



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LINN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – ROOM 200
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025**

The Linn County Board of Commissioners met for the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

Those present at various times for the matters as indicated below were: Kris Barnes, Linn County Fair and Expo Director; Wayne Mink, Linn County Roadmaster; Representative Shelly Boshart Davis (*via teleconferencing*); Todd Noble, Linn County Health Services Administrator; Shane Sanderson, Linn County Public Health Program Manager; Alyson Reynolds, Environmental Health Specialist III; Rachel Adamec, Linn County Real Property Program Manager; Phil Van Leuven, Deputy County Attorney for Linn County; Kent Blair; Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer and Shayla Escudero, 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 28, 2025 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve the January 28, 2025 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Reports of Staff and Committees:

A. Fair/Expo Update – Kris Barnes, Linn County Fair and Expo Director.

Mr. Barnes provided the Board with a Fair/Expo Update. A copy of his report is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

Mr. Barnes provided the Board with the total amount of revenue collected for the month of January, 2025 and the year-to-date revenue. He stated that there were still six outstanding invoices in the amount of \$38,297 which would be paid in full over the next seven weeks.

Mr. Barnes provided the Board with additional information regarding projected revenue for February and March, 2025. He indicated that year-to-date revenue was down about seven percent due to a couple dog show vendors that didn't return this year but they were expected to return next year. He indicated that the projected revenue for February and March should cover the loss of revenue without those vendors. Commissioner Sprenger indicated that she didn't want to drill down on the financials today but pointed out that, even with the outstanding invoices, there was still quite a disparity in the numbers and she would like him to keep that in mind.

Commissioner Nyquist indicated that the Transient Lodging Taxes (TLT) collected had nothing to do with the department and Mr. Barnes indicated that he was only informing the Board of the revenue collected up to this date. Commissioner Nyquist asked if these numbers were in line with budget and Mr. Barnes indicated yes. Commissioner Nyquist then stated that it would be a matter for the Budget Committee and budget hearings moving forward. Commissioner Tucker indicated that the TLT collected did have something to do with the Fair and Expo Center because the whole purpose around building an Expo Center was to bring business to the Albany area, as well as, revenue to the County. Discussion followed.

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

A. Linn County Road Conditions.

Mr. Mink gave the Board an update on the condition of Linn County Roads. He provided them with a handout which stated the priority in which the roads are serviced during inclement weather, as well as, the amount of equipment and manpower they had available. He indicated that the route maps were listed on the Linn County website for anyone to view. Discussion followed. Commissioner Sprenger thanked Mr. Mink for his efforts in maintaining the roads for the safety of everyone traveling them.

8. Discussion and status report with Representative Shelly Boshart Davis on House Bill 3119 which would delay ban on the sale of certain vehicles and equipment that use a diesel motor such as trucks, tractors, etc.

Commissioner Nyquist indicated that this was important to our constituents and the local economy of Linn County and there was also a safety component regarding the matter. He asked Representative Boshart Davis to discuss the House Bill (HB) and to let the Board know how they could support her.

Representative Boshart Davis indicated that HB 3119 would delay the clean truck rules by two years which are in affect as of January 1, 2025. They extend from California's Air Recourses Board (CARB) regulations. She indicated that, under the regulation, are three rules; clean fleet, clean trucks and NOx Omnibus (NOx). Representative Boshart Davis stated that Oregon never adopted the clean fleet rules and they delayed the NOx rule by one year but adopted the clean truck rule which went into effect in January, 2025. She stated that this rule would limit Oregon's choices when purchasing any diesel power vehicle through a mandate regarding a percentage of electric vehicles to be sold annually. She then gave an example and expressed that these rules were unattainable and even the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) didn't have any answers. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Sprenger asked where the HB was in the process and how the Board could be supportive. Representative Boshart Davis indicated that, currently, there had been an informational hearing on the clean truck rule and the House Climate Committee held a public hearing last week; there were over 60 people in the room to testify but only seven were allowed and, there were over 500 pieces of testimony received. She asked the Board to provide a letter of support to Chair Lively of the House Climate Committee and to announce it publicly stating how this HB would directly affect Linn County. Commissioner Sprenger asked if there was a companion Senate Bill to the House Bill and Representative Boshart Davis indicated, not at this time. Commissioner Nyquist asked that the record reflect that the Board was in consensus to provide a letter of support for House Bill 3119.

