

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING, 2023 SESSION (38)
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in special session on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 8:30 A.M. in the Boardroom with Chairman Snyder presiding, and the following other members present: Croker, Hartman, Merten, Ringgenberg, and with Election Deputy Karla Ahrendsen 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, Hartman, Merten, Ringgenberg, and Snyder. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.

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

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Croker, to approve the hiring of Jeremy Wickman as an **Equipment Operator I**, effective October 23, 2023, at a rate of \$29.43, which is \$2.00 under the Operator I rate, with increases at 6-month reviews for the first two years, and eligible for any raises given by the Board of Supervisors. Carried.

Secondary Road Report: Wilkinson told the Board that he is meeting with County Attorney Paul Allen this week on how he needs to advertise positions in the future. He does know of an Equipment Operator III retiring soon. He informed the group that the crew was finishing up the second large culvert installation and would be starting the third one shortly. Mowers are still going and will be until after the first frost of the year, crews are working on moving rock, and small tile repairs and would guess this might increase as crops come out. Wilkinson did say that the Linn Grove bridge project is still moving along but not sure of a completion date. He suggested just setting a date for the ribbon cutting ceremony so that people can make plans. The consensus of the group is to set it for Tuesday, September 26 in the late afternoon. Wilkinson was going to check with the others involved and get back to the Board on a start time.

Chairman Snyder questioned if anything had been lined up on the **dust control** issue, and Wilkinson responded that it has been lined up and hopefully would start soon. Croker asked for a status report on the **Platinum Crush project**, Wilkinson said he had not heard where the DNR was at on the outlet approval that Platinum had presented them. He did remind the group that it would be brought back to the Board once the approval was made. He said that he is hoping to hear on the Wetland designation sometime in October and was still working on getting all the required signatures for the purchase of Right of Ways. After speaking with the DOT, they are working on a revised drawing for the intersection on 70th Ave and Hwy 7 and would bring that to the Board once they have it.

Motion by Merten, second by Ringgenberg, to approve the **minutes** of 09/12/2023, as corrected, and accept the following **reports:** August Conservation Board minutes, July Board of Health minutes, August BV County Landfill Commission minutes, FY'23 NW IA Regional Housing Trust Fund Annual Report, June NW IA Regional Housing Trust Fund minutes, August NW IA Regional Housing Trust Fund minutes, and September Safety Committee minutes. Carried.

Chairman Snyder asked if there was anyone online that wished to be heard during **Hear the Public**, with no response.

Conservation Director/Weed Commissioner Greg Johnson presented his **department update**. Weed Department: Most of the roads have been sprayed once apart from some they will do this Fall with the Gator. Some of the seasonal help has already quit and more will be done as things wind down. They are looking to start on the State roads shortly and after that is complete to do some hydroseeding. They

continue to work on tree and shrub removal throughout the county ditches. Conservation: Johnson told the group that Mark Kirkholm's family had donated several taxidermies to the department, most of which are currently being displayed in the office. He said the department is working on cutting down Ash Trees in the parks. Johnson commented that they might have to look for outside help for this project as there are so many trees. The Racoon River was dedicated as part of the State Water Trail including Sturchler Park. Johnson is working with Secondary Roads to get the signage done. Johnson is also working with the DNR to allow cattle grazing at Buena Vista Park to help with vegetative control. FEMA has until September 28, 2023, to respond to the appeal that was submitted. The next step would be arbitration on this project if nothing is resolved by then.

Johnson brought up the last Conservation meeting that a fact-finding subcommittee was formed of two Conservation Board members, two Supervisors, and four members of the public. Johnson noted that he is still looking for two more from the public to appoint to this committee. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Snyder, to appoint Croker and Merten as members of the **Marina Fact Finding Subcommittee**, and to appoint Hartman as an alternate to the committee. Carried.

Discussion about former **Colorize building**: Chairman Snyder opened the discussion by saying after thinking long and hard he is still in favor of moving the Auditors to the former Colorize building and moving the Driver's License to their old office. Croker presented additional drawings and ideas for turning the current lobby into additional workspace and voting space for the Auditor. Croker stated that she is greatly concerned about the limited number of parking spaces at the former Colorize and said that the public will eventually have issues and concerns that will cause the county to have to purchase more property for parking. Croker stated that the cost of purchasing additional land for parking will be as much or more than the cost of remodeling the courthouse lobby. Croker stated that the Auditor, Recorder, Treasurer, and Assessor should be housed in the same building, for continuity of government. Election Deputy Ahrendsen acknowledged Croker's ideas as good ideas but was greatly concerned of the time it would take to accomplish this. Ahrendsen explained that we can't wait until the last minute to move the precinct if things aren't complete because of the notification process prescribed in the Iowa Code. Motion by Snyder, second by Merten to **move the Auditor's Office to the former Colorize Building and to move Driver's License into the current Auditor's Office**, once vacated. Ayes: Hartman, Merten, Snyder. Nays: Croker, Ringgenberg. Motion carried.

There being no further business, motion by Merten, second by Hartman, to adjourn the meeting at 10:19 a.m. until Tuesday, September 26 at 8:30 a.m. for a regular session.