

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
FIFTH MEETING, 2021 SESSION (5)
JANUARY 19, 2021**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 8:30 A.M. in the Boardroom with Chairman Snyder presiding, and the following members present: Altena, Huseman, Merten, and Ringgenberg, and with Auditor Susan Lloyd as clerk for the meeting.

Unless otherwise indicated, all of the following **motions** offered at this meeting were carried with the following vote: Ayes: Altena, Huseman, Merten, Ringgenberg, and Snyder. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.

Secondary Road Report: They were out plowing snow on Saturday, had the trucks out on Sunday, and again on Monday for the slick roads; they have been working on the culvert inside; Engineer Bret Wilkinson presented a quote he had for a side-dump semi-trailer for \$49,200. The purchase of the trailer will be discussed at the next meeting.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Altena, to approve the **minutes** of 1/12/21 as printed, and the following **reports:** December Conservation Board minutes, and December BV County Landfill Commission minutes. Carried.

Motion by Huseman, second by Ringgenberg, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **Jt. DD #22** beaver bounty claim payable to Darren Stearns, in the amount of \$550.00. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Altena, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **Jt. DD #14-42** tree and brush control claim for B & W Control Specialists, in the amount of \$5,015.99. Carried.

Motion by Merten, second by Huseman, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **Jt. DD #22** tree and brush control claim for B & W Control Specialists, in the amount of \$4,769.50. Carried.

Heidi Kuhl, Northland Securities, was present electronically regarding a new **capital projects loan**, and to discuss proceeding with borrowing funds for the Linn Grove Dam project. Also present for the discussion was Engineer Bret Wilkinson, Sheriff Kory Elston, and Conservation/Weed Commissioner Greg Johnson. Kuhl mentioned that the current capital projects loan will be paid off in 2024, and the LEC capital project will be paid off in 2026. Johnson presented information about the Linn Grove Dam to Kuhl, stating that they will have engineering and design costs accumulating, and would like to have funds to pay those, but Johnson wasn't sure when the actual construction would begin. Kuhl reminded the Board that whatever funds that are borrowed, must be spent in three years, so suggested that the Board consider borrowing one million dollars now, and then when actual costs are known, then consider borrowing more money. Johnson stated that if alternative procedures are approved, they would receive funds from FEMA immediately, less the 15% local share. Johnson won't know until summer, whether the alternative procedures will be approved. The Board discussed borrowing an additional \$200,000 for Sheriff vehicles, and considered borrowing for equipment for Secondary Roads equal to the amount that would normally be transferred from the General Basic Fund to Secondary Roads, which would be approximately an additional \$200,000. The consensus of the Board was to have Kuhl try and work with a local bank first for the million-dollar loan for the Linn

Grove Dam, and if that doesn't work, then try and go to the bond market. The consensus of the Board was also to start the borrowing process for \$200,000 for the Sheriff for vehicles.

Sheriff Kory Elston and Deputy Marty DeMuth informed the Board that they would like to start their **K-9 unit** back up. The Sheriff's Office last K-9 was retired nearly 20 years ago. The K-9 they are looking into obtaining would focus on narcotics and tracking. Elston stated that tracking would be a huge benefit and make locating lost children or people with cognitive issues an easier task. Elston stated that he has received a very generous donation for the K-9 unit, and would like to do fundraising for the K-9 Program. Elston would like to have \$20,000 by the end of 2022 in order to start the program. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Altena, to approve the request of Sheriff Elston to proceed with fundraising for the **K-9 unit**. Carried.

Marathon Public Works Director Terry Gunnerson and Poland Township Trustee Joel Nagel, presented their **funding request** for FY'22 of \$3,500.00. They have a township park that has a few campsites, and they would like funds to install a new well to supply water to the campsites. They are also going to apply for a Community Foundation Grant and also request the City of Marathon to contribute. Gunnerson and Nagel thanked the Board for the gravel that was donated to them for their park last year.

CEO Shari Kastein, **Family Crisis Centers**, presented their FY'22 funding request of \$5,000. Kastein stated that the pandemic has been hard, and there has been a lot of domestic violence, due to people being confined at home. In Buena Vista County, they saw 75 domestic violence victims, 42 clients of violent crimes, 12 clients for their homeless prevention housing program, and United Community Health Center served 56 victims inside their clinic. There were also 108 crisis line calls. County funding continues to be crucial in sustaining these vital services for victims of abuse and crime in BV County. The rising number of people in need, requires more staff time, funding and resources.

Hear the Public: Kolby DeWitt, Regional Director for Senator Joni Ernst, and Bob Henderson, Interim Regional Director for Senator Charles Grassley, stopped in and introduced themselves to the Board. They asked the Board to contact them anytime, if they had questions for either Senator. The Board thanked them for stopping in.

Supervisor Meeting Reports: Snyder attended the NW IA YES Center meeting last week, and also the Conservation Board meeting; Huseman attended the NW IA Regional Housing Trust meeting last week; Merten attended the North Raccoon River Watershed meeting last week and also the Rolling Hills Mental Health Region meeting.

There being no further business, motion by Merten, second by Snyder, to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m. until Tuesday, January 26 at 8:30 a.m. for a special session.