



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LINN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – ROOM 200
TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023**

The Linn County Board of Commissioners met for the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, August 22, 2023.

Those present at various times for the matters as indicated below were: Torri Lynn, Linn County Juvenile Department Director; Steve Wills, Linn County Planning and Building Director; Rachel Adamec, Linn County Real Property Program Manager; Breeanna Oxford, Linn County Deputy Treasurer; Gene Karandy, County Attorney for Linn County; Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer; Blair Larsen, Community & Economic Development Director, City of Sweet Home; Alysia Rodgers, Economic Development Catalyst, City of Lebanon; Scott McDowell, City Administrator, City of Brownsville; Eric Morgan, Representative for the Carpenter's Union; Jonathon Bates and Alan Kwan.

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 August 15, 2023 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve the August 15, 2023 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Reports of Staff and Committees:

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

Mr. Lynn provided the Board with a Juvenile Department Update for the month of July, 2023. A copy of his report is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

Commissioner Nyquist asked for clarification on how the Juvenile Department's budget was doing and Mr. Lynn responded good. Mr. Lynn went on to explain that there had been a 3-day heavy equipment training course for the youth at the Knife River Facility and there was a cost for that but it was being managed well.

Commissioner Tucker supported the training and thanked Mr. Lynn for his hard work and the career opportunities he was making possible for the youth.

7. Planning and Building Department – Steve Wills, Linn County Planning and Building Director.

A. Resolution & Order 2023-303 approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the State of Oregon and Linn County and delegating authority to execute originals (*moved from the Tuesday, August 15, 2023 agenda*).

Mr. Wills indicated that this item was continued from last week and that this was an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) and Linn County to reimburse Linn County for any staff hours worked on the Muddy Creek Energy project.

Commissioner Tucker asked Commissioner Sprenger if she was ready to make a motion in regard to approve Resolution & Order 2023-303 since she had concerns last week.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2023-303.

Commissioner Sprenger indicated that her concerns last week were around the perception of what the agreement could be perceived as and she referenced two of the "whereas" statements in the Intergovernmental Agreement.

The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Property Management – Rachel Adamec, Linn County Real Property Program Manager.

A. Resolution & Order 2023-254 approving a Land Use Application to be filed with the City of Lebanon.

Ms. Adamec indicated that this was in regard to an application with the City of Lebanon to annex two properties that the County owned due to tax foreclosures giving Ms. Adamec the authority to sign the application. Discussion followed.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2023-254. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Resolution & Order 2023-309 approving the sale of tax foreclosed property.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2023-309. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Correspondence: Commissioner Tucker indicated that were two letters of support to be included into the record: (1) to the Port of Coos Bay, dated August 21, 2023; and (2) a letter of support to Nikki Swanson and Craig Pettinger with the U.S Forest Service dated, August 22, 2023; in regard to some of the actions that needed to be taken early on with the Wiley Creek fire. He asked the Board for their support to sign and send the letters. Commissioner Sprenger indicated that she was in support.

10. 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. Resolution & Order 2023-297 approving a First-Time Youth Wage Grant Agreement between Linn County and Apex Property Clearing & Recycling.

Action taken below.

C. Resolution & Order 2023-305 approving a First-Time Youth Wage Grant Agreement between Linn County and Mercy House International, Inc. dba 1st Hands Seconds Unique Boutique.

Action taken below.

D. Resolution & Order 2023-306 approving a First-Time Youth Wage Grant Agreement between Linn County and Sweet Home, Inc. dba Figaro's.

Action taken below.

E. Resolution & Order 2023-307 approving a First-Time Youth Wage Grant Agreement between Linn County and Olsen Run Winery.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2023-297, 305, 306 and 307. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Tucker thanked Courtney Leland, Office Specialist 3 for the Board of Commissioners', for managing the Youth Wage Grant Program.

Darrin Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer, presented the following item on behalf of the Treasurer.

F. Order 2023-315 adopting the Linn County Pay Plans for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Order 2023-315. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Resolution 2023-316 amending the Linn County Personnel Policy (Policy 20).

