

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
FORTY-NINETH MEETING, 2024 SESSION (49)
DECEMBER 17, 2024**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, December 17, 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 Snyder, second by Hartman, to approve **today's agenda**. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson requested that the Board Chair sign a Safety Action Plan, which is a requirement if the County applies for funds from the SS4A Grant. Motion by Hartman, second by Croker, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **Safety Action Plan**. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson requested that the Board declare Parcel #1002178015 as excess property, which was a county shed building in Truesdale, that is no longer needed. Motion by Snyder, second by Hartman, to declare Parcel #1002178015 as **excess property**, located in the City of Truesdale. Carried. Merten stated that he would like to advertise and take sealed bids on the Truesdale property, with the county having the right to reject all bids. The consensus of the Board is to advertise, take sealed bids until 8:30 a.m., on February 11, 2025, then open the bids at that time at the Supervisors Meeting on 2/11/25.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson requested the Board to allow him to purchase three **tandem trucks** to be used for plowing, and one **semi tractor**. The quote Wilkinson has is for a cost of \$167,937 per truck chassis and \$181,942 for the semi-tractor. Wilkinson stated that he would still have to order snow equipment, but that would be paid out of the FY'26 budget. Merten asked why Wilkinson wanted to purchase three tandems. Wilkinson stated that he would like to have the Allison transmissions, so that all the equipment would be the same, but they are hard to get, so he would rather order three instead of two. Merten commented that he could get a good used semi tractor for a better price. Wilkinson stated that he would rather put the purchase of the semi tractor off and get the three tandems. Wilkinson stated that it has been three years since he ordered tandems, so he is behind on replacing them. Merten asked about trade-ins, and Wilkinson stated that normally he does not trade trucks in, he usually sells them. Chairperson Ringgenberg asked Wilkinson if he could come back later to continue this discussion as they were getting behind on the schedule. Wilkinson will stop back later in the meeting.

County Attorney Paul Allen was present for his appointment. Motion by Merten, second by Croker, to go into **closed session** (at 9:24 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. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Merten, second by Snyder, to go out of **closed session** at 10:04 A.M. Carried.

Snyder stepped out of the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Chairman Ringgenberg asked if there was anyone online that wished to be heard during **Hear the Public** and there was none.

Shelly Sindt, CEO of **Elderbridge Agency**, presented the agency's annual report. Elderbridge supports the 60 and over population in BV County, helping them to stay in their own homes rather than going to a nursing home. Sindt stated that during the pandemic, they had a 30% increase in funding, but that is now gone, so they are trying to do more with less. In 2024, they have \$1.2M less to serve their folks. In 2025, they will have to cut \$1.5M. (Snyder came back to the meeting at 10:13 a.m.). They are asking for \$3.20 per senior in county support for the FY'26 budget allocation for a total of \$14,403, up from \$13,277 in FY'25. Sindt thanked the board for past and future support to the seniors of our county and informed them that she would be retiring in June.

Emily Bodholdt, Director of **Ready, Set, Grow, Inc.**, a non-profit daycare, presented information about their funding request for FY'26. Bodholdt is requesting \$10,000 to be used for ongoing operational costs to sustain their childcare center. Bodholdt stated that regulations in child to adult ratios maintain the safety of their care, but also limits their income. Despite increasing their rates in August 2024 to coincide with state reimbursement rates, their overhead costs continue to outweigh their income. Bodholdt stated that their current enrollment is 41, and they have a waiting list of 20. The Board thanked Bodholdt for all she does.

Sheriff Kory Elston informed the Board that Sioux Rapids approved their law enforcement agreement and that he also met with the City of Newell, and he expects a decision by the end of the year. Elston requested that the Board allow him to hire another deputy, to cover the agreement for law enforcement services in Sioux Rapids. Motion by Merten, second by Hartman, to approve Sheriff Elston's request to **hire** an additional deputy, due to adding law enforcement services for the City of Sioux Rapids. Carried.

Gary Sundblad, **Albert City Thresherman** was present to request \$5,000 for FY'26. He stated that the money would be used for advertising in local and national publications. Sundblad stated that this coming year, they will be hosting two national Case clubs and will be featuring Case equipment. Sundblad stated that they will have the Case 150hp steam engine coming to their show which will be a huge attraction and draw in many additional people. Sundblad stated that they are looking to potentially bring in a record crowd to their show if the weather cooperates. They generally draw 12,000-17,000 people to their 3-day show.

Ginny and Rusty Smith of the **Sioux Rapids Historical Society** informed the Board that their summer plans were halted due to the flood event that hit Sioux Rapids. Ginny Smith stated that the furnaces need to be replaced due to flooding. Ginny Smith stated that they were able to find matching carpet for the entryway, and said they were grateful that the floodwaters didn't reach the first floor of the theatre. They are requesting \$1,000 in funds for FY'26 and thanked the Board for their support each year. The Board thanked them for all their hard work.

