



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY MEETING  
LINN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – ROOM 200  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2022**

**The Linn County Board of Commissioners met for the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 4, 2021.**

Those present at various times for the matters as indicated below were: Gene Karandy, County Attorney for Linn County; Rachel Adamec, Linn County Real Property Program Manager; Rebecca Grizzle, Executive Director, Lebanon Chamber of Commerce; Alysia Rodgers, Economic Development Catalyst, City of Lebanon; Angelita Sanchez; Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer and Troy Shinn, 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, Sherrie Sprenger, Vice-Chair and Will Tucker were present, as well as, Darrin L. Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer and Marsha Meyer, Recorder for the Board of Commissioners.

4. Approval of Agenda.

Commissioner Tucker asked that Item No. 18-B be set aside until a later date; leaving Item No. 18-A on the agenda. Commissioner Nyquist stated they would deal with the matter when they get to that portion of the 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 December 28, 2021 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

**Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve the December 28, 2021 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.**

6. Reports of Staff and Committees: There was no reports of staff or committees.

7. Resolution 2022-001 election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Linn County Board of Commissioners for the Year 2022.

**Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Nyquist seconded the motion for the purpose of discussion to appoint Commissioner Nyquist as Chair and himself as Vice-Chair.**

Commissioner Tucker stated that the rotation process had stopped, at his request, many years ago in a way that respected and created harmony but now he recommended that the Board begin rotating the positions again. He then stated that Commissioner Nyquist had done an exemplary job of leading and he would like Commissioner Nyquist to continue as Chair. Commissioner Tucker then stated that he would like to be Vice-Chair as he has been a Commissioner for 13 years and the rotation of positions had remained the same for years; he proposed that he be elected as Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Sprenger stated that she was in agreement for rotating the positions and, next year at this same time, both positions should be opened for rotation. She mentioned she had zero concerns regarding Commissioner Nyquist's leadership and stated that she supported the motion in anticipation that next year the positions would be rotated.

**Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve the Resolution 2022-001 electing Commissioner Nyquist, Chair and Commissioner Tucker Vice-Chair. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.**

8. Resolution 2022-002 designating newspapers for official publications for Year 2022 for Linn County.

**Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2022-002. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.**

9. Joint Resolution of the Board of Commissioners and Fair Board & Commissioner Order No. 2022-003 adopting a Resolution and Order regarding the use of the Linn County Fair and Expo Center for July 2022.

Commissioner Nyquist stated that statutes and laws were somewhat ambiguous regarding the roles of Board of Commissioners and Counties over the control of fairgrounds and this Resolution clarified that and covered the interest of all parties involved.

**Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Joint Resolution & Order 2022-003. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.**

10. Resolution 2022-006 approving the appointment of Linn County Tax Collector.

**Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2022-006. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.**

11. Discussion of Department & Elected Liaison Assignments; Committee & Board Assignments; and, State and Federal Appointments.

Commissioner Nyquist recommended that the liaison assignments be set aside. He stated that the County is a service organization and, at first point of contact with a constituent coming into the office with a concern, that person should resolve to solve the issue or do any research needed. This made the liaison assignments unnecessary.

Extensive discussion followed.

It was determined by the Board to not act on this matter at this time. Commissioner Nyquist recommended that each Board member develop a list of those areas they want to focus on and submit their list to Darrin Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer, by this time next week. Commissioner Tucker stated that he had mixed feelings about this but was happy to try looking at areas of interest and goals. Commissioner Sprenger stated that she would agree to change the process but was in no way indicating that she did not value the liaison process but looked forward to a new process. Commissioner Nyquist stated that, once Mr. Lane reviewed the lists and determined any conflicts or gaps, then this matter would be rescheduled on the Board's agenda for final approval the first week in February, 2022. In the meantime, the committee assignments and liaisons would remain the same.

Commissioner Sprenger then asked about the Committee and Board assignments for State and Federal appointments. Commissioner Nyquist recommended that the Board also identify their areas of interests and points of contact in regard to these assignments as well. It was discussed and noted that a Commissioner may have been specifically appointed to a specific State and/or Federal committee that could not be changed at this point. Commissioner Sprenger stated that she only had two committees on her list and that she had the capacity to take on more.

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.**

14. Unfinished Business and General Orders:

A. Calendar Update: The Commissioners updated their calendars.

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

16. Announcement: The Board announced that there would be a Management Staff meeting held on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center in Conference Room 4.

17. 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.

*Commissioner Nyquist recessed the regular Board meeting at 9:58 a.m.*

*Commissioner Nyquist reconvened the regular Board meeting at 10:15.*

18. Public Hearing – In the matter of a proposed transfer of approximately 2.68 acres of Tax Lot 2204, 13S01E2900, to the City of Sweet Home – Gene Karandy, County Attorney for Linn County – Gene Karandy, County Attorney for Linn County.

A. Public Hearing.

Commissioner Nyquist called upon Mr. Karandy to provide background information regarding this matter.

