

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
FORTY-SIXTH MEETING, 2024 SESSION (46)  
NOVEMBER 19, 2024**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 8:30 A.M. in the Boardroom with Chairman 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, Snyder, and. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.

Motion by Merten, second by Croker, to amend **today's agenda**, adding approval of the Chair to sign the contract on the bridge abutment that was awarded two weeks ago. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Hartman, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **utility permit** for the City of Storm Lake, to install a 12" raw water main to connect to the existing water main in the ditch, along 90<sup>th</sup> Ave., to 5923 90<sup>th</sup> Ave., along with a 4" floor drain outlet. Carried.

Motion by Hartman, second by Snyder, to approve allowing the Chair to sign the contract for **Project L-BNT2023-4--73-11**, for three abutment repairs, awarded two weeks ago to Dixon Construction Co. Carried.

**Secondary Road Report**: They are blading roads and hauling limestone and gravel to stockpiles; they are working on deep pullups on 120<sup>th</sup> Ave. south of C65; they will be cutting brush, when it dries out after the rain; all trucks have been gone through and ready for snow; 70<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 600<sup>th</sup> St. project is moving slower, as the consultant miscalculated the dirt work. They are working through Phase 2 so that they do not have the same problem; Dixon Construction has finished the bridge abutment #4 and moved to #5.

Motion by Merten, second by Croker, to approve the **minutes** of 11/13/2024 as presented, today's **claim approval list, stamped warrant register, and Auxiant disbursements**, and accept the following **reports**: October Conservation Board minutes, FY'24 BV County Solid Waste Commission Audit Report, October BV County Landfill minutes, October BV County Landfill Executive Board minutes, and November Engineers Report for the Landfill. Carried.

Env Health/Zoning Director Ben Mueggenberg informed the Board that the quote from Edwards, Storm Lake, for a 2024 GMC Sierra 1500, that they approved November 4, if the rebates were still in effect for November. Mueggenberg stated that the rebate went down by \$2,500 from the quote he received in October, so he asked the Board what they wanted him to do about purchasing the truck. Mueggenberg stated that he could wait until December and see what the rebate would be, as he is not in a hurry for the truck. Motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to accept the new quote for a **2024 GMC Sierra 1500**, for a net cost of \$25,505, after trading in a 2021 Jeep Cherokee for \$20,000, and with Bldg/Grounds paying \$8,500 of the cost for the transfer of the 2014 Ford F150 from the Environmental Health Department to Bldg/Grounds. Carried.

The Chair opened the Public Hearing on the 2nd Reading of Ordinance #6.9 Wind Energy Conversion System with Env Health/Zoning Director Ben Mueggenberg present, along with seven callers online. Mueggenberg stated that he has not received any comments on the Ordinance, either for or against. Motion by Merten, second by Croker, to close the public hearing. Carried. Motion by Merten, second by Hartman, to approve the **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #6.9 Wind Energy Conversion System**, waiving the

physical reading of the document, and to set the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading for Tuesday, December 3, at 9:15 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors Room of the Courthouse. Carried.

Auditor Susan Lloyd informed the Board that two of her employees have accumulated comp time over the maximum amount, due to all the extra hours worked for the General Election. Lloyd stated that both employees have plans to use their time in January and February. Motion by Snyder, second by Croker, to approve Karla Ahrendsen to carry over an additional 51.26 hours of **comp time** and Yvonne Sandhoff to carry over an additional 37.78 hours of comp time. Carried.

**Hear the Public.** John Pitstick commented on the proposed Ordinance #6.9 Wind Energy Conversion System. Pitstick stated that he is surrounded by wind towers that have little useful life left and said they should be taken down. Pitstick asked the Board if it would not be appropriate to ask that the wind towers be taken down unless they are going to make capital improvements. Merten informed Pitstick that the Board had approved the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of the Ordinance #6.9 this morning and have set the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading for December 3 at 9:15 a.m. and that is when Pitstick should return to ask his questions when representatives from MidAmerican Energy and Mergent are online to answer questions. Pitstick also commented about the EPA reducing pollution levels, and asked if a device could not be placed at the Alta School and Storm Lake Schools that would test the air quality all the time. The Board thanked him for coming in, stating they made notes of his comments.

