

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
FIFTEENTH MEETING, 2025 SESSION (15)
APRIL 1, 2025**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in special session on Tuesday, April 1, 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 Election Deputy Karla Ahrendsen 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 approve **today's agenda**. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Snyder, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **utility permit** for Iowa Lakes Electric Coop, Estherville, IA, to install new overhead service along the ROW of 2424 180th Ave. to 6527 180th Ave in Section 25,26,35 and 36 Providence Township noting that the Platinum Crush discharge water line runs in the same ROW. Carried.

Wilkinson told the group that Schoon Excavating had reached out to him about fill dirt for construction of a new building pad on Thresherman's property. He told the Board that he had fill available at the Goldsmith Pit and on C43 to be hauled by the contractors. Merten also mentioned that he had a pile of clay on his property that they were welcome to haul away also if that would work better for them. Motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg to approve **Thresherman's request for 1,200 tons of fill be donated to them**. Carried.

No action was taken on **the hiring of the E01 operator**. Wilkinson will bring it back to the Board later.

The Chair opened the public hearing for the 2nd **FY'25 budget amendment**, Notice was published as required. No written objections were submitted, and no objections were offered during the hearing. Motion by Croker second by Hartman, to close the public hearing. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Croker, to approve the 2nd **FY'25 budget amendment** as published, to authorize the Chair to sign the Budget Amendment certification, **Resolution #2025-04-01-A**, amending the FY'25 Annual Budget, and to approve the following appropriations:

Increase activity 0300 Capital Projects (1540) Transfer to 0020 Dept 90 \$3,256,375
Increase activity 0300 LOST Fund (0019) Transfer to 0020 Dept 90 \$38,154
Increase activity 0300 General Suppl (0002) Transfer to 0001 Dept 90 \$6,213
Decrease activity 0300 General Basic (0001) Transfer to (0027) Dept 90 -\$175
Increase activity 0200 Secondary Road Fund (0020) Dept 20 \$3,100,000
Decrease activity 3020 General Basic Fund (0001) Dept 46 -\$65,296
Increase activity 7110 Secondary Road Fund (0020) Dept 20 \$700,000
Increase activity 9100 General Basic Fund (0001) Dept 77 \$8,158 Carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-04-01-A
RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FY'25 ANNUAL BUDGET
BY ADOPTING BUDGET AMENDMENT #2**

WHEREAS the Board of Supervisors approved Departmental Appropriations on June 25, 2024 for all departments, of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 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 September 24, 2024, thereby increasing appropriations by \$1,238,429, for a total budget after the amendment of \$39,114,133; 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 #2 for FY'25, as presented by the County Auditor, increasing appropriations by \$7,050,724; and

WHEREAS the Board of Supervisors believe the aforesaid budget amendment #2 proposed for FY'25 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'25 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 1st day of April, 2025, by the Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors.

/s/ Paul Merten, Chair-BV County Board of Supervisors...Attest: Karla Ahrendsen- BV County Election Deputy

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

Wilkinson rejoined the group to discuss the setting of the Secondary Roads department summer hours. Wilkinson stated that he still felt that what he had presented last week was still what he wanted to start on April 7th. Croker commented that she felt at least a review of current procedures needed to be addressed. She wanted to see that signage be changed and the phones be manned whether the office was open on Friday or not. She felt that IT should be able to program the phones to make that happen. Merten stated that he did not realize that the phones were not being manned currently during summer hours on Friday and that was completely unacceptable and was not going to allow that to continue. He reviewed that most of the surrounding counties, even if the road crews are working 4–10-hour days that the offices are open all 5 days. Motion by Croker, second by Snyder to approve the **Roads Department summer schedule** to start April 7 and run through October 3; 6:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M Monday through Thursday. New signage is to be added with contact information for Fridays when the office is closed with phones being answered from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. on those days. The phone numbers posted shall be given to all departments, so they have the information for any calls they receive. Any week with a holiday in it the office will be open 7:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. on the remaining days. Carried. Hartman noted that this will be revisited later to re-evaluate.

Secondary Road Report: Last week crews were out plowing after the snow. Crews are working on blading gravels and trying to get them in better shape after the winter. They continue to clean up trees

and debris in ditches and repair signs after the wind. Next week the guys will switch to their summer schedule for roads. The water tank trailer is finished and has been used for dust control already. Wilkinson is hoping this will help with the issues we had last summer on some of the gravel roads.

5 County Bike Trail Information- Croker told the group her and Hartman had attended a meeting on March 18, 2025, on establishing a 5-county bike trail. The committee would like to see the bike trails connecting Dickinson County to Carroll County along Highway 71. She explained that things are just in the planning phase, and she would let everyone know when the next meeting will be. Conservation Director Greg Johnson explained that most of the existing trails have been paid for through a TAP grant. He told the group that there are several grants available for trails and would like to be part of the committee. He explained again that he had been approached to have a meeting of the county's trail committee. Ahrendsen told the group that Auditor Lloyd had reached out last summer to the committee with very little response. The consensus of the Board is that they are in favor of supporting the trails and would be willing to get the county committee back together if it worked for the members.

I.T. Director Tyler Van Houten presented the Board with two proposals from RDI for Dell San and VMware Hosts. He told the Board that our current equipment is getting outdated, and he has budgeted for both items in the current budget and next fiscal year's budget. Croker asked if this would have more storage, and Van Houten explained that it would be about the same and that storage size is not a current concern. Motion by Croker, second by Snyder to approve Van Houten to sign the proposal for **Dell SAN for \$99,165 and VMware Hosts for \$91,532 with RDI.** Carried.

