



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LINN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – ROOM 200
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025**

The Linn County Board of Commissioners met for the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Those present at various times for the matters as indicated below were: Wayne Mink, Linn County Roadmaster; Daineal Malone, County Engineer, Linn County Road Department; Kevin Groom, Civil Engineer, Linn County Road Department; Tausha Smith, Engineering Associate; Issac Parker, Engineering Intern, Linn County Road Department; Todd Noble, Linn County Health Services Administrator; Shane Sanderson, Linn County Public Health Program Manager; Andy Franklin, Captain Support Services, Linn County Sheriff's Office; Bill Palmer, Linn County Accounting Officer; Gene Karandy, County Attorney for Linn County; Representatives from several sanitation service companies; Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer and Alex Powers, 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 Marsha Meyer, 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 February 11, 2025 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve the February 11, 2025 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

Mr. Mink introduced his staff that was present for the following agenda item. He then called upon Daineal Malone, County Engineer, Linn County Road Department to open the bids as follows:

A. Bid Openings

1. Bid Opening – Owl Creek, Peoria Road Bridge Replacement Project.
 - a. Hamilton Construction Co., Springfield, OR - \$1,175,587.00
 - b. Legacy Contracting, Inc., Stayton, OR - \$1,343,386.48
 - c. Cascade Civil Corp., Redmond, OR - \$1,090,639.00
 - d. MJ Hughes Construction, Inc., Vancouver, WA - \$1,595,238.00
 - e. Oregon State Bridge Construction, Inc., Stayton, OR - \$1,208,855.25
 - f. Farline Bridge, Inc., Stayton, OR - \$1,071,818.43

Ms. Malone stated that the bids would be reviewed by her office and they would come back with a recommendation to the Board next week, Tuesday, February 25, 2025.

2. Bid Opening – Cox Creek, Goldfish Farm Road Bridge Project.

Commissioner Nyquist asked if this project would conform and be consistent with the widening of Goldfish Farm Road. Mr. Mink stated, yes, and Ms. Malone stated that the widening would be from the Cox Street Bridge down to Highway 20 and was proposed for the 2026 construction season. Mr. Mink stated that the entirety of the road was designed to fit the bridge into the widening of the road.

Ms. Malone then opened the bids as follows:

- a. Hamilton Construction Co., Springfield, OR - \$2,635,963.75
- b. Legacy Contracting, Inc., Stayton, OR - \$2,578,555.45
- c. Cascade Civil Corp., Redmond, OR - \$2,428,388.00
- d. MJ Hughes Construction, Inc., Vancouver, WA - \$3,055,624.75
- e. Oregon State Bridge Construction, Inc., Stayton, OR - \$2,661,809.25
- f. Farline Bridge, Inc., Stayton, OR - \$2,470,088.20

Again, Ms. Malone stated that her office would review the bids and come back before the Board with a recommendation next week, Tuesday, February 25, 2025.

Commissioner Nyquist stated that he would be interested in knowing, in the next day or two, the funding sources for both of these projects and if it's adequate to do them based on the money received. Mr. Mink stated that both of these projects had been designed, administered and handled in-house by the Linn County Engineering Staff along with consultants that they work with during projects.

Commissioner Nyquist thanked everyone who participated in the bidding process.

B. Resolution & Order 2025-057 approving a Supplemental Project Agreement for the Murder Creek (Nygren Road) Bridge Project between the State of Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Linn County.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2025-057. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Resolution & Order 2025-073 approving a Services Contract for engineering and related services between Linn County and David Evans and Associates, Inc. and delegating authority to execute the contract.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2025-073. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Board of Health – Todd Noble, Linn County Health Services Administrator.

A. Communicable Disease and Vital Statistics Reports – Dr. Adam Brady, Linn County Health Officer.

Shane Sanderson, Linn County Public Health Program Manager, presented the Communicable Disease and Vital Statistics Reports on behalf of Dr. Brady.

Mr. Sanderson gave an overview of the Communicable Disease and Vital Statistics Reports for January, 2025. A copy of the reports is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

B. Environmental Health Monthly Activity Report – Shane Sanderson, Linn County Public Health Program Manager.

Mr. Sanderson provided the Board with an overview of the Environmental Health Monthly Activity Report for January, 2025. A copy of his report is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

C. Resolution & Order 2025-033 approving an Intergovernmental Agreement for the Measures and Outcomes Tracking System (MOTS) between the Oregon Health Authority and Linn County and delegating authority to execute originals.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2025-033. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Resolution & Order 2025-034 approving an Intergovernmental Agreement for Modernization Services between Lincoln County and Linn County and delegating authority to execute originals.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2025-034. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Resolution & Order 2025-035 approving a Memorandum of Understanding between Lincoln County and Linn County and delegating authority to execute originals.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2025-035. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

In regard to the following four agenda items relating to sanitation service companies request for rate increases, Commissioner Nyquist stated that the last conversation the Board had was about what the process should be going forward and what obligation the Board had and the information received relating to the current request to revisit rates. He stated that now there are Resolution & Orders before them and he believed that there needed to be further discussion about the methodology that got them here and what they are or are not doing today.

