

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TWENTIETH MEETING, 2023 SESSION (20)
MAY 2, 2023**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in special session on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 8:30 A.M. in the Boardroom with Chairman Snyder presiding, and the following other members present: Croker, Altena, Merten, Ringgenberg, and with Auditor Susan Lloyd as clerk for the meeting. Absent: None.

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

Motion by Croker, seconded by Ringgenberg, to approve today's **agenda**. Carried.

Env Health/Zoning Director Ben Mueggenberg was present for the 1st reading of Ordinance 6.1A-28 requesting a change in the Zoning District Map in Section 30-91-37 from A-1 to R-1. Motion by Merten, second by Croker, to approve the 1st Reading of **ORDINANCE 6.1A-28 Amendment to Zoning District Maps in Section 30-91-37** and set the 2nd reading for Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors Room of the Courthouse. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Merten, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **utility permit** for Cherokee Rural Water, Cherokee, IA, to bore under 20th Ave. between Sections 7 and 8, Maple Valley Township for the accommodation of a water pipeline to service 184 610th St. Carried.

Motion by Merten, second by Croker, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **utility permit** for Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, Estherville, IA, for accommodation of underground primary cables and equipment for the transmission of electricity, along 140th Ave., 150th Ave., and 640th St. in Sections 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, and 29 Providence Township. Carried.

Motion by Merten, second by Altena, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **utility permit** for Evertex, Inc., Everly, IA, for the accommodation of fiber optic communications cable for the transmission of high speed internet service to subscribers, along Sections 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17 & 18 in Lee Township from Sioux Rapids City Limit on CH 13, Sioux Rapids City Limit on Blake St., and Sioux Rapids City Limit on Birch St., to 160th Ave. (via 140th Ave. & 440th St.), to 1104 Blake St., and to 915 Birch St. Carried.

Motion by Merten, second by Ringgenberg, to agree with Engineer Wilkinson's recommendation to appoint Dan Bailey to **Maintenance Superintendent**, effective on the last physical day of work of Bruce McGowan, at the rate of \$39.95/hour, which is \$2.00 under the current Maintenance Superintendent's salary, and eligible for .50/hour increases every 6 months for two years. Carried.

Secondary Report: The crews have been edge rutting, using both the disc and the shoulder machine; the summer crew has started, so there are 9 blading the gravel roads and spot graveling; the Linn Grove Bridge continues with the setting of the first 5 beams, with the second 5 beams set today and the third set of 5 beams to be set tomorrow; the contractor is working on the box culvert at Bluebird Bridge.

The time arrived for the continuation of the proposed disposition of the former Colorize Building. Merten commented that the public hearing was held two weeks ago, and now the Board needs to decide whether to keep or sell the building, and then move forward. Croker suggested maybe shortening the number of days for sealed bids to come in, from 60 days to 30 days, and then the Board can either accept a bid or decide at that point not to sell the building. County Attorney Paul Allen stated that a new resolution would be required to do what Croker is proposing. Allen stated that the Board can either take action on the public hearing that was held on April 18, or if no action is taken, then the Board is keeping the building. Croker stated that the county may lose dollars, but she wants the option to see if the Board receives a bid. Ringgenberg stated that regardless of who moves into the Colorize Building, there would be additional cost. I.T. Director Tyler Van Houten stated that he had an estimate 6 months ago of \$20,000 to have fiber run to

