

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING, 2024 SESSION (27)  
JUNE 18, 2024**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 8:30 A.M. in the Boardroom with Chairperson Ringgenberg presiding, and the following other members present: Croker, Merten, Snyder, and with Auditor Susan Lloyd as clerk for the meeting. Absent: Hartman.

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

Motion by Snyder, second by Croker, to amend **today's agenda**, adding the FY'25 SHIELD Agreement as an action item. Carried.

Motion by Merten, second by Snyder, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign a **Certificate of Appreciation** for Kim Briley, who is retiring after 34 years of service to Buena Vista County. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson informed the Board of a request from the Buena Vista County Fair Board, requesting 75 tons of sand to be donated out of the county pile in Storm Lake. Wilkinson stated that the county's cost is approximately \$8/ton, and Reding Gravel will do the hauling for the Fair Board. Motion by Snyder, second by Croker, to approve the request of the Buena Vista County Fair Board, for the county to **donate 75 tons of sand**. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson informed the Board that he had received seven bids for Project L-BNT2023-3--73-11, for six abutment repairs on bridges in the southern tier of the county. Bids were received from Dixon Construction Co. (\$376,940.00), Christensen Bros., Inc. (387,024.00), Graves Construction Co., Inc. (408,150.00), Peterson Contractors, Inc. (414,900.00), Cramer and Assoc., Inc. (433,800.00), Cunningham-Reis, LLC (\$444,690.00), and Nelson & Rock Contracting, Inc. (473,000.00). Wilkinson recommended that the Board award the bid to Dixon Construction Co., which was the low bidder and 4.71% over the engineer's estimate. Motion by Merten, second by Snyder, to accept and award the contract to the low bidder, Dixon Construction Co., in the amount of \$376,940.00, for **Project L-BNT2023-3--73-11**, for six abutment repairs in the southern tier of the county. Carried.

**Secondary Road Report:** They are finishing up at Goldsmith Pit in preparation for the crusher to come in. They have placed a lot of gravel on the roads in the north tier of the county. Engineer Wilkinson stated that he is encouraging the blade drivers to get out today and work on smoothing the rumble strips on the gravel roads; the shop is working on the newly purchased motor graders, getting them ready to go; Engineer Wilkinson stated that he had a meeting yesterday with IDOT and discussed the four miles of road south of the tracks by Platinum Crush. DOT had suggestions and are concerned about where the water is going to go, as they don't want it going on the railroad crossing. Wilkinson stated that they could try to catch the water with a curb. Wilkinson stated that the county's four miles of road will be concrete, and he was planning on asphalt on the two Hwy 7 intersections. DOT is requesting concrete to be used at the two Hwy 7 intersections, which Wilkinson stated will add additional costs to the project. Wilkinson stated that Hwy 7 and 70<sup>th</sup> Ave. intersection is tied to the RISE Grant, which would help pay for concrete. 80<sup>th</sup> Ave. intersection is not part of the RISE Grant area. Wilkinson stated that his intention was always to improve the intersections. Wilkinson stated that 80<sup>th</sup> Ave. is the same elevation, but on 70<sup>th</sup> Ave., Hwy 7 is lower than the railroad track, so he wanted to raise it up 9". IDOT stated to Wilkinson that they were concerned about the letting date, if the county had to go to condemnation, which could take two years. Wilkinson stated that he is trying to pin down what right-of-way the county needs, and then proceed. Wilkinson stated that they will have to mill out the asphalt to have the intersection raised up on 70<sup>th</sup> Ave. Wilkinson stated that several people are still reviewing the plans.

The Chair opened the public hearing for the 5<sup>th</sup> **FY'24 budget amendment**, Notice was published as required. No written objections were submitted, and no objections were offered during the hearing. Motion by Snyder, second by Croker, to close the public hearing. Carried.