Mr. Sanderson reviewed his memo to the Board dated February 14, 2025 outlining the background and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee's (SWAC) recommendation based on the accounting that Merina & Company, LLP provided. A copy of Mr. Sanderson's memo is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

Mr. Sanderson stated that there was a discussion about whether or not SWAC wanted to remain with this accounting firm or if they wanted to look at other similar counites and how they assessed waste rates. He stated that SWAC ultimately decided to go with the accounting firm Bell & Associates, who provided feedback in early January, 2025 and stated that it would make sense for the County to finish the current process based on the numbers from Merina & Company. The discussion, today, was about whether or not the Board wanted to take action using the 2023 financials and to take an interim action then move forward with a new process and assessment tool using Bell & Associates. Commissioner Nyquist stated that he thought that was fair and was in line with the spirit of the franchise agreements. He stated that he was comfortable looking at this and approving the Resolutions & Orders but wanted more detailed information.

Commissioner Sprenger asked Mr. Sanderson, for the record, to provide a recap of what SWAC does. Mr. Sanderson stated that SWAC was made up of three committee members at-large and four representatives from the County's largest cities; they are familiar with the rate setting process. Commissioner Tucker stated that each Resolution & Order before the Board today had a blank space to fill in the 2023-2024 targeted rate of return and that the Board had to make a decision on the percentage rate. Mr. Sanderson stated that SWAC unanimously voted to recommend the eight percent net

profit margin as calculated by Merina & Company. Commissioner Tucker stated that, if the Board approved an eight percent rate of return, one of the sanitation service companies would have a decrease in their rate, based on the numbers, and he asked Mr. Sanderson if that had been discussed. Mr. Sanderson stated that that particular sanitation service company wanted to bow out and was not asking for an eight percent increase. A very extensive discussion followed.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve the three rates of return for Pacific Sanitation, Inc.; Republic Services Albany and Waste Connections, Inc. dba Sweet Home Sanitation to set the rates to achieve the 8.0 percent rate of return.

Commissioner Tucker stated that he left out Republic Services of Corvallis so the Board could discuss what to do when you have a franchise without any competition and the market was very different.

The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sprenger stated that there needed to be a motion to approve the Resolution & Orders.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Orders 2025-050, 051 and 053 indicating an eight percent rate of return.

Commissioner Sprenger read the verbiage from the Resolution & Orders which stated “percentage rate increase as set forth”. She stated that it may be semantics but the statement didn’t mention a rate of return. Commissioner Nyquist stated that, on a practical matter, he would like to know what that meant to consumers on each of the individual contracts; it’s not an eight percent increase.

Mr. Sanderson stated that for Pacific Sanitation it would be 5.18 percent increase; Republic Services of Albany the rate of return would be 2.87 percent increase; and, Waste Connections, Inc. of Oregon dba Sweet Home Sanitation would be a 1.52 percent increase. Commissioner Nyquist stated he was reluctant to approve the Republic Services of Albany rate of increase without addressing what the Board was going to do or not do with the Republic Services of Corvallis rate which would be a decrease. Commissioner Tucker stated that he intentionally did not include Republic Services of Corvallis in the motion as he wanted to discuss the decrease.

Commissioner Tucker asked the Board if they would want him to withdraw his motion. The Board agreed.

Action – Commissioner Tucker withdrew his motion to approve Resolution & Orders 2025-050, 051 and 053 indicating an eight percent rate of return.

The Board then heard from Gene Karandy, County Attorney for Linn County, as well as, Julie Jackson and Joe Wonderlick both sanitation service representatives.

Commissioner Nyquist stated that he believed there were three options the Board could take: 1) approve the rate increases back to the original motion and not direct a decrease for Republic Services of Corvallis (Linn County portion) because there was a lag in data and likely there's been a drift up during that period of time given what they've heard today; 2) approve everything including a decrease for Republic Services of Corvallis; or, 3) approve everything except the Republic Services of Corvallis and give them a chance to refresh their numbers to see if they're right based upon the market place today and then come back for possible action.

