



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING
LINN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – ROOM 200
MARCH 29, 2022**

The Linn County Board of Commissioners met for the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 29, 2022.

Those present at various times for the matters as indicated below were: Michelle Duncan, Linn County Sheriff; Gene Karandy, County Attorney for Linn County; Phillip Van Leuven, Deputy County Attorney for Linn County; Brian Carroll, Parks Department Director; Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer; Dave Warnack, Willamette National Forest Supervisor; Duane Bishop, Willamette National Forest Deputy Supervisor; Rebecca Grizzle, Executive Director, Lebanon Chamber of Commerce and Tim Gruver, 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 L. Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer and Heather Gravelle, Recorder for the Board of Commissioners.

4. Approval of Agenda.

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

5. Approval of the March 22, 2022 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve the March 22, 2022 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. Sheriff's Office – Michelle Duncan, Linn County Sheriff.

A. Resolution & Order 2022-106 approving a Contract between Codan Communications and Linn County.

Sheriff Duncan provided the Board with details regarding Resolution & Order 2022-106.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2022-106. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

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

A. 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2022-101 amending the Linn County Ambulance Service Area Code codified at Linn County Code Chapter 500.

Mr. Karandy provided the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2021-193 into the record by title only.

B. Ordinance 2022-101 approving an Ordinance amending the Linn County Ambulance Service Area Code codified at Linn County Code Chapter 500.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 2022-101. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Presentation from the U.S. Forest Service – Willamette National Forest Service Supervisor, Dave Warnack and Deputy Forest Supervisor, Duane Bishop.

Dave Warnack, Willamette National Forest Service Supervisor, introduced himself and Duane Bishop, Deputy Forest Supervisor to the Board. He stated that he appreciated the partnership they had with Linn County and the leadership they had provided over the last couple of years. Mr. Warnack and Mr. Bishop then provided a presentation to the Board on the following topics: fire recovery efforts for 2020 and 2021; fire preparedness and restoring public access to the national forest.

Commissioner Nyquist stated that, in the 1970s, there were 64 mills in Linn County and now there were only three. He added that housing was affordable then and people weren't fearing forest fires; now, they had real concerns. He explained that forests grew about 2.7% per year and if timber sales do not meet or exceed that, the amount of standing fuels on the ground increased significantly and created a fire threat that worsened every succeeding year. Commissioner Nyquist noted that, while federal funding was welcomed, we did not need grants, we needed chainsaws.

Mr. Warnack explained that the new U.S. Forest Service Chief was well versed in the escalation of massive wildfires and he understood the impact of wildfires on both resources and communities. He added that he believed that we needed to stay ahead of wildfires by reducing fuels through thinning.

Commissioner Tucker expressed concern regarding access to overhead aircraft to fight wildfires, such as planes and helicopters. He noted that we had lost planes and helicopters over the years and asked Mr. Bishop what, if any, we had added. Mr. Bishop explained that air assets were distributed on a national level and varied as fire season moved by region. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Sprenger asked Mr. Bishop if the Forest Service had changed any policies since the recent wildfires had occurred and Mr. Bishop responded, no they had not. Commissioner Sprenger stated that she implored them to change their policies to give them greater latitude to be more aggressive in fighting fires, increasing timber harvesting and fuels reduction. Discussion followed.

The Board thanked Mr. Warnack and Mr. Bishop for attending the Board meeting and providing them with the presentation.

10. Correspondence: Commissioner Tucker shared that he had drafted a letter of support for congressional funding to support Samaritan Health Service's planned expansion of services in Sweet Home and he would like the Board to sign it. After brief discussion, the Board agreed.

11. 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. Request for Refund from Planning and Building Department to Kevin Del Grande, \$3,247.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve the Request for Refund. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Unfinished Business and General Orders:

A. Calendar Update: The Commissioners updated their calendars and Commissioner Tucker noted that both he and Commissioner Sprenger planned on attending the Sweet Home Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet on Saturday, April 2, 2022.

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

14. Announcements: There were no announcements.

15. 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.

16. Adjournment. There being no other business to come before the Board; the Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m. by unanimous consent.

The next regular public meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 5, 2022.


Recorder
For Board of Commissioners
Heather Gravelle

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Roger Nyquist, Chairman


William C. Tucker, Commissioner


Sherrie Sprenger, Commissioner

Date 4-5-2022