

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING, 2025 SESSION (27)
JUNE 24, 2025**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in special session on Tuesday, June 24, 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. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Hartman, to approve **today's agenda**. Carried.

Platinum Crush Road Update: Phase 1 is open to traffic and all road closure signs have been taken down and replaced with permanent signage. Wilkinson told the group that he and County Attorney Paul Allen had a phone conversation with MidAmerican's legal team and under Iowa Utility Board rules they cannot take on any risk that might be passed on to their customers and by putting an upper cap on the cost the county would pay, this could potentially happen. They also said they would not change the verbiage of the contract to allow the County to be notified if something major changed. Motion by Croker, seconded by Hartman, to approve the chair to sign the **Relocation and Reimbursement Agreement with MidAmerican** as written. Carried. Croker stated that she hoped this would help in getting the Right of Way purchase agreement signed so that we can move forward with the bid letting on Phase 2. Wilkinson told the Board that he will be meeting with the District III DOT on Phase 3 tomorrow morning at 8:00 A.M.

Secondary Roads Report: The crew has been working on taking down a small hill that was in the line of sight on C49 ahead of Heartland starting the resurfacing. There had been 3 recent accidents at that intersection, and they shaved almost 3 feet off. Croker asked if the fiber optic in the area was a problem, Wilkinson explained the crew was able to find and stay away from it. It will just be shallower in that spot in the future. Heartland will be starting to fill in or shaving down a few needed areas on C49 starting July 3rd and then will complete the resurfacing once they complete Highway 110 in mid to late July. Wilkinson also mentioned that he had talked to Thresherman's and will be back next week for approval on their request.

Wilkinson also brought up an email that Auditor Susan Lloyd forwarded to him and the Board of Supervisors from a resident of the City of Storm Lake on a noise issue. After a brief review of maps, it was determined that the residence lives within city limits and that Engine Break Signs have been posted. Motion by Snyder, seconded by Croker to have **Wilkinson draft a response** to the homeowner explaining that the Board discussed it and found that it is under the City's jurisdiction.

Motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to authorize the Auditor to **transfer** \$2,686,513.42 from the Capital Project-Sec Road/Platinum Fund 1540 to Secondary Road Fund, reimbursing the fund for the phase 1 road project. Carried.

County Attorney Paul Allen was present, for his appointment. Motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to go into **closed session** (at 9:02 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 Hartman to go out of **closed session** at 9:40 a.m. Carried.

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

Michael Pertzborn II, Stille, Pierce & Pertzborn Agency met with the Board to review the renewals for ICAP and IMWCA insurances for the county. Pertzborn stated that the current mod factor is .86, rolling three years of claims, and 45% increase in payroll and with the credits the premium is up 5.82%, to \$389,685 for FY'26. Each year ICAP allows the members to increase their liability coverage if they want.

Motion by Croker, second by Ringgenberg to **increase the liability coverage** by \$2 million to \$13,000,0000 for an additional \$2,183. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to approve and sign the **ICAP** member proxy, and the increase liability coverage form for FY'26. Carried.

Motion by Croker, seconded by Hartman to **authorize payment** to ICAP for \$297,031 for FY'26 policy. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Hartman, to approve the **minutes** of 6/17/2025 as corrected. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Snyder, to approve and to authorize the Chair to sign **Resolution #2025-06-24-A** appropriating funds for FY'26 to departments at 100% per the FY'26 budget. Carried.

RESOLUTION 2025-06-24-A

WHEREAS, it is desired to make appropriations for each of the different officers and departments for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025, in accordance with section 331.434 (Sec 6) 2025 Code of Iowa,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Buena Vista County, Iowa, as follows:

Section 1. The amounts itemized by department or office on the certified County Budget for 2025-26 are hereby appropriated at 100% to the department or office listed in the 2025-26 budget.

Section 2. Subject to the provisions of other county procedures and regulations and applicable state law, the appropriations authorized under Section 1 shall constitute authorization for the department or officer listed to make expenditures or incur obligations from county funds effective July 1, 2025.

Section 3. In accordance with section 331.437 of the 2025 Code of Iowa, no department or officer shall expend, or contract to expend, any money, or incur any liability, or enter into any contract, which by its terms involves the expenditure of money, for any purpose in excess of the amounts appropriated pursuant to their resolution.

Section 4. If at any time during the 2025-26 budget year the Auditor shall ascertain that the available resources of a fund for that year will be less than said fund's total appropriation, she shall immediately so inform the Board and recommend appropriate corrective action.

Section 5. The Auditor shall establish separate accounts for the appropriations authorized in Section 1, each of which account shall indicate the amount of the appropriation, the amount charged thereto, and the unencumbered balance. The Auditor shall report the status of such accounts to the applicable departments and officers monthly during the FY2025-26 budget year. The Auditor shall also provide a summary report of all departments to the Board monthly.

Section 6. All appropriations authorized pursuant to this resolution lapse at the close of business June 30, 2025

PASSED AND APPROVED this 24th day of June 2025.

/s/ Paul Merten, Chairperson, Board of Supervisors...../s/ Karla Ahrendsen, Elections Deputy

Motion by Hartman, second by Ringgenberg, to approve and to authorize the Chair to sign **Resolution #2025-06-24-B** authorizing interfund operating transfers from the General and Rural Funds to the Secondary Road Fund, and local option sales tax funds from "Local Option Sales Tax Funds for Secondary Roads" (0019) to the Secondary Road Fund as detailed in the FY'26 budget. Carried.

