



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING
LINN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – ROOM 200
SEPTEMBER 13, 2022**

The Linn County Board of Commissioners met for the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2022.

Those present at various times for the matters as indicated below were: Amber Boedigheimer, Linn County Law Librarian; Steve Wills, Linn County Planning and Building Director; Brian Carroll, Linn County Parks and Recreation Director; Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer; Linda Duman, Principal, Lourdes Charter School; Anthony Papathanassopoulos; Art Papathanassopoulos; Cecily Fable; Lucy Gouin; Jill; Misty; Piper; Haven; Lucy; Evy; Harley; various other audience members and Joanna Mann, Reporter for Democrat-Herald.

1, 2, 3. At 9:30 a.m. Vice-Chair Tucker called the meeting to order. The flag salute and roll call followed. Commissioners Will Tucker, Vice-Chair and Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger were present, as well as, Darrin Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer and Heather Gravelle, Recorder for the Board of Commissioners. Roger Nyquist, Chair, was out of the office.

4. Approval of Agenda.

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

5. Approval of the September 6, 2022 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved to approve the September 6, 2022 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. The vote was called. The motion passed.

6. Reports of Staff and Committees:

A. Law Library Update – Amber Boedigheimer, Linn County Law Librarian (Rescheduled from Tuesday September 6, 2022).

Ms. Boedigheimer provided the Board with a Law Library Update. The update is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File. Ms. Boedigheimer stated that she was getting the word out regarding the Linn County Law Library Eviction Prevention Program to landlords, tenants and the public.

Ms. Boedigheimer explained that she had received a grant for \$41,000 from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) that helped with the cost of operating the program. Discussion followed. The Board thanked Ms. Boedigheimer for her work and for the update.

B. Planning & Building Update - Steve Wills, Linn County Planning and Building Director.

Mr. Wills provided the Board with a Planning & Building Update for the month of August, 2022. A copy of the update is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File. He provided statistics on land use permits and building permits issued; the Fire Hardening Program and the Oregon Department of Energy Grant Program.

Mr. Wills explained that there was no Planning Commission meetings scheduled for September, 2022 or any land use hearings but there was a Historic Resource Commission meeting scheduled to meet today, Tuesday, September 13, 2022. He then shared that Planning and Building had updated their office hours to be open during the Noon hour. Brief discussion followed. The Board thanked Mr. Wills for his work and the update.

7. Parks Department – Brian Carroll, Linn County Parks and Recreation Director.

Mr. Carroll provided the Board with an overview of the item below.

A. Resolution & Order 2022-321 approving a temporary construction and work area easement at River Bend County Park with the State of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Linn County Parks and delegating authority to sign originals.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved to approve Resolution & Order 2022-321. The vote was called. The motion passed.

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

9. Special Orders:

A. Personnel Action Forms.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved to accept the Personnel Action Forms list as Exhibit 1. The vote was called. The motion passed.

B. Resolution & Order 2022-317 approving a First-Time Youth Wage Grant Agreement between Linn County and Mercy House International, Inc. dba 1st Hand Seconds Unique Boutique.

Action Taken Below.

C. Resolution & Order 2022-318 approving a First-Time Youth Wage Grant Agreement between Linn County and Bellinger, Inc. aka Bellinger Reel Seats.

Action Taken Below.

D. Resolution & Order 2022-319 approving a First-Time Youth Wage Grant Agreement between Linn County and Pimm Farms, Inc.

Action Taken Below.

E. Resolution & Order 2022-322 approving a First-Time Youth Wage Grant Agreement between Linn County and Pacific Bellwether, LLC dba Sweet Home Dairy Queen.

Action Taken Below.

F. Resolution & Order 2022-323 approving a First-Time Youth Wage Grant Agreement between Linn County and A & W Restaurant.

Action Taken Below.

G. Resolution & Order 2022-330 approving a First-Time Youth Wage Grant Agreement between Linn County and Schmizza Public House.

Action Taken Below.

H. Resolution & Order 2022-342 approving a First-Time Youth Wage Grant Agreement between Linn County and Sweet Home, Inc. dba Figaro's.

Action Taken Below.

I. Resolution & Order 2022-343 approving a First-Time Youth Wage Grant Agreement between Linn County and Berkey's Blueberries, LLC.

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved to approve Resolution & Orders 2022-317, 318, 319, 322, 323, 330, 342 and 343. The vote was called. The motion passed.

Commissioner Tucker asked Heather Gravelle, Commissioners' Administrative Assistant, how many First-Time Youth Wage Grant applications had been received so far and Ms. Gravelle replied 22.

J. Resolution 2022-346 appointing and reappointing members to the Linn County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC).

Action – Commissioner Sprenger moved to approve Resolution 2022-346. The vote was called. The motion passed.

