

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
EIGHTH MEETING, 2021 SESSION (8)  
FEBRUARY 9, 2021**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in special session on Tuesday, February 9, 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:** The crew has been busy pushing back the snow along the roads; the shop is busy fixing equipment; they are working on building the aluminum culvert in the shop, when there is time.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson informed the Board of the used **semi-tractors** that he checked out. Wilkinson stated that he had issues with the wheel base on the used ones. Wilkinson stated that the estimated cost of a new model is \$136,000, with a 7-year warranty. There is no warranty on a used one. Wilkinson stated that he is looking for the best option, to maximize the amount of gravel they could bring back from Gilmore City. The consensus of the Board was to have Engineer Wilkinson keep looking for used tractors, 2017-2018 models, in order to get a price break. Wilkinson stated that anything newer than 2018, you might as well buy a new model.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson asked the Board for their thoughts of having Secondary Roads go to four **10-hour days** for the summer, from the week after Memorial Day through the week before Labor Day. The hours would be 6:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Wilkinson would like to try it for one summer, and see how it goes. Snyder asked about the office staff, whether there would be someone in the office Monday-Friday. Wilkinson stated that the office staff would have the same hours as the road guys, four 10-hour days. Merten is concerned that if something comes up on Thursday afternoon or Friday, then it would have to wait until Monday to be addressed. Altena suggested having some work Monday-Thursday, and the rest work Tuesday-Friday. Wilkinson stated that staggering the shifts wouldn't work, because too many of them work together on projects. The consensus of the Board was to have Wilkinson re-poll the crew, and if they were in favor, then maybe try the change in hours this summer.

Public Health Administrator Julie Sather stopped in to update the Board on the **COVID vaccine**. Sather stated that the COVID numbers are down. Sather stated that Iowa is the lowest state in the nation for vaccine distribution. Sather stated that BV County is receiving 300 prime vaccines per week, with 50% going to 65 years of age and older, and the remaining 50% going to those in the tiers, along with guaranteed booster for those receiving the prime shots four weeks ago.

Huseman stepped out of the meeting at 9:23 a.m.

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

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Merten, to approve the **minutes** of 2/2/21 as printed, and the following **reports:** January Veterans Commission minutes, January Sheriff's Report of Fees Collected, and January Sheriff's Report of Federal Inmate Billings. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Altena, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **Bond Counsel Engagement Agreement** with Ahlers & Cooney, P.C., on the proposed issuance of approximately \$1,200,000 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes, Series 2021. Carried.

Huseman returned to the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

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.

Tyler Van Houten, spokesperson for the Insurance Committee, stated that the committee met, and are recommending increasing the deductible to \$7,000, going to \$40/\$80 split for co-pay, paying 100% of the employee share of insurance, and leaving the percentage that the County pays for the other three tiers of insurance at 70%. Others present for the discussion were Rob Danielson, Mark Van Hooser, Yvonne Sandhoff, Jason Butler, Dan Bailey, Luke Warkentin, Bret Wilkinson, Matt Brostad (virtual), and Angie Wilkinson (virtual). Merten commented that the only thing affecting the employees is the co-pay, raising from \$35 to \$40, with an \$80 co-pay for a specialist. Danielson stated that he appreciated being able to work with the Board, and having some say in what happens. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Altena, to increase the **health insurance deductible**, on the Wellmark side, from \$6,500 to \$7,000, change the **co-pay** to a \$40/\$80 split, continue to pay 100% of a single plan, and to continue the **county share of the other 3 tiers** at 70%. Carried.

Payroll Clerk Yvonne Sandhoff presented the information on the rates for the various other insurances: health, dental, vision, AD & D, and group term life. The current **vision** plan did not change, still \$11.88 for the single Silver Plan. The **Principal Dental** rates won't be available until 45 days prior to the plan start date, however a 4% increase was used for budgeting. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Huseman, to continue the current vision insurance, paying \$11.88 for the single Silver Plan, and to continue the \$20,000 **AD & D policy** for each employee along with a \$20,000 **group term life policy** with Principal, for FY'22. Carried.

Chairman Snyder stated that Secondary Road requested adding an **additional float day** (8 hours). No action was taken on this request, as it was not on the agenda. This will be added to next week's agenda.