Conservation Director/Weed Commissioner Greg Johnson and Assistant Weed Commissioner Brian Jones presented the annual noxious weed resolution. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Hartman, to approve **Resolution #2025-04-01-B,** Public Notice Destruction of Noxious Weeds & Fines Assessed, and to authorize the Chair to sign. Carried.

**RESOLUTION #2025-04-01-B
A PUBLIC NOTICE: DESTRUCTION OF NOXIOUS WEEDS & FINES ASSESSED**

TO ALL PROPERTY OWNERS:

Be it resolved, by action of the Board of Supervisors of Buena Vista County, Iowa, that pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 317.13 and 317.14, 2025 Code of Iowa, it is hereby ordered:

1-That each owner and each person in the possession or control of any land in Buena Vista County shall cut, burn, spray, or otherwise destroy all noxious weeds thereon, at such times in each year and in such manner as shall prevent said weeds from blooming or coming to maturity, and shall keep said lands free from such growth of any other weeds as shall render the streets or highways adjoining said land unsafe for public travel. Noxious weeds shall be cut, burned, sprayed, or otherwise destroyed on or before the following dates and as often thereafter as is necessary to prevent seed production:

Group 1. June 1, 2025, for Leafy Spurge and Musk Thistle.

Group 2. July 1, 2025, for Canada Thistle, Teasel and Field Bindweed.

Group 3. August 1, 2025, for Palmer Amaranth, Multiflora Rose, Bull and Plumeless Thistles.

2-That each owner and each person in possession or control of any lands in Buena Vista County infested with any noxious weeds listed for eradication or control by the Agriculture and Land Stewardship Department Administrative Rules Chapter 58.4 shall adopt a program of weed destruction described by the Weed Commissioner to destroy and will immediately keep under control such infestations of said noxious weeds.

3-That if the owners or persons in possession or control of any land in Buena Vista County fail to comply with the foregoing orders, the Weed Commissioner shall cause this to be done and the expense of said work, including costs of serving notice and other costs, if any, to be assessed against the real estate upon which the noxious weeds are destroyed.

4-That the County Weed Commissioner be and is hereby directed to cause notice of making and entering of the foregoing order by one publication each of the Official Newspapers of the County.

5-Anyone wishing not to have noxious weeds sprayed within the right-of-way adjacent to dwellings or property by Buena Vista County, he or she shall sign an annual agreement by June 1st at the County Conservation Board Office and receive official signs to be posted on each side of the area designated and shall be responsible to destroy such weeds, all season.

6-Buena Vista County primarily uses Milestone and TerraVue herbicide for noxious weed control within the road right-of-way. For individuals who harvest hay from the County's right-of-way consult the Milestone and TerraVue labels for possible haying and grazing restrictions. Any additional concerns may be directed to the County Weed Commissioner.

7-The Weed Commissioner, Greg Johnson or Deputy Weed Commissioner Brian Jones are located at the Buena Vista County Conservation Board office. 377 440th Street, Peterson, Iowa 51047. Telephone-712-295-7985.

PENALTY

Be it further Resolved, that upon failure to comply by the date prescribed in an order, pursuant to Chapter 317, for destruction of weeds, the weed commissioner, following notice, may enter upon the land without consent and have the weeds destroyed with the costs of such action taxed against the real estate on which the weeds were destroyed, or may impose a penalty of \$10.00 per day for each day, up to ten days, that the owner or person in possession or control of the land fails to comply, after which, the weed commissioner, following notice, may enter upon the land without consent and have the weeds destroyed with the costs of such action taxed against the real estate on which the weeds were destroyed.

Passed and approved this 1st day of April, 2025.

/s/ Paul Merten, Chair-BV County Board of Supervisors...Attest: Karla Ahrendsen- BV County Election Deputy

Drainage Engineer Brian Blomme reviewed the information presented by the City of Storm Lake on the DD13 informational meeting last week. He explained that the Board transferred jurisdiction to the City of Storm Lake as 75% of the drain was within city limits. The city had been contacted by a landowner asking for the drain to be investigated for improvement. We do not have jurisdiction over the drain, but we are a landowner in the district. He feels that the proposed repair options will put undue burden on the landowners on a fix that should be handled as a storm drain and not an agricultural drainage district repair. He went on to explain to the group that under drainage district code landowners have the right of remonstrance which would allow them to vote on if the project would take place. This information was not included in the information presented by the city to the landowners. Motion by Snyder, second by Croker to authorize Blomme to **draft a letter to the City of Storm Lake** in response to the possible improvements of DD13. Carried.

Sheriff Kory Elston presented the Board with a new lease contract with Visual Edge IT for a new copier for the jail. Motion by Croker, second by Ringgenberg to authorize Elston to sign the **lease** with Visual Edge IT for the jail's new copier. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Hartman, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **Bond Counsel Engagement Agreement** with Steven M. Nadel, Ahlers & Cooney, P.C., for the "Not to exceed \$11,000,000 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes, Series 2025B". Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg second by Croker, to approve the **minutes** of 3/25/2025, as presented, and accept the following **reports**: March Board of Health minutes, February Yes Center minutes, NW IA Regional Housing Trust Fund March meeting, and 5 County Trail information. Carried.

Croker did mention to the group that NW IA Regional Housing Trust Fund had money available for projects in the house and if anyone new of someone needing helping to reach out to Kristin Westerman 712-262-7225 ext. 139 or email Kristin.westerman@nwipdc.org. It was also mentioned that there are several new city clerks they might want to reach back out to them explaining it to them again.

There being no further business, motion by Ringgenberg, second by Croker to adjourn the meeting at 10:58 a.m. until Tuesday, April 8th at 8:30 a.m. for a regular session.