Motion by Merten, second by Croker, to approve the 5<sup>th</sup> **FY'24 budget amendment** as published, to authorize the Chair to sign the Budget Amendment certification, **Resolution #2024-06-18-A**, amending the FY'24 Annual Budget, and to approve the following appropriations:

Increase activity	0030	General Basic Fund (0001)	Dept 98	\$1,350
Increase activity	0220	Capital Projects Fund (1520)	Dept 93	\$20,300
Increase activity	6000	General Basic Fund (0001)	Dept 98	\$5,000
Increase activity	6020	Rural Basic Fund (0011)	Dept 98	\$32,003
Increase activity	6030	Rural Basic Fund (0011)	Dept 98	\$6,000
Increase activity	9030	General Basic Fund (0001)	Dept 98	\$22,950 Carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-06-18-A**  
**RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FY'24 ANNUAL BUDGET**  
**BY ADOPTING BUDGET AMENDMENT #5**

**WHEREAS** the Board of Supervisors approved Departmental Appropriations on June 27, 2023, for all departments, of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, in accordance with Section 331.434, Subsection 6, Code of Iowa; and

**WHEREAS** the Board of Supervisors has held the necessary hearing after having caused to be made the publication and notice required by law; and

**WHEREAS** the Board of Supervisors approved Budget Amendment #1 on August 29, 2023, thereby increasing appropriations by \$2,484,474, for a total budget after the amendment of \$41,322,187; and

**WHEREAS** the Board of Supervisors approved Budget Amendment #2 on November 20, 2023, thereby increasing appropriations by \$431,200, for a total budget after the amendment of \$41,753,387; and

**WHEREAS** the Board of Supervisors approved Budget Amendment #3 on April 9, 2024, thereby increasing appropriations by \$365,033, for a total budget after the amendment of \$42,118,420; and

**WHEREAS** the Board of Supervisors approved Budget Amendment #4 on May 28, 2024, thereby increasing appropriations by \$155,733, for a total budget after the amendment of \$42,274,153; and

**WHEREAS** the Board of Supervisors has held the necessary hearing after having caused to be made the publication and notice required by law; and

**WHEREAS** the Board of Supervisors has reviewed the budget amendment #5 for FY'24, as presented by the County Auditor, increasing appropriations by \$87,603; and

**WHEREAS** the Board of Supervisors believes the aforesaid budget amendment #5 proposed for FY'24 to be in the best interests of Buena Vista County.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, BUENA VISTA COUNTY, IOWA:**

**SECTION ONE:** That the FY'24 budget for Buena Vista County, Iowa, on file in the County Auditor's Office is hereby amended and approved.

**SECTION TWO:** That this resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law, and the County Auditor is directed to make the filings required by law and to set up the books in accordance with the summary and details as adopted.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** this 18th day of June 2024, by the Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors.

/s/ Rhonda Ringgenberg, Chair, Board of Supervisors.....Attest: Susan K. Lloyd, Auditor

Chairperson Ringgenberg asked if there was anyone online that wished to be heard during **Hear the Public**, with no response. Treasurer Danelle Haberman brought Kim Briley in, and Chairperson Ringgenberg presented Briley with a certificate of appreciation for her 34 years of service to Buena Vista County. Briley is retiring June 28, 2024. Everyone congratulated Briley on her retirement.

EMA Director Aimee Barritt requested that the Board allow her to carry over 28 hours of vacation time, over the allowed one week, to be used by July 12. Motion by Snyder, seconded by Croker, to allow Aimee Barritt to **carry over 28 hours of vacation** to be used by July 12. Carried.

EMA Director Aimee Barritt updated the Board on the **dry hydrant project**. Barritt stated that they went out to the three sites where the hydrants will be placed, and the dive team will be helping to determine the depth of the three bodies of water. Barritt stated that Secondary Roads will be installing the dry hydrants.

Drainage Engineer Brian Blomme presented the Board with his FY'25 employment contract. Blomme stated that this was discussed at the Jt. DD #181 meeting, with all the counties represented that are a part of this shared position, and 3% increase was the approved salary increase for FY'25. Motion by Croker, second by Merten, to approve and authorize the whole Board to sign the shared **FY'25 employment contract**, with Buena Vista, Calhoun, and Sac Counties, for Drainage Engineer Brian Blomme, with a salary of \$114,700. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Croker, to approve the Application for Approval of **Construction Across Established Sac County Drainage Districts and Established Multi-County Drainage Districts**, which Buena Vista County is part of **Jt. DD #181** with Pocahontas, Sac, and Calhoun Counties. Carried.

Motion by Merten, second by Snyder, to approve and authorize the Chair and Auditor to sign the **FY'25 Fiscal Agent Agreement for 3-County Empowerment**. Carried.