The time arrived for the discussion on **salaries**. The Compensation Board had recommended a 2.5% increase in wages for the Attorney, Auditor, Recorder, Supervisor, and Treasurer, with a 4% increase for the Sheriff, and reaffirmed the longevity schedule for all elected officials, and also recommended an additional \$1,500 stipend for the Auditor, as Board Secretary, and an additional \$1,500 stipend for the Board Chairman. Auditor Lloyd presented projected ending fund balances for 6/30/2022. The General Fund has a good balance, but the Rural Basic Fund balance is very low. The Board discussed moving some of the Sheriff Deputies wages and benefits from the Rural Basic Fund back to the General Basic Fund. Motion by Merten, second by Altena, to accept the Compensation Board salary recommendations, setting the **FY'22 salary** increase for Attorney, Auditor, Recorder, Supervisors, Treasurer, at 2.5%, and 4% increase for the Sheriff, and including an additional \$1,500 stipend for the Auditor, as Board Secretary, and an additional \$1,500 stipend for the Board Chair, and reaffirmed the longevity schedule for all elected officials. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Huseman, to approve a 2.5% **wage increase** for FY'22, for the non-elected officials and their employees. Carried.

Motion by Merten, second by Ringgenberg, to approve a 2.5% **wage increase** for FY'22, for all Secondary Road employees, except the County Engineer, based on their current base rate, to encourage people to move up. Carried.

Merten commented that there are other departments that the Board of Supervisors can't control what they give for wage increases, as they have their own separate boards. **Conservation Board and Board of Health** both granted 4% increases, which sets a bad example for those employees that don't have a separate governing board. Snyder agreed with Merten, stating that this Board has no control over the other County Boards.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Merten, to set a public hearing for the **FY'22 Proposed Property Tax Levy** for March 2, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the boardroom of the Courthouse, and to set the General Basic levy at 3.5, General Supplemental levy at 2.3, and the Rural Basic levy at 3.95, and to publish the notice in the official papers. Carried.

The time arrived to begin **interviews** of the candidates for the County Treasurer position. The first candidate to interview was Danelle Haberman. Haberman requested that the Board go into closed session. Motion by Huseman, second by Ringgenberg, to go into closed session (at 11:05 a.m.) under Chapter 21.5(1)(i) of the 2021 Code of Iowa, to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Ayes: Altena, Huseman, Merten, Ringgenberg, Snyder. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Altena, second by Merten, to go out of **closed session** at 11:35 a.m. Carried.

The next candidate to **interview** was Sonia Banuelos. Banuelos requested that the Board go into closed session. Motion by Merten, second by Huseman, to go into closed session (at 11:35 a.m.) under Chapter 21.5(1)(i) of the 2021 Code of Iowa, to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Ayes: Altena, Huseman, Merten, Ringgenberg, Snyder. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Merten, second by Ringgenberg, to go out of **closed session** at 11:50 a.m. Carried.

The Board recessed at Noon for lunch, and resumed at 1:00 p.m. for more interviews for the County Treasurer position.

The next candidate to **interview** was Curtis Reis. Reis requested that the Board go into closed session. Motion by Merten, second by Altena, to go into closed session (at 1:05 p.m.) under Chapter 21.5(1)(i) of the 2021 Code of Iowa, to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Ayes: Altena, Huseman, Merten, Ringgenberg, Snyder. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Huseman, second by Ringgenberg, to go out of **closed session** at 1:25 p.m. Carried.

The next candidate to **interview** was Melinda Cords. Cords requested that the Board go into closed session. Motion by Merten, second by Ringgenberg, to go into closed session (at 1:34 p.m.) under Chapter 21.5(1)(i) of the 2021 Code of Iowa, to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Ayes: Altena, Huseman, Merten, Ringgenberg, Snyder. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Merten, second by Altena, to go out of **closed session** at 1:51 p.m. Carried.

The next candidate to **interview** was Megan Peterson. Peterson did not request a closed session, so the Board proceeded to ask her the questions that all of the candidates were given. Peterson has experience working in government and working with the public.

The next candidate to **interview** was Jessica Johnson. Johnson requested that the Board go into closed session. Motion by Merten, second by Ringgenberg, to go into closed session (at 2:45 p.m.) under Chapter 21.5(1)(i) of the 2021 Code of Iowa, to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Ayes: Altena, Huseman, Merten, Ringgenberg, Snyder. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Huseman, to go out of **closed session** at 3:11 p.m. Carried.

Merten commented that he was impressed with all of the candidates.

There being no further business, motion by Huseman, second by Ringgenberg, to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 p.m. until Tuesday, February 16 at 8:30 a.m. for a regular session.

