

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
NINTH MEETING, 2021 SESSION (9)  
FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, February 16, 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.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson informed the Board that he polled the Secondary Road employees as to whether they would like going to four 10-hour days, and there were 17 that said yes and 10 said no. Wilkinson stated that there was a lot of discussion about it, everyone has an opinion as to how they need to change other things in their life to make this work. Wilkinson suggested that the Board allow him to try this for this summer, and see how it goes, and then poll the employees again later to see what they thought. By then, they will know how the public responds to the change. The proposed hours would be Monday-Thursday 6:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., and would run from June 7 – September 2. Ringgenberg stated that she doesn't want the public to think that we are not available to them. Huseman recommended trying it this summer. Motion by Huseman, second by Altena, to accept the proposed **four 10-hour work days** for the whole Secondary Road Department, beginning June 7 and running through September 2, with hours 6:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday, with the week of July 5 working Tuesday-Friday and 8-hour days. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson presented plans and bid documents for bridge abutment repairs for Bridge #111 and Bridge #182, to extend their life. The bridges are located in Elk Township Sections 20/29 and Grant Township Section 15. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Altena, to approve the plans and bid documents for bridge abutment repairs for **Bridge #111** and **Bridge #182**. Carried.

**Secondary Road Report:** The DOT came out with a memo on where counties are at for funding. The Federal Government gave states COVID Relief money, which comes to the DOT and then they will use the Road Use Tax formula to give funds to the counties. Buena Vista County could possibly receive \$278,000 in Secondary Road Funds and \$90,000 in Farm-to-Market Funds. The trucks were out on Sunday plowing. They are trying not to have equipment out when it is so cold, because then you have more breakdowns.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson stated that **Linn Grove bridge** was selected for the city bridge funds. The cost estimate of the bridge is \$3,000,000, with the remaining cost to BV County estimated at \$566,000.

Cara Elbert, NW IA Planning, was present virtually for her appointment. Elbert discussed the North Raccoon River Watershed projects, and the request for the County to purchase the White Family Trust land, along with buying out the CRP contract, all of which would be reimbursed through the grant funds. Merten commented that normally the CRP buyout is done by the seller, and not the purchaser. Elbert stated that it would be reimbursed by the grant. Elbert stated that she was seeking approval from the Board, to purchase the White Family Trust

land and the CRP buyout, and then she would forward the paperwork on to the County Attorney. Conservation Director Greg Johnson was also present for the discussion, and said that he has a concern with the owner to the south, as there isn't a written easement to get to his 12-acre farm ground. Johnson stated that there should be a written easement before this purchase. Elbert stated that it is approximately \$160,000 for the property purchase and the CRP buyout. Johnson informed the Board that the Conservation Board recommends the purchase of the White Family Trust land, and stated that Conservation would maintain the land. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Altena, to approve moving forward with the option to purchase the **White Family Trust land**, pending the easement with the landowner to the south, and the CRP buyout. Carried.

Cara Elbert, NW IA Planning, informed the Board of another request for a Career Links transportation sponsor for a CDBG grant, with RIDES and Rembrandt Enterprises. The applicant would be Buena Vista County, acting as fiscal agent, paying for the invoices and submitting for reimbursement. Elbert stated that it would be a 2-year grant, and would be approximately \$100,000. Merten stated that he would like to table this decision for a week, for more discussion. Elbert stated that this is the first step, the initial okay, so they can apply for the grant. Merten asked if would be transporting only BV County residents or if they would be going in to Clay County also. Elbert stated that it would be only BV County residents. Snyder stated that it is a good idea. Merten stated that normally for other agencies that the County is fiscal agent for, the County receives a fee for doing the work. Cara stated that the need has been identified, Rembrandt Enterprises contacted RIDES. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Huseman, to go forward with applying for a **CDBG Career Links Transportation Grant** application for RIDES and Rembrandt Enterprises. Carried.

Env Health/Zoning Director Kim Johnson informed the Board that the **flood plain** deadline for protests is February 20. Johnson stated that she has received two protests so far, and they are not in the flood plain, they are 30' from the high-water mark of the lake.

Public Health Administrator Julie Sather updated the Board on the **COVID vaccine**. Sather stated that it was very busy last week with the vaccine, with 526 new vaccinations. A retail provider started last week. Sather stated that there will be a vaccine clinic on Thursday, for individuals 65+ years old, that don't have a local provider. Sather stated that they will be vaccinating the schools this week, Alta, Storm Lake, and Sioux Central. Sather estimates that it will be six months before getting those individuals 65+ and all of the tiers vaccinated.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson was back for the discussion about the request from his department for an additional float day, and an increase to the longevity pay. Secondary Road employees Dan Bailey and Luke Warkentin were present for the discussion. Bailey stated that they made the request last year, and then COVID hit, so nothing happened. Snyder stated that he had a discussion with the department heads, and they were not in favor of adding an additional float day, but they were in favor of an increase to the longevity pay. Conservation Director Greg Johnson stated that he was in favor of the increase in longevity, and was neutral on the float day. Snyder stated that for the Sheriff's Department, they forget about the float days, until they have to get them used in December, which creates a scheduling problem. The Sheriff's Department also gets comp-time to use. Bailey stated that Secondary Road doesn't get comp-time, so it punishes them by not having more time to use. Merten commented that he appreciated the input of Secondary Road, they did their homework, and stated that he would focus more on the additional float day, over additional longevity. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Huseman, to increase the county **longevity** steps by \$10/step (to 5 yr-\$30/mo, 10 yr-\$40/mo, 15 yr-\$50/mo, 20 yr-\$60/mo, 25 yr-\$70/mo, 30 yr-\$80/mo, 35 yr-\$90/mo, 40 yr-\$100/mo),

effective July 1, 2021. Merten asked if there could be a compromise for \$5 per month instead of \$10/month. Ayes: Altena, Huseman, Ringgenberg, Snyder. Nays: Merten. Motion carried. Motion by Merten, second by Ringgenberg, to approve an additional 8-hours of **float day**, for all county employees, effective immediately. Snyder suggested waiting until they see how the four 10-hour days go for Secondary Roads this summer. Ayes: Altena, Merten, Ringgenberg. Nays: Huseman, Snyder. Motion carried.

Motion by Altena, second by Huseman, to approve the **minutes** of 2/9/21 as printed, today's **claims approval list**, **stamped drainage warrant register**, and the following **reports**: January BV County Landfill Commission minutes, and February Manager's Report for Solid Waste Commission. Carried.

There being no further business, motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m. until Tuesday, February 23 at 8:30 a.m. for a special session.