

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
SIXTEENTH MEETING, 2024 SESSION (16)
MARCH 26, 2024**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 8:30 A.M. in the Boardroom with Chairperson Ringgenberg presiding, and the following other members present: Hartman, Merten, Snyder and with Auditor Susan Lloyd as clerk for the meeting. Absent: Croker.

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

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

Secondary Road Report: Trucks were out on Sunday and today, the wind is the problem causing slick roads; Hazmat training is tomorrow for Secondary Roads; Engineer Wilkinson informed the Board that the HF and SF on the Serve Dat Committee haven't moved in the legislative session; Wilkinson stated that he had 28 applications for the full-time office position he has available, and will begin interviews in the near future; the crew has been working on tile repairs and driveways; Wilkinson stated that he was waiting for more conversation on the roads around Platinum Crush; Wilkinson will attend the Allete Clean Energy meeting on Thursday, and get an update on the wind turbine project; Wilkinson will be bringing his DOT budget and 5-year plan to the Board for approval on 4/9 as he has to submit it to the DOT by 4/15; the survey data is in on Business 71, which is a large project, so Wilkinson is double checking things.

Steve Tate asked Engineer Wilkinson if the **bean plant** was going to haul beans on the soft gravel roads, as there were two trucks out yesterday. Engineer Wilkinson stated that he can embargo roads and signage, but doing one at a time is difficult. Tate also asked if the county had a plan when they pave the road by Platinum Crush, as to how he could get in and out of his property. Wilkinson stated that there will be days when vehicles will not be able to get out of driveways. Merten commented that something should be said to Platinum Crush so that everyone works together on this.

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

Election Deputy Karla Ahrendsen presented the property and casualty insurance application to the Board for the Chair's signature. Ahrendsen has reviewed the application and updated the list. Motion by Merten, second by Snyder, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **property and casualty insurance application** for ICAP. Carried.

Election Deputy Karla Ahrendsen updated the Board on the **CFNP voting precinct** that has been at the Albert City-Truesdale school in Albert City. The school board members and the superintendent asked that voting be moved out of the school, due to safety of their students. Auditor Lloyd, Ahrendsen, and Yvonne Sandhoff made a trip to Albert City to view rooms at two of the churches who offered their locations for voting, along with City Hall. After looking at all three locations, it was decided to move the CFNP voting precinct to the Albert City-City Hall, effective immediately.

Motion by Merten, second by Hartman, to approve the **minutes** from 3/19/2024, as presented, **claims approval list, and Auxiant disbursements**, and accept the following **reports**: February Central Iowa Detention Commission Meeting minutes, February & March Central IA Juvenile Detention Center Executive Committee Meeting minutes, August Secondary Road Fund Distribution Committee minutes,

December E911 Service Board minutes, January E911 Service Board Public Hearing minutes, and February Storm Lake United Board Meeting minutes. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Merten, to set the date and time for the **FY'25 County Budget Public Hearing** for April 23, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. Carried.

Drainage Engineer Brian Blomme and Treasurer Danelle Haberman informed the Board of a letter that Haberman had received from the U.S. Small Business Administration, which owns land that is part of the drainage district that goes through Albert City, stating that they will not be paying the drainage assessment, because they are a Federal Agency. County Attorney Paul Allen was contacted and sent Blomme a Code Section that states that all Federal land is exempt from taxes and special assessments. Blomme stated that the State has viewed drainage assessments as a fee, but the Iowa Drainage Code says that it is an assessment. Blomme would like to pass this information along to Drainage Attorney Gary Armstrong, for his opinion. Blomme stated that if the Federal Agencies do not have to pay the drainage assessments, then they should be informed of their rights to the drainage district if they do not pay the assessments. Blomme mentioned that Monona County has Federal Fish & Wildlife that do pay drainage assessments, so not sure why some Federal agencies would pay, and others will not. Motion by Merten, second by Hartman, to pass along the information and letter from the **U.S. Small Business Administration**, regarding their nonpayment of drainage assessments to Drainage Attorney Gary Armstrong, for his opinion on whether we can issue a statement to them to pay their drainage assessment. Carried.

Supervisor Meeting Reports: Merten attended the Central IA Juvenile Detention Center meeting last week, will attend the Plains Area Mental Health meeting tonight, and the Rolling Hills Region meeting tomorrow.

J. D. Myers, Summit Carbon Manager of Agriculture & Stakeholder Relations, and Grant Terry, Sr. Pipeline Project Manager, presented a power point with information about the **Summit Pipeline** proposed project, which includes 10 miles going through BV County. Also present for the discussion was EMA Aimee Barritt, Drainage Engineer Brian Blomme, Election Deputy Karla Ahrendsen, Real Estate & Drainage Deputy Kristina Konradi, Attorney John Murray, Tom Cullen of the Storm Lake Times Pilot, and two other gentlemen, with Sheriff Kory Elston and three others present online. Myers stated that they are currently partnered with 57 ethanol plants across the Midwest. Terry stated that they capture carbon dioxide from the fermentation process of biorefineries, such as ethanol plants, compress the captured CO₂, and channel it to North Dakota where it will be permanently and safely stored underground in deep geologic storage locations. Public meetings may start in June, and until that time, they cannot talk to landowners. Myers stated that in Buena Vista County, Summit would bring in \$979,000 in property taxes. Murray asked whether the county would have to go through condemnation hearings on a pipeline that may not go anywhere, and if it does go through, what the reasonable amount of inspection fees would be and if the county would be reimbursed. Myers stated that there is no cap on what they will reimburse, but it will only be for construction related activities.

There being no further business, motion by Hartman, second by Snyder, to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. until Tuesday, April 2 at 8:30 a.m. for a special session.