the building, and he has asked for another quote. Bldg/Grounds Supt. Joe Keller stated that there were funds budgeted for fiber and remodeling. Snyder stated that he does not want to sell Colorize, stating that the Board has three problems to address: Driver's License, Auditor/voting machines, and Veterans. Snyder wants to keep the building to help with these issues, by moving the Auditor's Office and voting equipment over to the Colorize Building along with the Boardroom, keeping DL in the Courthouse and moving into the former Auditor's Office, and there would also be room for Veterans between the Boardroom and part of Auditor's Office, and then the postage meter could move into the former DL office. Ringgenberg agrees that there are three issues but doesn't want the Auditor to move out of the Courthouse. Ringgenberg stated that there were other ideas discussed at the Facility Committee meeting. Merten stated that he echoes Snyder, moving a whole office has minimal remodeling, but if we move multiple offices, there will be more costs to remodel. Merten commented that the current Boardroom could still be used for a meeting room or consulting. Merten stated that a letter was received from SHIELD Director Michael Raner and IMWCA Safety and Improvement Advisor Bill Dickey, stating their concerns with the election cages being in the lower level of the Courthouse and safety issues of moving these cages full of election equipment and supplies out of the lower level prior to an election. Merten also commented that during elections, there are several nights that the Auditor's Office has to be open later, including a Saturday prior to every Primary and General Election, plus on Election Day and night there are extended hours that the Courthouse is open to the public, so if the Auditor's Office was moved to another building, the Courthouse wouldn't need to be open for those extra hours. Altena stated that he was in favor of keeping the Colorize Building and said that the safety issue was discussed at the last Safety Meeting. Croker commented that the letter from Raner and Dickey referred to the weight of the cages and pushing them up the ramp and suggested that smaller cages be used. Auditor Lloyd commented that there isn't an issue moving the cages on flat ground, which is what Raner and Dickey were suggesting, to move them to ground level, no ramps to push or pull them on. Merten stated that he and Snyder have helped move the cages and says it takes two people to move them. Croker stated that there is a known issue, going back to the weight ratio of the cages causing pushing and pulling strains. Croker stated that the letter is being used as a reason to move, but there is still a liability issue because there is still the weight of the cages. Croker suggested going through the Auditor's Office back wall, into the wildlife area, building the floor up and putting a wall up, so that the cages can be on the main floor. Croker suggested giving the public an opportunity to decide and give the Board more time to decide who should move to the former Colorize Building. Merten stated that the Board made a bid in open session, and then counter offered, and ended up paying the appraised value. Snyder stated that he and Merten are taking the best and simplest way to solve all the problems. Croker stated that the public is the primary concern and the employee second. Croker stated that she wants the Assessor, Recorder, Auditor, and Treasurer to remain in the same building, to help the public when there are property issues to solve. Merten stated that there is no perfect move, someone is going to have to walk somewhere, and wondered where the public is most served. Ringgenberg stated that there was a proposal to sell on the floor, and changing the bids to 30 days, and not going to a realtor if a bid wasn't accepted. Snyder stated that he is hoping to put this to rest. Ringgenberg stated that all of the Board agrees on the issues. Merten stated that if we use the wildlife area, it still doesn't solve the three issues, and why ask for a bid if we need the building. Allen stated there should be action on the public hearing and a separate action item on who moves to the former Colorize Building. Allen stated that it is best practice to vote on the public hearing. Motion by Merten, second by Altena, to keep the former **Colorize Building**. Keller stated that he likes having the building close to the Courthouse, likes the newer shape of the building, and sees it as very usable for the county. Croker stated that if Colorize hadn't been purchased, she would have advocated building on to the Courthouse. Snyder stated that he was told that we could build on top of the old exercise room of the old jail. Ayes: Merten, Snyder, Altena. Nays: Croker, Ringgenberg. Motion carried.

Merten left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

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

Hear the Public: Sherie Elbert stated that she liked the solution to all of the problems discussed and doesn't understand the issue of moving the Auditor's Office a quarter of a block away. Elbert stated that she would like to see a decision made on who moves. Croker and Ringgenberg both disagree, with Croker stating that Elbert hasn't helped the taxpayer who needs to go to other offices for information. Elbert stated that she helped taxpayers, but as a citizen she doesn't understand the issue of moving the Auditor's Office out of the Courthouse. Ringgenberg commented that there isn't enough parking at the Colorize Building. Jeff Elbert stated that he respectively disagrees with Croker and Ringgenberg, stating that it isn't easy to find a parking spot around the Courthouse either.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Croker, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Corn Belt Telephone utility permit that crosses **Jt. DD #181** in Sac County. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Altena, to approve the **minutes** of the 4/25/2023 meeting, as corrected, and accept the following **reports**: February NWIPDC Policy Council minutes and March NW IA YES Center minutes. Carried.

Motion by Croker, second by Altena, to set May 30, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. for a County **FY'23 budget amendment**. Carried.

There being no further business, motion by Croker, second by Ringgenberg, to adjourn the meeting at 10:14 a.m. until Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. for a regular session.