10. Unfinished Business and General Orders:

A. Calendar Update: The Commissioners updated their calendars and Commissioner Tucker noted that he and Commissioner Sprenger may be attending the Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee meeting on Friday, September 16, 2022. *(This meeting was later determined to be canceled.)*

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

12. Announcements: There were no announcements.

13. Business from the Public (3-minute limit per speaker): Linda Duman, Principal, Lourdes Charter School, Scio Oregon. Ms. Duman stated that several children who attended Lourdes Charter School in Scio wanted to testify regarding the proposed chicken farms. The children had written testimony to submit for the record and it is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

The following Lourdes Charter School students came up to the podium and stated their names for the record: Piper; Haven; Lucy; Evy and Harley.

Anthony Papathanassopoulos, 43550 Thomas Creek Drive, Scio, Oregon, stated that he was a student at Lourdes Charter School, was born on the farm that borders Thomas Creek and was baptized there. He explained that he enjoyed playing on the basketball court and playground at Lourdes Charter School in the stunning atmosphere and the fresh air. It would be a shame if that changed due to an ill sighted chicken factory. He asked the Board to do whatever it took to preserve the beauty of the community.

Cecily Fable, Lourdes Charter School, stated that she really loved the school and it would be a shame if everybody who went there got sick because of the chicken farm.

Piper, Lourdes Charter School, stated she had gone to the school for three years and she would never want to go anywhere else. She stated that the chicken farm would ruin the setting, air and landscape.

Jill stated that she was a parent and lived down the road from Lourdes Charter School. She explained that she was concerned about the impact the mega chicken farms would have on Linn County and that she would want to move if they came due to property values dropping and the quality of the area. She implored the Board to stop the farms from coming to the community.

Misty stated she was there with her children and they lived next to Lourdes Charter School and the creek. It would be an injustice to the area if the chicken farm was allowed to come in; it would change the environment and their way of life.

Commissioner Tucker thanked them for their testimony and explained that the Board did not have a role in the land use approval process. He stated that, however, Commissioner Nyquist was a member of a statewide task force on the matter and he was able to provide input from the community.

Art Papathanassopoulos, 43550 Thomas Creek Drive, Scio, Oregon, stated his son was born on a farm a mile from a church and loves playing and breathing clean air. He asked if he gets a lung issue, was the Board going to come and apologize to him or pay his hospital bills? He stated that this was the time for the Board to do what was expected of leaders to do and look after the people who voted them into power. Mr. Poulos added that it was a human rights issue and it was an assault on their way of life.

Melody Fabel, 40321 Hess Rd, Scio, Oregon, stated she was a registered nurse and had a child that attended Lourdes Charter School. She explained she was concerned regarding the possible chicken farm being located less than half a mile from their school. The farms were not regulated by air emission laws in Oregon and they can off gas pneumonia and nitrogen and studies showed it would cause health hazards to the area surrounding the farms. Ms. Fabel asked the Board to advocate for the community and protect the children.

Ms. Duman commented that the Oregon Health Department had put a study together and it showed the pollution that was caused by the chicken farms. The study was sent to the Oregon Department of Agriculture and she would also like it sent to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality for their review. The concern is they want to keep a safe environment at their schools, church and community center. Commissioner Tucker asked Ms. Duman to send him a copy of the Oregon Health Department study and Ms. Duman stated that she would.

Lucy Gouin, 43550 Thomas Creek Drive, Scio, Oregon, stated that they were a residential community center and mega chicken factories could not be sited within two miles of a community center. She added that it was a simple checkbox that was on the CAFO application.

Commissioner Sprenger commented that she had business cards available for those who would like to contact her after the meeting. She stated that she shared their concerns and that her home bordered 180-acres that could potentially have a chicken farm. Commissioner Sprenger added that she has had experience working at the Legislature and she was there when the right to farm laws were being discussed and changed. She noted that she wanted to be smart about how she advocated for them and that they were all in this together.

Commissioner Sprenger explained that she would continue to share with the community information on how to advocate and who to contact regarding this matter. She had personally called Legislators and asked them to go to events such as the tours of the potential chicken farm properties and had also asked them to talk with the community members about their concerns; she would continue to do so. Commissioner Sprenger added that the Legislature was meeting again in February, 2023 and that was the time for everyone to testify and say that there needed to be a change in the law to prevent this from happening.


The Board thanked everyone for attending the meeting and providing their input on this very important matter.

14. Adjournment. There being no other business to come before the Board; the Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m. by unanimous consent.

The next regular public meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 20, 2022.

, Recorder
For Board of Commissioners
Heather Gravelle

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Roger Nyquist, Chair


William C. Tucker, Vice-Chair


Sherrie Sprenger, Commissioner

Date 9-20-2022