Mr. Karandy stated that the hearing was properly noticed in the Democrat-Herald. The purpose of this hearing was to hear objections to the proposed transfer, as required by State statutes, for a foreclosed property which also gives the taxing districts the ability to weigh-in on the matter. He stated that he had prepared Resolution and Order 2022-018 that says the Board does not have to take action today nor does it state that the Board made a decision ahead of time; it was prepared as a point of convenience. If after the hearing today the Board decided they did not want to take action, they could take action at a later date and would be at the Board's discretion. Commissioner Sprenger clarified that the opportunity to testify was available for both those in support or opposition and/or Mr. Karandy replied yes.

Commissioner Nyquist then called upon the only person signed up on the sign-in sheet to testify.

**Angelita Sanchez – 2415 Long St, Sweet Home, OR 97386 – Neutral.** *(Ms. Sanchez noted that she was not present as a Sweet Home City Council member but was there on her own behalf).*

Ms. Sanchez stated that she appreciated the opportunity to give public testimony in regard to the transfer of property for a homeless encampment in Sweet Home and thanked the Board for all the hard work they had done for the City of Sweet Home and for considering this opportunity.



She stated that she had concerns and that she brought to the City of Sweet Home City Council but they were dismissed. Therefore, she asked the Board for some clarity on who would be responsible for what. In a meeting a few months ago, she requested an economic impact study because residents were saying it was devaluing their property. She was met with opposition and one statement was made that it was the County's responsibility so she wanted to be clear on who was responsible for that type of study and if it was necessary.

Commissioner Tucker stated that he had also heard that comment and had written the Sweet Home City Manager pointing out that this was the City's land use and zoning issue within the City; the County does not hold land use hearings on property inside the City. He stated that he had made it clear he had heard of the concern, however, it is the City's responsibility to talk about zoning and land use matters. The County has made the decision to give the land to the City of Sweet Home and to have it clear and clean but it would then be the City's property.

Commissioner Sprenger stated that, like any land transaction, the person buying it can request any and every test or inspection they may want. She did not know of any requirement for an economic impact study and asked Mr. Karandy if she was correct in that statement. Mr. Karandy agreed and stated that there was no requirement on the County's part to do an impact study.

Commissioner Nyquist stated the bigger issue was homelessness and providing facilities and managing the situation. The one constant is that the need continues to grow at the local levels and the City and County doesn't have the resources to provide all that is needed for people who are homeless. In this case, the impacts to adjacent property and other properties, where the homeless congregate, are best addressed and resolved at the local level. In the spirit of doing the best we can with what we have would be consistent with the transfer of the property. Commissioner Nyquist viewed the County's role of facilitating a goal and need of the City.

Commissioner Tucker applauded Ms. Sanchez for addressing this matter and stated that he heard her concerns about the land use matter but that it was a City issue and the County did not have any standing regarding this issue inside the City. The County was transferring the property for the public good. Commissioner Nyquist informed Ms. Sanchez that she was asking the right questions and anything the County could do to support her in getting information or resources needed to make solid decisions to let them know and they would attempt to do that.

Ms. Sanchez thanked the Board for their time and stated that she was there on her own, not as a City Council member, looking for clarification.

Commissioner Sprenger encouraged Ms. Sanchez and the City to look for possible grant options to do the economic impact study. She indicated, at the last legislative session, there was a lot of money allocated for homelessness. Commissioner Tucker stated that the County had offered a grant writer to the City of Sweet Home and recommended that she talk with Ray Towry, Sweet Home City Manager.

Commissioner Sprenger encouraged Ms. Sanchez and the City to look for possible grant options to do the economic impact study. She indicated, at the last legislative session, there was a lot of money allocated for homelessness. Commissioner Tucker stated that the County had offered a grant writer to the City of Sweet Home and recommended that she talk with Ray Towry, Sweet Home City Manager.

Commissioner Nyquist asked if there was anyone wanting to testify either telephonically or in person. There was no one wishing to testify.

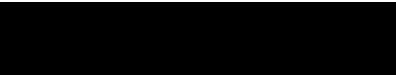
Commissioner Nyquist closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Tucker stated that there was concern about a Resolution & Order listed on today's agenda and asked that it be pulled and put back on the agenda when the time seemed right. There being no objection, Agenda Item No. 18-B was pulled from the Agenda.

B. Resolution & Order 2022-018 In the matter of a hearing on and the approval of the transfer of real property to the City of Sweet Home. *(This item was removed from the Agenda).*

19. Adjournment. There being no other business to come before the Board; the Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m. by unanimous consent.

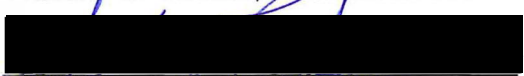
The next regular public meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 11, 2022.

  
Recorder  
For Board of Commissioners  
Marsha Meyer

**LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

  
Roger Nyquist, Chairman

  
William C. Tucker, Commissioner

  
Sherrie Sprenger, Commissioner

Date January 11, 2022