

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
FORTY-FIFTH MEETING, 2022 SESSION (45)
OCTOBER 18, 2022**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in special session on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at 8:30 A.M. in the Boardroom with Chairman Merten 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 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 Altena, second by Ringgenberg, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **gravel/stockpile lease** with the City of Newell beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2025 in the amount of \$100 annually. Carried.

Secondary Road Report: The contractor, Godbersen Construction, will be closing the Linn Grove River Bridge in the next few weeks, to begin the bridge replacement project in November, hoping to have it open by the end of June, 2023. They have had their closing out phone call with FEMA on the project. FEMA will pay 90% with the State picking up the remaining 10%; they are hauling sand to Sioux Rapids from Whitney Pit; there are trees to come down; the crews are still working on some driveways and cross-pipes; the west half of the county should be done for the mowing, and they are working towards the east; Bluebird Creek will be let in November with the DOT. Engineer Wilkinson stated that they have restricted the number of days the Bluebird Creek bridge will be closed. Wilkinson stated that after two winters, when it is done settling, then they will pave M36 from C16 to the county line. Wilkinson stated that it is a 6–8-month project.

Chairman Merten asked Engineer Wilkinson about the **bridge on 650th St.**, regarding the change in weight limit, causing a ten-mile detour for farmers. Engineer Bret Wilkinson stated that this particular bridge is not in the 5-year plan. Wilkinson stated that there are currently 9 bridges with the same issue, and also not on the 5-year plan. Wilkinson stated that if he moved all 9 bridges up to be replaced at this time, it would be in the range of \$1.8M-\$2M. Wilkinson stated that these bridges are not Farm-to-Market roads, so those funds are not available, but bridge funding could be used and program it in next year's budget.

Env Health/Zoning Director Kim Johnson informed the Board that she has two **applicants** for her position, which will be interviewed Thursday night by Supervisor Ringgenberg, Supervisor Huseman, and Board of Health member Julie Sievers. Johnson informed the Board that they need to decide on the wage to be offered.

Env Health/Zoning Director Kim Johnson informed the Board that her and the realtor went through the house adjacent to Color-ize, and there are areas of possible **asbestos**.

Sheriff Deputy Joey Speers and Jailer Aly Sievers presented an estimate for jail pod shower floor repair. Speers stated that he has asked another company to submit an estimate, so they have an option, and asked the Board if they would consider authorizing to move forward with the repair, going with the lowest estimate they receive. The consensus of the Board was to approve and allow the Sheriff's Department/Jail to move forward with the repair of the **jail pod shower floor** with the company that submits the lowest estimate.

Motion by Huseman, second by Ringgenberg, to approve the minutes of 10/11/22, as printed, and the following reports: September Conservation Board minutes and September Landfill Commission minutes. Carried.

Hear the Public: Sid Peterson, Rembrandt, stopped in to request resurfacing of C25 (west of M36 for 3 miles), C43 (from M54 to M50 for 5.5 miles), and C16 (from M36 to M27 for 6 miles) stating that full replacements are needed. Engineer Wilkinson stated that C43 is in the 5-year plan. Dennis Graesing stated that he worked for two county engineers and has 40 years of experience working for Secondary Road, and stated that in previous years, county road employees would go out and patch the roads and get it done. Steven Jessen stated that he had the same issues that Sid Peterson discussed, and also wanted to discuss the property purchases that the county has made, which comes off of the tax rolls, and suggested that maybe the county should use current facilities and make them better rather than purchasing new. Chairman Merten stated that the county has a facilities committee that looks at the needs of the departments and recommends to the Board what they feel is best for each situation. Merten stated that the Board takes this very seriously, and he understands the concerns of Jessen. Jessen commented that taxes went up 39%, some due to wasteful spending. Jessen commented to the Board that regarding the exchange of property in Sioux Rapids, he appreciated how they voted. Dennis Graesing informed the Board that he is interested in continuing the lease on the building in Linn Grove that the County owns. Graesing stated that he has asked the previous Engineer Jon Ites to sell it to him, but Ites did not want to give up the building at that point. Graesing stated that the lease is for a building with 1,200 sq. feet, and the Truesdale shop that the Engineer would like to dispose of has 5,100 sq. feet. Graesing stated that he looked at the building in Truesdale, and says it has solid rafters but needs a new roof and is being used by the parks department. Graesing stated that the county paid \$350,000 for the latest Alta building purchase, which has no heat and no insulation. Graesing stated that Engineer Wilkinson sold the Hudson St. Shop for \$350,000 to Tyson, which has heat and insulation, stating that the county should have kept Hudson St. Shop. Graesing would like to purchase the Linn Grove building that he has been leasing, only wanting a quit claim deed, and stated that he would sell it back to the county when he is done using it, for the same amount as what he would pay the county. Graesing also informed the Board that he spoke with two members of the Conservation Board and was told they did not make a recommendation as to the appointment of a board member, for their vacancy, so Graesing feels like he is being singled out. Merten stated to Graesing that he is not being singled out. Merten informed Graesing that the Board would keep the lease under advisement and asked if Graesing was willing to have the lease for another 3 years, to which Graesing said yes he was interested.

There being no further business, motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 a.m. until Tuesday, October 25 at 8:30 a.m. for a regular meeting. Carried.