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2023-316. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Unfinished Business and General Orders:

A. Calendar Update: Commissioner Nyquist indicated that there was a land use hearing scheduled for Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

12. New Business: Discussion of potential land lease with Cascadia Bio-Gas. Darrin Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer, wanted to make sure the Board was aware that Linn County was in negotiations with consultant Don Waddell to lease the old Cascadia Bio-Gas building. He informed the Board that there could be a lease agreement as early as next week.

13. Announcements: There was no announcements.

14. Business from the Public (3-minute limit per speaker): Eric Morgan, Representative for the Carpenter's Union and newly appointed Political Deputy for Greater Oregon, came before the Board to introduce himself. He indicated that he wanted to be more involved in the projects happening around the community and referenced the Muddy Creek Solar Project. He asked the Board to consider and to keep in mind, the local contractors who would appreciate the work on this project. Commissioner Nyquist recommended that Mr. Morgan contact the Oregon Department of Energy and that he had a lot of concerns in regard to the project but this was one that he hadn't thought of yet. He thanked Mr. Morgan for his introduction.

15. Presentation from the Real Economic Alliance (REAL) – Blair Larsen, Community & Economic Development Director, City of Sweet Home.

Mr. Larsen along with Alysia Rodgers, Economic Development Catalyst, City of Lebanon and Scott McDowell, City Administrator with the City of Brownsville, introduced themselves to the Board; they represent three of the nine cities that make up the Real Economic Alliance. Mr. McDowell indicated that they recently updated their strategic plan for the next five years and they wanted to share their future plans with the Board.

Mr. McDowell indicated the project had been ongoing for about five years. Recently, they rebranded and updated their website to get information out into the community. Mr. Larsen stated that they were joined by the City of Tangent as the ninth member of REAL. He expressed awareness in how important it was for REAL to help people relocate to Linn County, as it benefited their community as well. He further discussed the areas of focus within the strategic plan. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Nyquist asked if wetland mitigation, being too expensive, was the problem and also indicated that industrial land wasn't available in larger blocks from what he had seen. He asked Mr. Larsen to figure out what land was available within the city limits first and after that, he could then move toward finding the room within the Urban Growth Boundary. Mr. Larsen indicated that there was a balance between what REAL was able to do and what would need to be done by the cities. He indicated that the land existed but it was the boundary lines around them that were creating barriers.

Ms. Rodgers indicated that they were working on the barrier implications that surrounded the wetland mitigation process. Commissioner Nyquist clarified that "wetlands are water is on a regular basis". Discussion continued.

Mr. Larsen indicated that their advocacy was, everyone working together on the issue to allow cities to develop.

Commissioner Sprenger indicated that the wetland issue in Lebanon was significant. She asked what the status of the mitigation banks were right now and whether or not there were credits available in our region. Ms. Rodgers indicated that the cost of credits was about 100,000 an acre and that there were not enough credits available in our region but there were some costly solutions.

Commissioner Sprenger expressed that, she hoped the State wouldn't only look at the information, but that they would change their position and until that happened, there wouldn't be any building in Lebanon. Mr. Larsen indicated that his hope was to change things moving forward. Commissioner Nyquist indicated that he thought putting an application in front of the State was a good way around the Administrative Rules and it would hold the State accountable going forward. Commissioner Sprenger indicated that what she would like to see moving forward was, REAL submitting applications to the State so they could see the requests; hopefully, it would change the pace of things.

Ms. Rodgers indicated that REAL meets monthly and that on Thursday, August 24, 2023 there would be a discussion about their future. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Sprenger indicated that she was happy with the first item listed in their strategic plan and she would like to see a business last a few decades. She thanked Ms. Rodgers for having retention and expansion listed first; it said a lot about the organization.

Commissioners' Tucker and Nyquist thanked REAL for their hard work.

16. Adjournment. There being no other business to come before the Board; the Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. by unanimous consent.

The next regular public meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 29, 2023.

 Recorder
For Board of Commissioners
Courtney Leland

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Roger Nyquist, Chair


William C. Tucker, Vice-Chair

ABSENT

Sherrie Sprenger, Commissioner

Date 8-29-2023