

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
TENTH MEETING, 2025 SESSION (10)  
MARCH 4, 2025**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in special session on Tuesday, March 4, 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 Croker, second by Hartman, to **amend today's agenda**, adding the Storm Lake-Sioux Central Trap Shooting request at Goldsmith Pit. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **utility permit** for Interstate Power & Light (Alliant Energy), Storm Lake, IA, to install a 2" high density plastic gas main in the county right-of-way on the east side of 230<sup>th</sup> Ave. (County Road N14) in Section 23 Fairfield Township, from the northeast corner of the intersection of Elm St. and 230<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Albert City, then south to 620 230<sup>th</sup> Ave. approximately 574' south of the centerline of Elm St. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson informed the Board of a request from the Storm Lake-Sioux Central Trap Shooting group to move their **shooting range at Goldsmith Pit**, to the southwest, to have more distance away from the gravel pile. They would like the berm leveled, either adding soil behind it or removing the berm to level it out. Three trees and rock would also need to be removed. Croker asked about how many man hours it would require doing this, and Wilkinson stated it would be between 4-8 hours. Snyder commented that other schools use the site also. The consensus of the Board was to approve the request of the trap shooting group to move the shooting range at Goldsmith Pit to the southwest, level out the berm, and remove three trees and rock.

**Secondary Road Report**: They have been hauling gravel to the stockpiles; thirteen motor graders are out working on fixing up the gravel roads; they will be plowing snow tomorrow; Wilkinson has received one set of plans from Ulteig for Phase 2, noting that there are a couple changes to make; there will be a pre-con meeting today at 10:30 a.m. in Cherokee, on the Hwy 110 paving project from Schaller to north of Frank Starr Park. Wilkinson plans to ask the contractor what the cost would be to pave back 50' on the county road intersections along Hwy 110.

Chairman Merten asked if there was anyone present or online that wished to be heard during **Hear the Public**. Steve Tate was present to voice his opinion about **dust control**. Tate stated that he had reached out to Ag State, as a friendly reminder for drivers to slow down. Drainage Engineer Brian Blomme was also present to discuss the letter received on the proposed **DD #13** improvement or repair project by the City of Storm Lake. Blomme stated that there will be an informational meeting on March 24, at 5:00 p.m. and he plans to attend. This project would affect the Secondary Road property. Engineer Wilkinson will discuss current drainage issues with Blomme prior to the informational meeting.

Treasurer Danelle Haberman informed the Board of a request she received from the Storm Lake Elementary School, for the second-grade class to **tour** the courthouse on the mornings of May 19 and May 20. The Board asked Haberman to discuss this at the department head meeting on Thursday before deciding.

Treasurer Danelle Haberman informed the Board of an employee that is need of donated time, as they are dealing with medical emergencies for both their husband and son. Motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to allow county employees to **donate time** to an employee in the Treasurer's Office, who is out on medical leave caring for their husband and son. Carried.

Treasurer Danelle Haberman presented the Semi-Annual report for the Board to approve before she publishes in the papers. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Snyder, to approve the **Semi-Annual report** (12/31/2024) as presented and for the Chair to sign the report. Carried.

County Attorney Paul Allen was present by phone, for his appointment. Motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to go into **closed session** (at 9:31 a.m.) under Chapter 21.5(1)(c) of the 2025 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 Ringgenberg, second by Snyder, to go out of **closed session** at 9:54 a.m. Carried.

Motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to approve the **minutes** of 2/25/2025, as presented, and accepting the following **report**: January NW IA YES Center minutes. Carried.

Motion by Croker, second by Ringgenberg, to approve and allow the Chair and Auditor to sign the **Management Representation Letter** for the auditing firm, for the FY'24 SLFRF Funds. Carried.

Auditor Lloyd reviewed the proposed levies and ending fund balances for FY'26. Motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to set the **public hearing** on the proposed property tax levies, for March 25, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. in the Boardroom. Carried.

Chairman Merten reviewed the Compensation Board's recommendations for the FY'26 elected official salaries. Recommendations were as follows: 3.5% increase for the Supervisors, 4% increase for the Recorder and Treasurer, 5% increase for the Auditor, 6% increase for the Attorney, and a \$7,500 (6.1%) for the Sheriff, and to continue Longevity for all Elected Officials and a \$2,000 stipend for the Board Chair, a \$500 stipend for the Board Vice-Chair, and a \$5,000 stipend for the Auditor, as the Board's Budget Director. Motion by Croker, second by Ringgenberg, to accept the Compensation Board's salary recommendations, setting the **FY'26 salary** increase for the Attorney at 6%, Auditor at 5%, Recorder and Treasurer at 4%, Sheriff at 6.1% (\$7,500 increase), Supervisors at 3.5%, a \$2,000 stipend for the Board Chair, a \$500 stipend for the Board Vice-Chair, a \$5,000 stipend for the Auditor, as the Board's Budget Director, and reaffirmed the longevity schedule for all elected officials. Carried.

Motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to approve **wage increases** for FY'26, for the non-elected officials and their employees that are not under another Board as: Drainage Department-Brian Blomme and Eric Yunginger (which were both approved by the shared 3-County Drainage Board); Bldg/Grounds-Joe Keller, Vance Cords, Jon Buss, Craig Boyd; I.T. Tyler Van Houten, Eric Chase; and Zoning Administrator, as they were presented in their respective budgets. Carried.

Hartman left the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

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

Motion by Croker, second by Snyder, to approve a 4% **wage increase** for FY'26, for all Secondary Road employees, except the County Engineer who is on a contract, based on their current base rate. Carried.

There being no further business, motion by Ringgenberg, second by Snyder, to adjourn the meeting at 10:54 a.m. until Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. for a regular session and to canvass today's Special Storm Lake School Election.