9. Public Health Update – Shane Sanderson, Linn County Public Health Program Manager.

A. Updated on the number of restaurant licenses issued in Linn County for 2025.

Commissioner Nyquist indicated that the number of restaurant licenses issued reflected how the economy was doing, as well as, small businesses in Linn County.

Mr. Sanderson indicated that the County was seeing more mobile food carts in lieu of restaurant licenses and, at this time, there had been 72 licenses issued for mobile food carts. Although, license changes occur frequently, he indicated that it was relatively stable.

He stated that, in 2022-2023, the department rebalanced their fees to accommodate the time spent on mobile units and brick and mortar restaurants. Due to that change, Linn County was now considered one of the more expensive counties to obtain a mobile food cart license. Commissioner Tucker expressed the importance of the County charging for the cost of their efforts and thanked Mr. Sanderson for doing that. He then asked, how the number of violations equated to mobile food carts verses brick and mortar restaurants and what the enforcement process looked like for each. Mr. Sanderson indicated that the way they had set up their enforcement process leaned more toward financial obligation then any form of penalty. For example, they charge based on the number of times they had to inspect a facility to bring it back into compliance. Discussion followed.

Alyson Reynolds, Environmental Health Specialist III, indicated that they track complaints for mobile food carts and brick and mortar restaurants separately. They receive more complaints for restaurants but that was because there were more people in the facilities to see what was going on unlike in mobile food carts. Mr. Sanderson indicated that they didn't have the number of violations for each but he would configure that ratio and provide the Board with that information. He stated that, from his experience, the range of poor behavior was more common in mobile food carts than restaurants.

Commissioner Nyquist stated that he couldn't remember the last time there was a foodborne illness from a business in Linn County and that spoke well about the hospitality of the program. He appreciated all of their efforts in that regard. He then stated that, several years ago, there was concern regarding foodborne illnesses from mobile food carts and, because of that, it was determined that any mobile food cart operating in Linn County was supposed to notify the County that they were doing business here. He asked if a business purchased a mobile food cart license in one County, were they allowed to operate in all 36 Counties of Oregon. Ms. Reynolds indicated that a mobile food cart can be licensed in Linn County and then go to other counties to operate but typically each county required a notice unless the mobile food cart was operating solely at an event such as the Linn County Fair. Generally, the other counties licenses would be honored. Commissioner Nyquist asked if they had come across any businesses in Linn County operating without a license and Ms. Reynolds indicated yes. He then asked, how much of that activity was occurring and Ms. Reynolds stated that it was a rare occurrence. Discussion followed.

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

A. Continued discussion from Tuesday, January 14, 2025 of a Sealed Bid for Account No. 851746 originally opened on Tuesday, October 29, 2024.

Commissioner Sprenger asked Phil Van Leuven, Deputy County Attorney for Linn County, who would enforce the agreement signed by Mr. Blair if there was an issue in the future. Mr. Van Leuven indicated that a copy of the agreement would be attached to the deed and filed with the Linn County Clerk's Office which would follow the property until the Easement actually took effect. Commissioner Sprenger then asked if it would be the County's responsibility to enforce the agreement or if that was a civil action. Mr. Van Leuven indicated that it would be a civil enforcement action for the property owner in which it benefited. Commissioner Sprenger asked Kevin Blair, Bidder, if there was anything he would like to address before the Board made a motion. Mr. Blair thanked the Board for the opportunity and for their desire to protect Linn County in the way that they do.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve the Sealed Bid for Account No. 851746 in the amount of \$5,280. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

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

12. 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.

13. Unfinished Business and General Orders:

A. Calendar Update: The Commissioners updated their calendars.

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


15. Announcement: There will be an Elected Officials meeting from Noon to 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center in Conference Room 4.

16. 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 thanked Shayla Escudero, Report for the Albany Democrat-Herald, and wished her well on her future endeavors.

17. Adjournment. There being no other business to come before the Board; the Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m. by unanimous consent.


The next regular public meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 11, 2025.

 Recorder
For Board of Commissioners
Courtney Leland

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Roger Nyquist, Chair


William C. Tucker, Vice Chair


Sherrie Sprenger, Commissioner

Date 2-11-2025