

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TWENTY-NINETH MEETING, 2022 SESSION (29)
JULY 11, 2023**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in special session on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 8:30 A.M. in the Boardroom with Chairman Snyder presiding, and the following members present: Croker, Hartman, Ringgenberg, and Merten, 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: Croker, Hartman, Merten, Ringgenberg, and Snyder. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.

Motion by Croker, second by Ringgenberg, to approve **today's agenda**. 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, to bore under C25 (480th St.) from Section 36 Lee Township to Section 1 Lincoln Township, for a new grain bin site. Carried.

Motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **utility permit** for Windstream Iowa Communications, LLC, Little Rock, AR, to bore along the south ditch of 500th St. in Section 5 Scott Township, replacing 500' of 50 PR of copper cable that was damaged in bridge work. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson informed the Board that Shop Superintendent Ron Reckamp will be retiring August 3, so he would like to advertise for a Mechanic 1 position. Motion by Hartman, second by Croker, to approve Wilkinson's request to advertise for a **Mechanic 1 position**. Carried.

Secondary Road Report: They have been working on driveways, crossroad culverts, and edge rutting on C63 before RAGBRAI; They have mowers going, with extra attention to 110th Ave. where RAGBRAI could take as a route leaving Storm Lake; Engineer Wilkinson has been working with DOT and Sheriff Elston for traffic control during RAGBRAI; They have been backfilling the culvert at Bluebird Creek; The schedule has moved for the Linn Grove Bridge project, with the plan to begin pouring next Tuesday or Wednesday; Engineer Wilkinson informed the Board that he is still waiting on the permit from DNR for 80th Ave.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson asked the Board if they wanted to discuss the proposed **28E Agreement** to share engineering services with Pocahontas County, prior to the conference call. 1st Assistant County Attorney Ashley Herrig commented on the proposed contract, proposed making the term 3-months in order to see how it works and for Engineer Wilkinson to see what is going on in Pocahontas County. Herrig commented that she looked for an ad for the engineer position on the Engineer's Service Bureau and Pocahontas County's website, and neither one listed a salary range. Herrig stated that normally individuals looking for a professional position will not apply to ads that do not list a salary range. Pocahontas County's ad on Indeed listed a salary of \$97,000 - \$140,000.

John Holt, Vice President of Sales for **Auxiant**, was present virtually for his appointment. Auxiant offers Third Party Administrator (TPA) services. Also present in person for the discussion was Mike Pertzborn, Barb Wetherell, and Tony Pertzborn, of Stille Pierce & Pertzborn Agency, Payroll Clerk Yvonne Sandhoff and 2 media. Holt stated that Auxiant is located in Cedar Rapids, IA, and has been there since 1932. Holt stated that they work with thirty counties in Iowa. Holt stated that their COBRA and Flex are all done in-house, with one point of contact and one portal. Sandhoff asked Holt what the turnaround time would be for employees to receive their payments. Holt commented that they have had issues with Wellmark, but normally within 3-7 business days, the employees should receive their payment. Wetherell commented that they have been happy with Auxiant working with several of their clients and thought it would be a good move to consider for the County. Pertzborn stated that the ideal time to switch TPA's is

January when deductibles start over. The Board thanked Holt, Pertzborns, and Wetherell for bringing this information to them to consider. No action was taken.

Chairman Snyder asked if there was anyone online that wished to be heard during **Hear the Public**. Conservation Director/Weed Commissioner Greg Johnson was online to inform the Board that discussion with DNR regarding the marina would be on their Conservation Board agenda today. Johnson also stated that a reporter from the Storm Lake Times Pilot has written an article that will be in Wednesday's newspaper, and he does not know where the reporter got his information, since his Conservation Board did not know about it yet.

Motion by Merten, second by Croker, to approve the **minutes** of 7/3/23, as corrected, and accept the following **reports**: FY'22 County Audit Report, June Sheriff's Report of Federal Inmate Billings, June Sheriff's Report of Fees Collected, May NWIPDC Policy Council minutes, May RIDES Meeting minutes, and May Transportation Policy Committee minutes. Carried.

Supervisor Merten informed the Board that in order to get fiber run to the former Colorize building, they could go through the alley, however the County would need an easement from Cherry Tree (Susan Fitzpatrick). County Attorney Paul Allen has prepared an easement but was waiting to see if there would be a financial consideration to be added. Fitzpatrick has agreed to granting an easement to the county for a financial consideration of \$500. Motion by Merten, second by Croker, to authorize the County Attorney to prepare the **easement**, crossing the existing Cherry Tree business, owned by Susan Fitzpatrick, for a financial consideration of \$500 to be paid to Fitzpatrick. Carried.

Motion by Merten, second by Ringgenberg, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the letter to terminate the lease of the office space for the **Public Defender** at the Cayuga Street Annex. Carried.

The time arrived for the conference call with Pocahontas County Board of Supervisors regarding the proposed **28E Agreement to share engineering services**. All members of both Boards were present, along with both County Auditors, Engineer Bret Wilkinson, and the Pocahontas County Engineer. Also present in Buena Vista County was County Attorney Paul Allen, 1st Assistant County Attorney Ashley Herrig, and two media. Herrig suggested having the contract be for 3 months, to see how it goes and how it works for Wilkinson. The date of July 31 was mentioned as the start date, and October 31 as the end date. Pocahontas County would like Wilkinson paid an hourly wage, rather than \$1,000 per week. Allen stated that regardless of the number of hours that Wilkinson would work in Pocahontas County, he is still the County Engineer for both counties. The Pocahontas County Board stated that they needed more time to review the 28E and have their attorney review it, and then they will schedule another conference call. The call ended with Pocahontas County at 10:27 a.m. Supervisor Croker does not want to extend the agreement carte blanche as she is not comfortable with the agreement and does not want to take Wilkinson away from his own duties. Wilkinson stated that he would know in four weeks whether it was working or not. Allen stated that he could write a "safety valve" in the agreement, so that if Wilkinson does not feel comfortable with the situation, then the agreement could be terminated early.

Sheriff Kory Elston presented a Law Enforcement Contract with Albert City. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Croker, to approve the **Law Enforcement 28E Agreement** with the City of Albert City for FY'24 and FY'25. Carried.

Sheriff Kory Elston presented a contract for Power Solutions for monitoring alarms. Currently, they have 70 accounts they monitor and when the alarm goes off, it immediately notifies the Comm Center. The contract would allow 15% of the fee collected to go to the E911 Board. The contract would be for one year and would be auto renewed. Motion by Merten, second by Hartman, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the contract with **Power Solutions** for monitoring alarms. Carried.

Jail Administrator Ally Sievers and Jail Supervisor Rochelle Van Houten were present with Sheriff Kory Elston, to discuss with the Board their request to eliminate part-time jailers and to hire one full-time jailer. Sievers stated that she would like to maintain the staff they have. Van Houten stated that they have gone through 33 part-time jailers, which has cost the county to get them trained, get their uniforms, they work a brief time, then they leave. Motion by Hartman, second by Croker, to approve the request of Sheriff Elston and the Jail Administrator and Jail Supervisor to **eliminate part-time jailers** and to hire one additional full-time jailer. Carried.

There being no further business, motion by Ringgenberg, second by Croker, to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. until Tuesday, July 18 at 8:30 a.m. for a regular meeting.