

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TWENTY-FIRST MEETING, 2024 SESSION (21)
MAY 7, 2024**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 8:30 A.M. in the Boardroom with Chairperson Ringgenberg presiding, and the following other members present: Croker, Hartman, Merten, Snyder 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, Hartman, Merten, Ringgenberg, and Snyder. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.

Steve Tate asked to speak to the Board before the first appointment. Tate asked the Board whether there is a noise ordinance in the rural area of the county, as he said there is a lot of noise at the **Platinum Crush Plant**, and it continues all night long. Tate played a recording from his phone of the noise that he hears from the plant constantly, and asked if there was a sound meter to check the sound level. Supervisor Snyder stated that the Sheriff's Department has a sound meter. Tate said that he has talked with CEO Eric Lightner and Scott, both of Platinum Crush, and Jerry Osmoe, asking if they could plant trees along their property for a sound barrier. Tate said that he later heard that the trees would not be planted on the Platinum Crush property, that he could plant tree on his own property. Tate stated that he would need $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre to plant trees, and he does not have room on his property. Tate commented that Platinum Crush always said they would be good neighbors, and they are not being good neighbors.

Motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to add additional items to **today's agenda**, including the FY'25 contract for CAASA and whether county employees could be allowed to work at a precinct on Election Day without having to use a vacation day. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson presented the plans for Project L-BNT2023-2--73-11 for abutment repairs, to get three of the twelve bridges back to legal weight limits. Wilkinson stated that the bids will be due May 15 and then it will be on the Board's May 21 agenda to accept the low bid. Motion by Snyder, second by Merten, to approve and authorize the supervisors to all sign the plans for **Project L-BNT2023-2--73-11** for abutment repairs. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson informed the Board that he had negotiated with Ziegler on the trade-in value of the five used motor graders that he wanted to trade-in for the five used motor graders he would like to purchase. Ziegler agreed to increase the trade-in value of the five motor graders from \$300,900 to \$307,700, so the net cost of the motor grader purchase would be \$920,300. Wilkinson stated that he has \$195,000 of G. O. Bond proceeds and the rest would come from Secondary Road Fund. Motion by Croker, second by Merten, to approve the Engineer to purchase five used **motor graders** from Ziegler for a net price of \$920,300 and to trade in five of the county's oldest motor graders. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson informed the Board that the **annual tractor route** will be June 8, and will be using two miles of gravel roads between Cherokee and Buena Vista County.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson informed the Board that he had a phone conversation with Diane Lewis, CNRR, regarding **70th Ave. intersection**. Lewis stated that CNRR needs to complete the railroad application and send it to the DOT. Lewis also stated that Wilkinson's information was sent to the railroad's design team, and they are reviewing.

Secondary Road Report: They are rocking gravel roads and working on tile repairs; the new hires start Monday.

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

Auditor Susan Lloyd informed the Board that the **credit card statements** show that restaurants are charging an additional fee for payments made by credit card, and sometimes also include an automatic gratuity. Lloyd asked the Board how those charges would be taken care of. The Board considered increasing the daily meal allowance to \$60 which will be for meals plus gratuity and any additional charge for using the credit card. The consensus was to have this discussed at the June 6 Department Head Meeting before a decision is made.

CEO Dawn Mentzer, Rolling Hills Region, came over to the meeting and informed the Board that taxes are due to Woodbury County for the Crisis Center building that the Region had. The taxes due are for the 2022 assessment year, in the amount of \$20,087. Supervisor Croker stated that Mentzer should ask for an abatement for the 2023 assessment year, which is payable beginning this fall for 2024/2025. Mentzer stated that she had applied for the tax exemption, but it was after the deadline, so it will not be effective until the 2024 assessment year. Motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to amend today's claims list to include payment of \$20,087 to Woodbury County for the 2023/2024 **taxes on the Crisis Center** building. Croker stated that Iowa Code Section 427.3 is regarding abatement of taxes for exempt entities, so Woodbury County has authority to abate the taxes under this Iowa Code Section for the 2023 Assessment. Carried.

Motion by Merten, second by Snyder, to approve the **minutes** from 4/30/2024, as corrected, today's **claims approval list including paying Woodbury County \$20,087 for taxes on the Crisis Center, stamped warrant register, and Auxiant disbursements**, and accept the following **reports**: May Department Head minutes, April Sheriff's Report of Federal Inmate billings, April Sheriff's Report of Fees Collected, May Safety Committee minutes, March Central IA Detention Commission minutes. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Hartman, to set a public hearing for a FY'24 BV County **budget amendment**, for May 28, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. Carried.

Motion by Merten, second by Snyder, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the new Buena Vista County Provider and Program Participation Agreement for Centers Against Abuse & Sexual Assault, (**CAASA**), raising the amount of their reimbursement to \$7,500, beginning for FY'25. Carried.

County Auditor Susan Lloyd asked the supervisors if they would consider allowing county employees to work at a precinct on Election Day, without having to use a day of vacation. Lloyd stated that she needs more election officials, and this may help, if employees were given the opportunity to help. Motion by Croker, second by Merten, to **allow county employees to work at a precinct on Election Day** without having to use a vacation day, with their Department Head's approval. Carried.

Supervisor Meeting Reports: Ringgenberg attended the Hometown Pride Meeting; Croker attended the Lake Improvement Commission Meeting.

There being no further business, motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 a.m. until Tuesday, May 21 at 8:30 a.m. for a regular session. (no meeting is planned for May 14)