



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LINN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – ROOM 200
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023**

The Linn County Board of Commissioners met for the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, December 5, 2023.

Those present at various times for the matters as indicated below were: Wayne Mink, Linn County Roadmaster; Sandy Timm, Administrative Assistant, Linn County Road Department; Stephanie Taylor, Right of Way Specialist 1, Linn County Road Department; Kevin Hamilton, Construction Road Maintenance Supervisor, Linn County Road Department; Steve Barnett, Geographic Information System Project Manager; Phil Van Leuven, Deputy County Attorney for Linn County; Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer, Bill and Barbara Stellmacher; Ron Edwards; Paul Harcombe; Art Waggle, Judy Waggle; Kevin and Marta DeCoster; 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 November 28, 2023 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve the November 28, 2023 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Reports of Staff and Committees: None

7. Parks and Recreation Department - Stacey Whaley, Linn County Parks and Recreation Director.

Commissioner Tucker presented the following item on behalf of Ms. Whaley.

A. Resolution & Order 2023-416 granting a utility easement to the Lyons-Mehama Water District.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution & Order 2023-416. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

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

9. Special Orders:

A. Personnel Action Forms.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to accept the Personnel Action Forms for Amber Lobato; Sarah Jones; Blake Wetzel; Mindi Case; Jennifer Beard; Rebecca Benham; Suzette Bowman; Serina Shrinerock; Adam Brenneman and Lynn Rogers. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Resolution 2023-409 reappointing members to the Ambulance Service Area Advisory Committee.

Action – Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2023-409. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Unfinished Business and General Orders:

A. Calendar Update: Commissioner Sprenger indicated that she would be attending the Linn County Wildfire Ready Night at the Sweet Home Fire Station on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 and Commissioner Tucker indicated he would be there as well representing the Red Cross.

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

12. Announcements: There will be an Elected Officials meeting from Noon to 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at the Linn County Fair/Expo Center in Conference Room 4.

13. Business from the Public (3-minute limit per speaker): Ron Edwards; 875 Lebanite Dr. Lebanon, OR 97355.

Mr. Edwards indicated that he attended the Lebanon Soil and Water Conservation meeting on Thursday, November 30, 2023. He discussed the impact that the contaminated water at Foster Reservoir has had on the community and asked the Board to retrieve the video from that meeting and review it.

Commissioner Nyquist recessed the regular Board meeting at 9:47 a.m.

Commissioner Nyquist reconvened the regular Board meeting at 10:00 a.m.

14. Public Hearing – An Application from Robert M. Clausen in regard to the Linn County Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code, Chapter 960 – Road Naming and Addressing Code; 960.200 for an application for a road name change – Wayne Mink, Linn County Roadmaster.

Commissioner Nyquist called upon Staff to provide background information on this matter.

Mr. Mink provided the Board with a copy of his Roadmaster Report. Which is on file in the Linn County Clerk's Office in the Commissioners' Staff File.

Mr. Mink indicated that this was a request for a road name change on Stellmacher Drive. He stated that the Linn County Road Department staff notified affected departments and agencies including Emergency Services. Emergency Services rejected one proposed alternative name due to the similarity with another road in the emergency response area. Mr. Mink indicated that the Linn County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) department staff observed and discussed the burden to agency personnel to re-label maps, re-address affected properties, notify emergency services location and all identification information, as well as, similar administrative obligations incurred by the proposed name change. Mr. Mink indicated that the Linn County Road Department staff mailed a letter to the property owners served by Stellmacher Drive and indicated that there were eight residential addresses on seven tax lots served by Stellmacher Drive. Mr. Mink stated that the letter notified these property owners of receipt of the application for the name change and solicited their comments; the purpose of this code provision was to determine general consensus in regard to the proposed name change. He indicated that the Linn County Road Department staff received four letters in response that indicated opposition to the proposal. Mr. Mink stated that the Linn County Road Department recommended against changing the name of Stellmacher Drive as the proposal imposed an administrative burden on Linn County departments and other agencies that wasn't supported by any perceived benefit to the general public.

Commissioner Sprenger asked when the last time a Linn County road name was changed and Mr. Mink indicated that, from the research he had done, it had been 24 years since the last road name change took place. Commissioner Nyquist indicated that

he had only seen one road name change in his 23 years and explained that it was for a new subdivision and there was general consensus. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Nyquist called upon the Applicant.

