



# Linn County NEWS



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## Commissioners to lease land to carbon tech firm

ALBANY — Tuesday morning, Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker unanimously approved a lease with Minnesota-based National Carbon Technologies-Oregon for 33 acres near the intermodal facility being constructed in Millersburg.

The company turns sustainably-sourced biomass into carbon products used for bioenergy, water purification, agricultural soil amendments and in metallurgical processes.

Nyquist said the lease will be for 16 years and generate about \$8.6 million in total income plus an estimated \$7.5 million in property taxes.

The property is adjacent to the intermodal site, east of Old Salem Road. The intermodal facility is on target to open in January.

“This is a good day for our county and the community,” Nyquist said.

Nyquist said the company will invest \$80-\$100 million, employ at least 55 people and pay at least 150% of the county’s median wage. Employees will also receive benefit packages.

Nyquist said National Carbon Technologies-Oregon has six months to acquire building permits, or determine if permitting is viable. If not, the company has the option of pulling out of the project.

“This company has a great environmental record and creates clean carbon products,” Nyquist said.

Commissioner Tucker said this project “is a huge step forward with a strong partner. It’s a great first contract.”

**QUOTABLE**  
“This is a good day for our county and the community ...”  
Roger Nyquist

Linn County purchased the 190-acre site from International Paper and sold 60 acres to the Linn Economic Development Group (LEDG) for the intermodal project. After the lease, the county will still have 100 acres available for future development.

Nyquist reminded his fellow commissioners that revenues from the property are to be targeted for economic development projects.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved a contract with Municode to develop a new county website and an intranet system for county employees. The new website will cost \$30,500 and the intranet will cost \$8,000, both one-time fees. Annual fees will be \$6,600 for the website and \$3,000 for the intranet. The current website is about 30 years old and does not meet current needs, which was evidenced during the September 2020 wildfires and the COVID-19 pandemic, the commissioners agreed. Municode was selected from 14 companies that responded to bid proposals, ranging up to \$1.7 million.
- Approved contracts with LS Networks to install fiber optics at the Fair & Expo Center for \$28,425 and the Willamette Health Center

for \$15,025 for a total of \$43,450. The new system will increase internet speeds available to staff and event vendors by 100 times, from 100/mbps to 10,000/mbps.

- Approved a fund transfer now that Ken Bronson has been hired part-time as the county’s special transportation supervisor. Mark Volmert, who handled the position for 17 years, was a private contractor.
  - Approved participating in a program to allow Linn County Assessor and Tax Collector Andy Stevens that will allow property owners affected by the September 2020 wildfires to apply for property tax relief and to waive interest late fees on properties affected by wildfires or the COVID-19 pandemic. A map of the area for which the waivers apply can be found on the county website: [www.linn.or.us](http://www.linn.or.us).
  - Appointed Jo Ann McQueary of Sweet Home to the Developmental Disabilities Board.
  - Approved a wrecking license for G & R Auto Wreckers.
  - Amended pay classifications for the Supervising Nurse and Supervising Mental Health Specialist, both from pay range 18 to management exempt pay range 20.
  - Noted that the Board of Commissioners will not meet on Tuesday, Nov. 16, because the commissioners will be at the Association of Oregon Counties Conference in Eugene.
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