The time arrived for the Conference call with the Pocahontas County Board of Supervisors to discuss **Jt. DD #143** schedule equitability review. All members of the Pocahontas County Board of Supervisors were online, along with Deputy Auditor Laura Erickson and Gary Atherton, Assistant to the Engineer/Drainage Clerk for Pocahontas County. Present for Buena Vista County, in addition to four of the five supervisors (Hartman was absent), Auditor Susan Lloyd, Drainage Engineer Brian Blomme, Drainage Deputy Kristina Konradi, and Drainage Clerk Lynnette Jacobs. Motion by Louis Stauter (Pocahontas), second by Paul Merten (Buena Vista) to appoint Rhonda Ringgenberg (Buena Vista), Chair and Susan Lloyd (Buena Vista), Secretary of the joint conference call for Jt. DD #143. Ayes: all. Motion carried. Blomme started the discussion on reclassification of Jt. DD #143, which includes the north portion of the City of Varina and along C49 to the county line, stating that it is a narrow district. Blomme recommends not doing a reclassification on Jt. DD #143 unless landowners come in and request it. Blomme stated that Jt. DD #143 was established in 1922 and that there were actions taken from that time until 1926, to come up with an equitable schedule. Blomme stated that the NE ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 30 Dover Township is the 100% parcel, which is 9.32% of the District's total levy amount. Two other parcels, the NW ¼ SW ¼ Section 30 Dover Township, which is west of the 100% parcel is 8.95% of the overall District's levy amount, and the SW ¼ SE ¼ of Section 30 Dover Township is 8.65% of the overall District's levy amount. Blomme

stated that they are very close in percentages, which represents the equitability of the schedule. Stauter (Pocahontas) asked if it goes east to the creek, and Blomme stated yes, that it outlets to Jt. DD #181. Blomme distributed a spreadsheet, showing the estimated costs on \$20,000, using the current schedule, and again restated that the added expense that a reclassification would cost does not warrant doing that when there is an equitable schedule. Stauter (Pocahontas) agreed with what Blomme stated and is not in favor of doing a reclassification. Motion by Merten (Buena Vista), second by Stauter (Pocahontas) to direct the current repair project to be levied to the assessment schedule for Jt. DD #143 BV-POC on file at the Auditors of Buena Vista and Pocahontas Counties. Ayes: all. Motion carried. Blomme thanked both Boards for their time. Motion by Merten (Buena Vista), second by Ives (Pocahontas) to adjourn the joint conference call for Jt. DD #143. Ayes: all. Motion Carried. (The full set of minutes are included with the Jt. DD #143 records)

Motion by Croker, second by Snyder, to approve the **minutes** from 6/11/2024 as corrected, today's **claims approval list** (moving Public Health's payment for blinds from ARPA to their budget), **stamped warrant register, and Auxiant disbursements**, and accept the following **reports**: May 2024 Conservation Board Minutes, Engineer's report from Solid Waste Commission, May 2024 Solid Waste Commission Minutes, and April 2024 Board of Health Minutes. Carried.

The payroll change notices for the non-elected department heads were discussed, as the Chair needs to sign off on them. Croker asked about the salary of Env Health/Zoning since the State will be taking over the food inspections. Ringgenberg commented that even though the food inspections would be done by the State, there was going to be more work done on zoning. Motion by Merten, second by Ringgenberg, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **payroll change notices** for the non-elected department heads, for the FY'25 salary increases. Ayes: Merten, Ringgenberg, Snyder. Nays: Croker. Motion carried.

A letter was received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, regarding the County participating in the Grasslands Conservation Initiative (GCI) under the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) administered by NRCS. The county must notify the local NRCS office by September 1, 2024, if they are interested in participating in the GCI. Merten stated that he was concerned about the USDA letter, in case the county would have to dig up something, it may not be covered. Merten recommends tabling this until he can check this out with the USDA. Motion by Snyder, second by Merten, to table any action on the letter received from USDA on the **Grasslands Conservation Initiative (GCI)**. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Croker, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the FY'25 **SHIELD** contract with NW IA Planning & Development Commission. Carried.

There being no further business, motion by Merten, second by Croker, to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m. until Tuesday, June 25 at 8:30 a.m. for a special session.