

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
FIFTH MEETING, 2025 SESSION (5)
JANUARY 14, 2025**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 8:30 A.M. in the Boardroom with Chairman Merten presiding, and the following other members present: Croker, Hartman, Ringgenberg, 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 Ringgenberg, second by Snyder, to amend **today's agenda**, to include any follow-up budget discussion with any departments, at the end of today's scheduled appointments. Carried.

Secondary Road Report: They have been hauling gravel to stockpiles and doing some chainsaw work; the plow trucks were out on the hard surface roads today; Engineer Bret Wilkinson informed the Board that he has an employee that will be retiring soon, and once the date is known, he will be advertising for an EO1 position; Wilkinson will be going through the applications that were received for the administrative assistant position, and then setting up interviews; Wilkinson informed the Board that the pickup (unit 60) has been fixed, and they took photographs of the repairs and will send them off to the insurance company. Merten asked if the truck had to be "certified", and Wilkinson stated that they got the codes from Chevy to reset various things and will wait to see what the insurance company has to say about the repairs made; Wilkinson has his Title VI audit tomorrow; a FEMA representative will be here today to work on the project. Wilkinson stated that the FEMA project was mostly debris removal and repair to one culvert north of Sioux Rapids, with a total over \$300,000 for the claim to FEMA.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson went over his revenues and transfers for the **FY'26 budget** with the Board and will come back in at the end of the meeting to answer any other questions they may have.

Hear the Public: Terry Murray was present during the County Engineer's agenda time and stated that he appreciated Supervisor Croker's comments and questions of Engineer Bret Wilkinson regarding the Secondary Road budget. Murray also wanted to inform the Board of the poor condition of the gravel road that goes by his place, that it is wash boarded. Murray asked the Board if there was any training for the maintainer operators and stated that it is a concern of the County Farm Bureau on the conditions of the gravel roads. Chairman Merten stated that there was a trainer here for half of the guys and said that they will have training in the spring for the remainder of the guys. Murray asked if they have training from the companies when they purchase new equipment. Engineer Wilkinson was online and commented that he didn't know if the company offered training, but the person that did the training is from Sac County and does the training himself and has worked with the DOT on training also. Murray commented that the operators are causing the washboards on the roads. Murray informed the Board of one more issue, and that was the new buying station on Hwy 71. Murray stated that the buying station is putting large rocks on the approach, and as trucks leave, the rocks are coming out on the roadway, which is a hazard.

Motion by Croker, second by Ringgenberg, to approve the **minutes** of 1/7/2025, 1/9/2025, and 1/10/2025 as presented, today's **claim approval list, and Auxiant disbursements**, and accepting the following **reports:** January Safety Committee minutes, December Sheriff's Report of Federal Inmate Billings, and December Sheriff's Report of Fees Collected. Carried.

Rolling Hills Region CEO Dawn Mentzer informed the Board that since the State is eliminating all the mental health regions as of 6/30/25. Mentzer stated that she and her staff will still be working in the month of July, to pay all the last FY'25 claims. Mentzer stated that she has a small amount in the county's FY'26 budget for salaries and benefits to finish out the FY'25 fiscal year. Mentzer stated that Behavioral Health services was awarded to Iowa Primary Care Association, in Des Moines, who will have 30 employees to cover the state of Iowa, compared to the current 160 employees of the regions across Iowa. Mentzer stated that there are still unanswered questions as to unemployment for the existing region employees, and whether the State of Iowa will reimburse the counties for those costs associated with their employees of the Region or if it will be all county expense. Buena Vista County is "employer of record" for Mentzer and two other staff members. June, 2025 will be Mentzer's 31st work anniversary with Buena Vista County.

Sheriff Kory Elston informed the Board that he needs to replace the patrol deputies laptops, which are still on Windows 10. Elston presented a proposal from TD SYNEX to lease 14 laptops, for five years, for a total of \$21,116.88 per year. Motion by Hartman, second by Croker, to approve the proposal of TD SYNEX and allow the Sheriff to proceed with a **lease** of 14 laptops for the patrol deputies, at a cost of \$21,116.88 per year, for five years. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Hartman, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **Jt. DD #22** claim for Jacobson-Westergard & Associates, Inc., in the amount of \$40.20 for engineering services for 2024 drone video prep and delivery. Carried.

Motion by Croker, second by Ringgenberg, to authorize the Auditor to **void and reissue check** #324967, dated 4/9/2024 to Street Cop Training for \$225.00, as it has been lost. Carried.

County Engineer Bret Wilkinson came back to the Board to review more of his **FY'26 budget**.

There being no further business, motion by Ringgenberg, second by Croker, to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 a.m. until Tuesday, January 21 at 8:30 a.m. for a special session.