



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY MEETING  
LINN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – ROOM 200  
JANUARY 31, 2023**

**The Linn County Board of Commissioners met for the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 31, 2023.**

Those present at various times for the matters as indicated below were: Emerson Marsh, Linn County Emergency Management Recovery Coordinator; Torri Lynn, Linn County Juvenile Department Director; Kris Barnes, Linn County Fair/Expo Director; Wayne Mink, Linn County Roadmaster; Michelle Hawkins, Linn County Treasurer; Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer; Alysia Rodgers, Economic Development Catalyst, City of Lebanon and Joanna Mann, 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.

**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 January 10, 2023 and January 17, 2023 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

**Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve the January 10, 2023 and January 17, 2023 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.**

6. Sheriff's Office – Michelle Duncan, Linn County Sheriff was represented by Emerson Marsh, Linn County Emergency Management Recovery Coordinator who presented the following item on behalf of the Sheriff's office.

A. Resolution & Order 2023-051 an Agreement between Linn-Benton Community College (LBCC) and Linn County.

**Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2023-051. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.**

7. Reports of Staff and Committees:

A. Juvenile Update – Torri Lynn, Linn County Juvenile Department Director.

Mr. Lynn provided the Board with an update for December, 2022. A copy of his report is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

He stated that most categories were up, except for drug and alcohol.

Commissioner Nyquist asked for clarification about the difference 1-2 years ago and now. Mr. Lynn stated that 1-2 years ago youth weren't in school and they carried a lot of stressors and there was more leniency toward behavioral difficulties.

Mr. Lynn indicated that there were a few legislative bills that were introduced that he was following. One he was in support of was for minimum age prosecution. Another senate bill would provide funding to the Juvenile Department for the youth who were still having serious behavior difficulties such as sex offending and aggressive behaviors. That bill would provide additional support to the youth for counseling and provide support at a much younger age.

Commissioner Nyquist asked for clarification about the 15 youth that were in detention. Mr. Lynn indicated that the Juvenile Department had been seeing double figures every day that ranged from simple assaults to one attempted murder case. Commissioner Nyquist asked if these assaults were Measure 11 crimes. Mr. Lynn stated there was no longer Measure 11 sentencing in youth and that was determined in Senate Bill 1008 a few years back. Commissioner Nyquist asked what percentage of those referrals were on a positive course of correction. Mr. Lynn indicated that in about 80% of the youth the Juvenile Department sees only once, 13-14% were seen 1-2 times, 6-7% were the drivers of the Juvenile crimes in our County. There were less than 200 kids on probation.

Commissioner Tucker asked about the tractor training/heavy equipment training for the youth and if there had been success with the training yet. Mr. Lynn indicated that he had reached out to Knife River and had not gotten a response from them at this time.

B. Fair/Expo Update – Kris Barnes, Linn County Fair/Expo Center Director.

Mr. Barnes provided the Board with an update for December, 2022. 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 revenue collected for December was \$51,557 and there were two accounts that they had not received funds for yet but with those funds the revenue would reach \$98,357.

Michelle Hawkins, Linn County Treasurer, indicated that there were \$40,000 in revenue after expenditures for the Town and Country Christmas Bazaar. She indicated that it was the Fair Board that determined the spending for the Expo regarding that event.

Mr. Barnes stated that the Town and Country Christmas Bazaar was a year-round event for the Fair/Expo that required a lot of work. Commissioner Nyquist suggested that maybe the Town and Country Christmas Bazaar needed its own Committee to aid in support of the event. Ms. Hawkins mentioned when Roberta Newman use to organize the event, she was paid \$5,000-\$6,000 for her work throughout the year but she stepped away from the position and it was in the hands of Rachel Lytle now. She suggested the possibility of another person to fill that role.

Commissioner Nyquist asked how many people attended the Town and Country Christmas Bazaar. Mr. Barnes indicated a rough estimate of around 12,000 people and over 220 vendors contributed to the bazaar. Commissioner Tucker expressed that the vendors were mostly local businesses, with handmade items and that this event supported our local community and he emphasized that this was a great event.

Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer, wanted clarification of how many of the 10,000-12,000 people who attended the Town and Country Christmas Bazaar paid to get in. Mr. Barnes stated that seniors and children were not charged for their entrance and it was \$2 per adult.

Darrin Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer, stated that Mr. Barnes was actively working on some proposals with him to reorganize and budget the event.

Commissioner Sprenger wanted clarification about the semi-trucks she seen parked in the gravel parking lot at the Fair/Expo Center a few weeks ago. Mr. Barnes indicated that Burlington Northern Santa Fe LLC (BNSF) had been doing maintenance on railroad tracks and they were renting the gravel parking lot as a staging area while the maintenance occurred. Outside of that agreement, the neighboring hotel had been referring guests with semi-trucks to the Fair/Expo Center to park their trucks and it had become a big issue. Commissioner Nyquist stated that he was not comfortable with the neighboring hotel situation.

Commissioner Sprenger wanted clarification on the terms of the understanding between the Fair/Expo Center and the hotel. Discussion followed.

Mr. Barnes stated that Gun Shows had lost revenue with Measure 114 due to the six-month waiting period to get a background check completed. He stated that there was one cancellation last month with the potential of a few more and revenue for Gun Shows was just under \$60,000. Commissioner Nyquist reassured Mr. Barnes to follow the law and the provisions within the law.

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

A. Resolution & Order 2023-035 approving an Engineering and Related Services Contract between David Evans & Associates and Linn County and delegating authority to execute the contract.

**Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2023-035. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.**

B. Resolution & Order 2023-037 delegating authority to Wayne E. Mink, Linn County Roadmaster, to purchase a John Deere Backhoe Loader.

**Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2023-037. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

A. Order 2023-052 approving a transfer of certain appropriations within the Health Fund, \$ 90,000.

**Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Order 2023-052. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

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 the Planning and Building Department to Bob Spurlock, \$1,935.60.

**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.

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

14. Announcements: The Board announced there would be an Elected Officials meeting from Noon to 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at the Linn County Fair/Expo Center in Conference Room 4.

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. Discussion of Senate Bill 795.

Commissioner Nyquist stated that this was a Senate Bill related to forest lands and provided some history regarding this matter. He stated that if Senate Bill 795 passed it would give the Commissioners the ability to secure the County in conveying what the permanent value was. If the Department of Forestry stayed on its current path and continued to decrease harvest, it would be a substantial hit to the General Fund. There were 300 million dollars in General Fund money for fire suppression and another million dollars to support the agency because the Department of Forestry was unable to cut down enough trees to sustain funding.


Commissioner Tucker indicated that he attended the Council Forest Trust Lands meeting and there was discussion of three Senate Bills for State Forest Lands. Senate Bill 795, 665 and 90. There was a lot of discussion on 795 and he indicated he was going to be pushing for Senate Bill 795 to go to Legislation.

Commissioner Sprenger supported the bill but indicated her uncertainty in the senate bill making it to the proper hands. She appreciated the bill being there because it allowed a conversation to happen that needed to occur.


After the discussion, the Board determined that they fully supported Senate Bill 795.

17. Adjournment. There being no other business to come before the Board; the Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m. by unanimous consent.


The next regular public meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 7, 2023.

 Recorder  
For Board of Commissioners  
Courtney Leland

**LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

  
Roger Nyquist, Chair

  
William C. Tucker, Vice-Chair

  
Sherrie Sprenger, Commissioner

Date 2-7-2023