

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING, 2022 SESSION (35)
AUGUST 11, 2022**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in special session on Thursday, August 11, 2022, at 8:30 A.M. in the Boardroom with Chairman Merten presiding, and the following members present: Altena, Huseman, Ringgenberg, and Snyder and with Auditor Susan Lloyd as clerk for the meeting.

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

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Snyder, to approve **today's agenda**. Carried.

Motion by Huseman, second by Ringgenberg, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **utility permit** for Interstate Power and Light Co. (Alliant Energy), Spirit Lake, IA, for the accommodation of a field built structure for the transmission of electric metering purposes, along 490th St. in Section 10 Elk Township, from 50th Ave. (M31) center line at the intersection to 60' west on the south side ditch of 490th St. Carried.

Motion by Altena, second by Snyder, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **utility permit** for MidAmerican Energy Company, Fort Dodge, IA, to install underground three-phase to power a concrete plant for the transmission of three-phase, underground, distribution power, under 70th Ave. at 6027 70th Ave., to service a portable ready-mix plant. Carried.

Secondary Road Report: They have been replacing pipe on 70th Ave. by the Platinum Crush site, finishing #7, with two more to do on 70th Ave. and one more on 600th St.; the mowers have been going on the gravel roads and the hard surface roads; and crews are working on driveways. Wilkinson stated that dust control will be done later today on 70th Ave.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson informed the Board that he, Supervisor Huseman, and Supervisor Snyder attended the IDOT Transportation meeting last Tuesday. Wilkinson stated that BV County was awarded the **RISE Grant**, however DOT trimmed the project down to 1.5 miles of County roadway, the improvements to the Hwy 7/70th Ave. intersection, and the railroad crossing on 70th Ave. Wilkinson stated that the project estimate is \$6,565,982, and the RISE Grant was approved for up to 50% of the actual costs for these improvements. Huseman commended Wilkinson for his work on the RISE Grant application. Wilkinson stated that he is working on a revolving loan for the railroad crossing, along with safety funds. Merten thanked them all for attending the DOT meeting. Wilkinson stated that the county can start incurring costs now that they have been approved for the funding.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson provided a copy of the proposed engine brake ordinance that County Attorney Paul Allen developed. Wilkinson stated that the maximum civil penalty cannot exceed \$750, and the Board will have to decide on the amount that they want listed in the ordinance. Wilkinson stated that this would not be a county-wide ordinance, it would only apply to State Highway 7 between 60th Avenue and 80th Avenue, and Villa Road/70th Avenue between State Highway 7 and County Road 580th Street (C49). Merten asked who received the funds from a civil penalty, and Snyder stated that since it would be a county ordinance then the fees collected would go to the county. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Altena, to set the civil penalty on the proposed engine brake ordinance at \$250, and to set the public hearing on the 1st Reading of **Chapter 4.5 Ordinance** Prohibiting the Unlawful Use of Engine and Compression Brakes, for Tuesday, August 23, at 9:00 a.m. in the Boardroom of the Courthouse. Carried.

Conservation Director/Weed Commissioner Greg Johnson presented his **department update**. Weed Department: They have been spraying since June, covering 1,024 miles, a 52% completion. Johnson stated that they will be done in mid-September with noxious weeds. Johnson has submitted a bill to the State for their contract spraying. There were three weed complaints received this year. Conservation: The Timber Ridge sewer project is completed, and they are adding three additional campsites, giving them 23 campsites. Johnson stated that the public response has been good, they have been busy on the weekends. Johnson stated that they will be looking at raising their rates, beginning January, 2023. The Bur Oak water project is to be completed next week. Johnson stated that Bur Oak has 12 campsites. Johnson stated that they are doing general maintenance and spraying the parks. Johnson updated the Board on the Linn Grove FEMA project. As for the Marina project, Johnson stated that there has not been much going on for conversation with the DNR. Johnson stated that the Conservation Board still wants to go forward with the Marina project and is applying for grants. Johnson also informed the Board that they have a vacancy on the Conservation Board, due to the passing of Mark Kirkholm.

