution of these funds for the next 100 years and expressed the importance of a fundamental foundation prior to use of these funds. Commissioner Tucker expressed his concern of, what if this specific request didn't meet the criteria that was set for the Economic Development grant process. He indicated that, no matter the process, this was an exception to the criteria. Commissioner Sprenger indicated the importance of a solid grant process and that moving forward she hoped to solidify one for the funds.

The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

16. Announcements: There was no announcements.

17. Business from the Public (3-minute limit per speaker): Robin Nygren, Linn County Veteran's Memorial Association.

Ms. Nygren indicated that her purpose before the Board was to educate them of the Capital Campaign Fundraising Plan in regard to the Veteran's Memorial. Ms. Nygren shared with the Board that, the Linn County Veteran's Memorial Association was in the midst of performing a unique expansion to honor Goldstar Families and that this memorial would be dedicated at the Memorial Day Service held on Monday, May 27, 2024. Commissioner Sprenger asked the amount of money needed for the campaign and Ms. Nygren indicated, \$10,000 and that currently they had just over \$5,000. Commissioner Nyquist thanked Ms. Nygren for her work and he donated \$1,000 to her campaign on behalf of Lake Shore Lanes Bowling Alley.

Tre Kennedy, Attorney at Law.

Mr. Kennedy thanked the Board for their support and indicated his appreciation for the working relationship that the City of Lebanon and Linn County have. He congratulated the Board on hiring new personnel and the work they're doing and thanked them for the financial support of the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce.

Shelia Nelson, 51420 Gates Bridge E, Gates, OR 97346.

Ms. Nelson expressed her concern with the lack of support for any person with a mental health crisis in Linn County. She thanked Mr. Noble for addressing these same concerns earlier in the meeting and asked the Board, how can we improve.

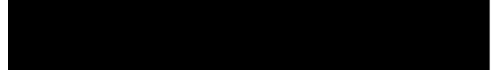
Commissioner Nyquist encouraged her to work with Mr. Noble and the Linn County Health Services team. Commissioner Sprenger indicated that so many resources had disappeared since Measure 110 passed and she encouraged Ms. Nelson to contact Senator Sara Gelser-Blouin. Commissioner Tucker asked her to remove any personal information from her records and provide him with a copy, as he intended to meet with the President of Western University of Health Sciences and would like to take that information with him.

19. Adjournment. There being no other business to come before the Board; the Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m. by unanimous consent.

The next regular public meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 27, 2024.


Recorder
For Board of Commissioners
Courtney Leland

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Roger Nyquist, Chair



William C. Tucker, Vice-Chair

ABSENT

Sherrie Sprenger, Commissioner

Date 2-21-2024