Commissioner Tucker stated that, if they allowed one district of the four to refresh their numbers, they should let all of them refresh their numbers which they could do before the June, 2025 recommendation. However, he believed the Board should not consider letting them refresh their numbers. Discussion continued.

Commissioner Sprenger stated that she could go either way but preferred to leave the Republic Services of Corvallis as it is and not decrease the rate. Commissioner Nyquist stated that what they're trying to do is not an exact science. He stated that he was concern about the integrity of the process and he was not comfortable giving an increase when the conclusion of numbers showed a decrease.

F. Resolution & Order 2025-050 approving rate increases for Pacific Sanitation, Inc.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2025-050 for Pacific Sanitation, Inc. for 5.18 percent increase. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Resolution & Order 2025-051 approving rate increases for Republic Services of Albany (4450).

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2025-051 for Republic Services of Albany for 2.87 percent increase. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

H. Resolution & Order 2025-052 approving rate increases for Republic Services of Corvallis (4452).

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2025-052 for Republic Services of Corvallis for a -1.43 percent decrease.

Commissioner Tucker stated that Republic Services of Corvallis did not ask for this decrease and felt an obligation to note that. He stated that -1.43 percent decrease would be pennies not dollars and, if the Board was going to have a discussion at that level of detail, they needed to take action as set forth.

The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

I. Resolution & Order 2025-053 approving rate increases for Waste Connections, Inc. of Oregon dba Sweet Home Sanitation.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2025-053 for Waste Connections, Inc. dba Sweet Home Sanitation for a 1.52 percent increase. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sanderson stated that later he would talk with each Commissioner individually about Bell & Associates and how to work on an inflationary increase in the future. Commissioner Nyquist stated that most of this activity came from inside the cities and he was not sure that the way they did it 20 years ago wasn't a better idea; he would want to have that conversation again. Commissioner Sprenger stated that, in the future, she would like to have more lead time and a one-on-one meeting so she could ask questions beforehand.

J. Resolution & Order 2025-054 approving an Amendment No. 2 to an Agreement between Intercommunity Health Plans dba Intercommunity Health Network CCO and Linn County and delegating authority to execute originals.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2025-054. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

K. Resolution & Order 2025-062 approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between Oregon Department of Human Services (Agreement No. 184657) and Linn County and delegating authority to execute originals.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2025-062. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Sheriff's Office – Michelle Duncan, Linn County Sheriff.

Andy Franklin, Captain Support Services, Linn County Sheriff's Office presented the following items on behalf of Sheriff Duncan.

A. Resolution & Order 2025-041 approving a Part-Time Temporary Employment Agreement for a Civil Clerk.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2025-041. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Resolution & Order 2025-043 approving a Temporary Employment Agreement for a Background Investigator.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2025-043. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Resolution & Order 2025-044 approving an Amendment to a Temporary Employment Agreement for a Background Investigator.

Action Taken Below.

D. Resolution & Order 2025-045 approving an Amendment to a Temporary Employment Agreement for a Background Investigator.

Action Taken Below.

E. Resolution & Order 2025-046 approving an Amendment to a Temporary Employment Agreement for a Background Investigator.

Action Taken Below.

F. Resolution & Order 2025-047 approving an Amendment to a Temporary Employment Agreement for a Background Investigator.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Orders 2025-044, 045, 046 and 047. 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. Resolution & Order 2025-065 approving a Services Contract for audit services between Linn County and Aldrich CPAs + Advisors, LLP.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2025-065. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Resolution 2025-070 appointing a member and designating a vacancy on the Linn County Linn Local Advisory Committee.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2025-070. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Resolution 2025-071 appointing a member to the Linn County Mental Health Advisory Board.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2025-071. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Resolution 2025-072 appointing a member to the Linn County Insurance Committee.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2025-072. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Resolution & Order 2025-076 amending a classification for Supervising Nurse changing the Pay Range from 20 to 22 (Management/Exempt-Pay Range 22).

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2025-076. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Unfinished Business and General Orders:

A. Calendar Update: Commissioner Tucker announced that both he and Commissioner Sprenger would be attending the Lebanon DSA Banquet on Friday, February 21, 2025.

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

14. Announcements: There was no announcements.

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. Adjournment. There being no other business to come before the Board; the Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m. by unanimous consent.


The next regular public meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 25, 2025.

 Recorder
For Board of Commissioners
Marsha Meyer

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Roger Nyquist, Chair


William C. Tucker, Vice-Chair


Sherrie Sprenger, Commissioner

Date 2-25-2025