Treasurer Danelle Haberman presented a corrected Semi-annual Settlement Report for 6/30/2022. Haberman stated that the Semi-annual report published in the papers is correct. Haberman stated that some numbers were listed in the wrong column, which has been fixed. Auditor Lloyd stated that the previous report did not include credit card payment and web payments as outstanding deposits. Auditor Lloyd also reminded the Board, that they are to also count the "start-up" cash that is in the department, and may have to begin their count sooner, prior to business transactions starting for the day. Motion by Snyder, second by Huseman, to approve and authorize the Chair and Auditor to sign the corrected **Semi-annual Settlement Report** for 6/30/2022. Carried.

Motion by Huseman, second by Altena, to approve the **minutes** of 8/2/22, as presented, and the following **reports**: July VA Commission meeting minutes, July Sheriff's Report of Federal Inmate Billings, and July Sheriff's Report of Fees Collected. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to appoint Kaylynn Smit as a **Medical Examiner Investigator (MEI)**, replacing Mark Kirkholm, who passed away. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to authorize the Auditor to **void and reissue check** #315296 for \$46.87, dated 4/26/2022 to Thomas Huseman. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Huseman, to authorize the Auditor to **void and reissue check** #315945 dated 6/21/2022 for \$8.18, and check #922289 dated 6/24/2022 for \$210.00, both to Stephanie Struthers. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Snyder, to authorize the Auditor to **void and reissue check** #314859 for \$11.28, dated 3/29/2022 to Robert Skog. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Huseman, to authorize the Auditor to **void and reissue check** #315405 for \$883.06, dated 5/10/2022 to Gerald Weiland. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Altena, to appoint I.T. Director Tyler Van Houten to the **County Facilities Committee**. Carried.

Merten informed the Board that the Facilities Committee had met and discussed the Color-ize building, and the request of the Auditor to move the Auditor/Elections Department out of the Courthouse, to a new location, for additional space needs and also providing space for election machines, equipment, cages, and supplies needed for the precincts on Election Day, and providing a safer way to load and unload

the cages of precinct equipment and supplies. Merten stated that the brick building across from Color-ize was sold to Exact Eye Care, and that the former Siefer Consultant building had been sold for over \$500,000. Merten stated that the realtor had contacted him about the old Meta Bank building, which is still for sale. Merten commented that Clay and Dickinson Counties have turned their courthouses over to the State for court services, and both have administration buildings. Merten commented that the Meta Bank would take a lot of additional funds to remodel if it were to be used as a county administration building. Another option discussed was the possibility of building a building on the north side of the courthouse, but that will take a while to be developed and built. If the Auditor's Office and Election department were to move to another building, it would free up office space in the courthouse for other offices to expand. Bldg/Grounds Supt. Joe Keller commented that with the Public Health remodeling, there will be three offices there available for either moving Environmental Health there or keeping the Veterans Office in the building. Huseman and Ringgenberg stated that they have issues with removing the Auditor from the Courthouse. Kathy Croker asked the Board if there had been an official study done on the space needs of the courthouse, to which the Board stated that there has not been a study done, this purchase option came up suddenly. Sherie Elbert stated that if the Drivers License Department were to move across the hall, if the Auditor's Office relocated, the State would have to be involved, as they have to approve, and they do the wiring. Kathy Croker informed the Board that they could ask for an exclusion on the sale of the Color-ize building. Merten stated that the Board needs to decide today whether to purchase the Color-ize building, to make an offer, or state they are not interested in purchasing. Election Deputy Karla Ahrendsen stated that if the Board did not want the whole Auditor's Office to move out of the Courthouse, then it would be better to build a building on the Courthouse grounds, so that the election equipment would be closer to the Courthouse and the Auditor's Office. Auditor Lloyd stated that if only the election equipment were moved and the Auditor's Office remained in the Courthouse, then absentee voting and Election Day voting would have to remain in the Courthouse. Bldg/Grounds Supt. Joe Keller stated that Color-ize is a good building and would like to see the election equipment and supplies moved into the west half, with the Veterans Affairs Office relocated to the east half of the building. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Huseman to not make an offer on the **Color-ize building**, to think about other long-term plans for voting and an administration building. Ayes: Huseman, Ringgenberg. Nays: Altena, Snyder, Merten. Motion failed. Motion by Snyder, second by Altena, to make an offer of \$290,000 for the **Color-ize building**, including the existing furniture. Ayes: Altena, Snyder, Merten. Nays: Huseman, Ringgenberg. Carried.

There being no further business, motion by Ringgenberg, second by Altena, to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 a.m. until Tuesday, August 16 at 8:30 a.m. for a regular meeting.