Vernon Winterhof, **Hanover Historical Society**, presented their funding request of \$1,500 for FY'26, an increase of \$500 over FY'25, and stated that they appreciate the financial assistance from the county. Winterhof stated that they started 27 years ago, and that their property has 11 buildings, most of which are over 100 years old. There are always repairs that are needed, and currently they have some windows that need replacing. Winterhof stated that they recently had a \$15,000 big expenditure on one of their buildings, due to a rotting frame. The Board thanked Winterhof for everything they do.

The Board drew the names of the elected offices out of a box to determine whether their newly appointed Compensation Board representatives would have a 2-year term or a 4-year term. The 4-year terms were drawn first, with the Auditor, Recorder, and both Supervisor representatives drawn, leaving the Attorney, Sheriff, and Treasurer representatives to serve an initial term of two years. Motion by Snyder,

second by Hartman, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign **Resolution #2024-12-17-A** Establishing a County Compensation Board. Carried.

RESOLUTION #2024-12-17-A
RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A COUNTY COMPENSATION BOARD

A resolution by Buena Vista County to establish a county compensation board as authorized by Iowa Code Section 331.905.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Iowa Code Section 331.905, as amended in 2024 by Senate File 2442, the county board of supervisors may vote to establish a county compensation board.

WHEREAS, pursuant to this same Code Section, when the board of supervisors establishes a county compensation board, the compensation board shall be comprised of seven members who are residents of the county. Two members shall be appointed by the board of supervisors, one member each by the county auditor, county attorney, county recorder, county treasurer, and county sheriff. The members of the county compensation board shall not be officers or employees of the state or a political subdivision of the state and shall serve staggered terms.

WHEREAS, lots were drawn to determine the duration of initial staggered terms for members of the county compensation board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Buena Vista County hereby establishes a county compensation board for the county.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Buena Vista County directed each of the elected officials to submit their respective appointments to the board of supervisors by December 13, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the representatives of Auditor, Recorder, Supervisor, and Supervisor shall serve an initial term of four years and the representatives of Attorney, Sheriff, and Treasurer shall serve an initial term of two years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution shall apply retroactively to July 1, 2024.

HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for Buena Vista County on this 17th day of December, 2024.

/s/ Rhonda Ringgenberg, Chairperson, Paul Merten, Vice-Chair, Kathy Croker, Dan Hartman, Kelly Snyder,
Attest: Susan K. Lloyd, County Auditor

Motion by Snyder, second by Croker, to approve the **minutes** of 12/10/2024 as presented, today's **claim approval list, stamped warrant register, and Auxiant disbursements**, including a correction to an incorrect vendor and changing a beaver bounty claim from non-drainage to a drainage check, and accepting the following **reports**: November Conservation Board minutes, November Engineers Summary Report for the Landfill, December Landfill minutes, December Safety Committee minutes, FY'24 Plains Area Mental Health Audit Report, and FY'24 Elderbridge Annual Report. Carried.

County Engineer Bret Wilkinson came back to the meeting to discuss his request for three plow trucks and a semi tractor. Motion by Croker, second by Ringgenberg, to approve the Engineer to purchase three **plow trucks** and one **semi tractor**. Snyder asked whether the semi tractor would be new or used. Wilkinson stated that the semi tractor would be new, and he would sell the current one. Carried.

Motion by Merten, second by Snyder, to add an additional \$2,400 to the **non-drainage district beaver bounty** line item on the next budget amendment. Carried.

Motion by Crocker, second by Hartman, to approve the 2023 **Central Iowa Juvenile Detention Center 28E Agreement**. Ayes: Croker, Hartman, Merten, Ringgenberg. Nays: Snyder. Motion Carried.

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Storm Lake Times Pilot request letter to be an **"official paper"** for 2025. This will be addressed at the January 2, 2025 meeting.

EMA Aimee Barritt and Conservation Director Greg Johnson were present for the discussion regarding the remaining **ARPA** funds. All the ARPA funds need to be committed by 12/31 and spent by 2026. Conservation has a large share of the remaining funds for projects that have not been completed yet. Barritt stated that MOU's could be done for the remaining funds to list the projects that are contracted to be spent. (Merten left the meeting at 12:27 p.m.) This topic will continue in the next Board meeting, to discuss further the remaining funds and prepare MOU's. (Snyder left the meeting at 12:54 p.m.) Auditor Lloyd will send out information to the Departments, asking if their ARPA projects are complete or if they still owe on their project. The Board will have decisions to make at their next meeting regarding uses of the remaining funds.

There being no further business, motion by Hartman, second by Ringgenberg, to adjourn the meeting at 1:01 p.m. until Tuesday, December 24 at 8:30 a.m. for a special session.