Election Deputy Karla Ahrendsen presented the Certification of TIF Debt for the County and asked the Board for approval to have the chair sign. Ahrendsen stated that the amount of debt to be certified is \$1,603,745 and includes a 65% rebate and the right-of-way purchases in FY'24. Motion by Snyder, second by Croker, to approve the **Certification of TIF Debt** for the county and allow the Chair to sign. Carried.

Six members of the Buena Vista County **Library Association** (representing Alta, Albert City, Linn Grove, Marathon, Newell, Rembrandt, Sioux Rapids and Storm Lake) came in to thank the Board for their past support of the County libraries. They requested support again in FY'26 with a possible increase, due to inflation. The librarians reviewed their past programs, and each thanked the Board for supporting their city's library. A letter of support for the libraries, signed by community members, was given to the Board. The Board thanked the Librarians for their service.

Conservation Director/Weed Commissioner Greg Johnson was online to discuss the applications that were submitted for the open Conservation Board position. Johnson stated that there were five applications received, and the Conservation Board wasn't going to make any recommendations since it is up to the Supervisors to appoint, but they stated that they would like to have someone in the eastern part of the county, in the Newell/Albert City area. The Board stated that they would like to interview the applicants before making their appointment, so two of the supervisors will schedule interviews with the applicants. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Snyder, to table the **Conservation Board appointment** until the December 3 meeting, after the interviews have been done. Carried.

County Attorney Paul Allen was present for his appointment. Motion by Croker, second by Snyder, to go into **closed session** (at 10:16 A.M.) under Chapter 21.5(1)(c) of the 2024 Code of Iowa, to discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the governmental body in that litigation. Ayes: Croker, Hartman, Merten, Ringgenberg, Snyder. Motion carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Hartman, to go out of **closed session** at 11:08 A.M. Carried.

County Attorney Paul Allen informed the Board of the difficulty he is having getting applicants for the assistant county attorney position. Allen has posted the job opening several places from September until now, including twenty different law school sites. Allen stated that currently there are ten more vacancies in other counties also. Allen suggested adding an incentive to relocate for moving expenses that would be contractual with a payback if they were to leave before a certain amount of time. Motion by Hartman, second

by Croker, to authorize the County Attorney to offer a **“new hire” incentive for an Assistant County Attorney**, of \$2,500 to be paid when they start, and then at the completion of one year, they would receive an additional \$2,500, with the stipulation that they stay for two years, otherwise it would be paid back. Carried.

Motion by Merten, second by Croker, to approve the **Public Official Bond Renewals**, of the elected officials. Carried.

Supervisor Snyder informed the Board that he and Sheriff Kory Elston attended the Sioux Rapids Council Meeting to discuss a law enforcement contract with them. Snyder stated that the agreement would include a payment of \$50,000 in FY'25, \$80,000 in FY'26, with a 3% increase on FY'27, 4% increase in FY'28, and a 5% increase in FY'29. Merten commented that the Sheriff will need to hire an additional deputy, maybe two. Snyder stated that currently the Sheriff has one officer that has been deployed. Snyder stated that Rembrandt had been paying \$10,000 for law enforcement services from Sioux Rapids when they had an officer, but this agreement is strictly for the City of Sioux Rapids. Motion by Merten, second by Snyder, to approve the **28E Law Enforcement Agreement** with the City of Sioux Rapids for the remainder of FY'25 in the amount of \$50,000, \$80,000 in FY'26, with a 3% increase on FY'27, 4% increase in FY'28, and a 5% increase in FY'29. Carried.

There being no further business, motion by Merten, second by Snyder, to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m. until Tuesday, December 3 at 8:30 a.m. for a regular session. (no meeting is planned for November 26)