Robert Clausen, 30546 Stellmacher Drive SW Albany, OR 97321 – Applicant

Mr. Clausen indicated that Stellmacher Drive use to be 30th Ave and the name of the road was changed around the 1960's to Stellmacher Drive. He indicated that his family was given a choice to name the road but, at that time, his family didn't have a preference so it became Stellmacher Drive. He discussed that his family had lived on Stellmacher Drive for over 100 years and there wasn't anyone living on the road now with the Stellmacher last name. He expressed that he wanted to simplify the name of the road and change it to something that wasn't a family name. Mr. Clausen emphasized that if the road name were to change, it wouldn't erase the Stellmacher or Clausen history; he was the 4th generation to live on the property and the only significant history left on Stellmacher Drive was the 1922 farm house that he remodeled in 2017. Mr. Clausen indicated that the majority of the residents who had addresses on Stellmacher Drive were in support of this request; of the eight residents, five were in support of the proposal. Commissioner Sprenger asked if the five residents who signed the proposal, were in support or opposition of the request and Mr. Clausen expressed their support to the request.

Commissioner Tucker thanked Mr. Clausen and indicated that he was apprehensive to change road names without a reasonable reason to do so. Commissioner Nyquist indicated that he was surprised by this request and that, as of the early 2000's, the County made a policy change to no longer name roads after people. Commissioner Nyquist emphasized the importance of Emergency Services and that for the last fifty years the road had been known as Stellmacher Drive. Mr. Clausen asked if there could be a transition for the process and Commissioner Nyquist indicated that there was a huge risk to changing a road name with Emergency Services. Mr. Clausen indicated that this was a losing battle but he was only following the process and Commissioner Nyquist stated that Linn County should look at the process to change a road name because he didn't want to waste peoples time or money.

Barbara Stellmacher, 3496 Wintercreek Rd. SE Jefferson, OR 97352 - Opposed

Ms. Stellmacher indicated that Stellmacher Drive was a historical feature to Linn County.

Bill Stellmacher, 3496 Wintercreek Rd. SE Jefferson, OR 97352 - Opposed

Mr. Stellmacher indicated that changing the road name had a negative impact to the people who lived on Stellmacher Drive.

Paul Harcombe, 30680 Horseshoe Dr. SW Albany, OR 97321 - Opposed

Mr. Harcombe indicated that he missed the deadline to submit a comment and was present to state his opinion, for the record. He indicated that there was no serious reason for the change.

Commissioner Nyquist asked if there was anyone who wasn't signed in but wanted to speak. There was no one wishing to speak.

Darrin Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer, discussed that the Linn County Code indicated it was only necessary to change a road name to promote the health welfare and safety of the public.

Steve Barnett, Linn County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Manager, indicated that it could take up to two years to finalize an address change. Commissioner Tucker discussed the difficulty and time it took with modern technology to update maps. Commissioner Sprenger asked Mr. Barnett the workload involved to change a road name and Mr. Barnett stated he would have to create a new address notification for each address showing why and when the address was changed; about an hour for each address. He indicated that he would have to work with Emergency Services to update their look up system to flag them of the change. Tax records would need to be updated and the Linn County Clerk would have to change the voting records. Commissioner Nyquist asked how long it would take to update maps and Mr. Barnett indicated, it was something Linn County didn't have full control over; if the address was connected to the city, the change could happen quicker but in a rural location, such as this one, the change could take years.

Mr. Lane indicated that there were a lot of databases and applications that the Linn County Road department used that would require updating and, due to the type of software used, it would require a significant re-programing or starting new.

Commissioner Sprenger expressed that she used one thing as criteria to form her decision on the matter and that was to "promote the health welfare and safety of the public". Based on what she had seen, this request didn't meet the criteria.

Action – Commissioner Tucker accepted into the record nine documents dated Thursday, November 30, 2023 which was the Roadmasters Report; an application from Robert Clausen; a letter to the property owners; a letter from Gary Chandler; a letter from Margaret Down; a letter from Bill and Barbara Stellmacher; a letter from Barbara Campbell; a letter from Judy Waggle; Chronology of events and a notice of the public hearing. He also accepted into the record a comment from Paul Harcombe dated Tuesday, December 5, 2023. Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

Action - Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Sprenger seconded the motion to deny the application to change the road name.

Commissioner Tucker indicated that the request to change the road name didn't meet the criteria and he was concerned for the safety of the public. Commissioner Nyquist indicated that he didn't feel good about the application process to change the name of a road in Linn County and that there needed to be a safety concern in order to do so. He discussed evaluating the process and indicated that he would like to refund Mr. Clausen's \$355 application fee.

The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

15. Adjournment. There being no other business to come before the Board; the Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. by unanimous consent.

The next regular public meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 12, 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 12-19-2023