RESOLUTION 2025-06-24-B

WHEREAS, it is desired to transfer monies from the General Basic Fund (0001) to the Secondary Road Fund (0020) and to transfer from the Rural Services Basic Fund (0011) to the Secondary Road Fund (0020); and

WHEREAS, said operating transfers are in accordance with section 331.432, 2025 Code of Iowa,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of Buena Vista County, Iowa as follows:

Section 1. The sum of \$226,625.00 is ordered transferred from the General Basic Fund to the Secondary Road Fund with one-half the amount (\$113,312.50) transferred no earlier than July 1, 2025, and the last one-half transferred no earlier than January 1, 2026.

The sum of \$2,430,943.00 (Rural Basic levy) is ordered transferred from the Rural Services Basic Fund to the Secondary Road Fund (levy) with one-half the amount (\$1,215,471.50) transferred no earlier than July 1, 2025 and the last one-half transferred no earlier than January 1, 2026. The total maximum transfer from the General Basic Fund to the Secondary Road Fund shall not exceed \$226,625.00 (levy) and the total maximum transfer from the Rural Basic Fund to the Secondary Road Fund shall not exceed \$2,430,943.00 (levy) all for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025.

Section 3. The total transfer of local option sales tax for Secondary Roads shall be limited to 60% of the total local option sales tax receipts for FY'25 received by the county, estimated for budget purposes at \$600,000.

Section 4. The Auditor is directed to correct her books accordingly and to notify the Treasurer and Engineer of these operating transfers, accompanying the notification with a copy of this resolution and the record of its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 24th day of June 2025.

/s/ Paul Merten, Chairperson, Board of Supervisors...../s/ Karla Ahrendsen, Elections Deputy

Motion by Croker, second by Snyder, to approve and to authorize the Chair to sign **Resolution #2025-06-24-C** regarding the designation of a portion of the FY'25 General Fund and Rural Fund ending fund balances (June 30, 2025) for the **Drive Trails and County Trail System**. Carried.

RESOLUTION 2025-06-25-C
Drive Trail & County Trail System

Designated/Committed Ending Fund Balances

WHEREAS Buena Vista County included \$73,289.53 of the original \$100,000 in its FY'25 ending fund balances (\$54,967.15-General, \$18,322.38-Rural) for 'signing' for a Drive Trail to the Alta wind-farm and other attractions around the county in connection with Storm Lake's Project Awaysis; and,

WHEREAS the Drive Trail sign project was started, but not completed by June 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS Buena Vista County 'pledged' a total of \$400,000 over 8 years for Trails in the county in connection with the Storm Lake Project Awaysis; and,

WHEREAS the FY'14 budget adopted by the Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors included the last tax asking of \$50,000 for the County Trail System (or 1/8th of total \$400,000) in FY'14; and,

WHEREAS Buena Vista County Trail projects have commenced as of June 30, 2016, with signs being purchased; and,

WHEREAS the Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors wishes to set aside the taxes levied for both the "signing" for the Drive Trail and Trails for expenditure at a later time; and

WHEREAS the funding source amounts approved for both "signing" for the Drive Trails and County Trail System are from the General Basic Fund (75%) and Rural Basic Fund (25%);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BUENA VISTA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, that \$354,967.13 in the FY'25 General Basic ending fund balance, and, \$118,322.40 in the FY'25 Rural Basic ending fund balance, be considered and are hereby unreserved/designated and committed for the "signing" for the Drive Trail and the County Trail System projects associated with Project Awaysis.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 24th day of June 2025.

/s/ Paul Merten, Chairperson, Board of Supervisors...../s/ Karla Ahrendsen, Elections Deputy

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Croker, to approve and to authorize the Chair to sign **Resolution #2025-06-24-D** regarding the designation of a portion of the General Fund ending balance (June 30, 2024) for the **FY'26 Heritage Tour** expenditures. Carried.

RESOLUTION 2025-06-24-D

BV County Heritage Tours

Designated/Committed Ending Fund Balance

WHEREAS Buena Vista County received \$828 in FY'10 to be used for Heritage Tours for schools in Buena Vista County, which were received into the General Fund for expenditure, and

WHEREAS a portion of those funds were not expended in FY'25 and the remainder of those funds may be spent in FY'26,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors, that \$242.86 in the General Fund ending fund balance is hereby designated and committed for expenditure on Heritage Tours only.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 24th day of June 2025.

/s/ Paul Merten, Chairperson, Board of Supervisors...../s/ Karla Ahrendsen, Elections Deputy

Motion by Snyder, second by Hartman, to approve the **Class B Alcohol License** application for Al's Corner Oil, DBA Sparky's One Stop #16. Carried.

Motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to approve payment to **Ricoh USA, Inc.** for the copier purchased by HHS that is budgeted and due prior to July 1, for a total of \$5,655.63. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Croker, to approve payment to **Central Square Technologies** for the ETI to Vertex 911 Cloud that is due prior to July 1, for a total of \$7,887.55. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Hartman, to approve and authorize an **appropriation change**, moving \$923 from Department 1 Supervisors budget (9000) to Department 61 Mental Health Director's budget (9040) to cover the payout of an employee. Carried.

Motion by Hartman, second by Croker, to reappoint Corey Diischer to the **Veterans Affairs Commission**, with a term expiring 6/30/2028. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Hartman, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **Application for Approval of Construction** for Storm Lake II LLC and Storm Lake I LLC across established Buena Vista County Drainage Districts and Multi-County Drainage Districts DD #3, DD #82, DD #104, DD #138, DD #175, and DD #191. Carried.

There being no further business, motion by Snyder, second by Croker, to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 a.m. until Tuesday, July 1 at 8:30 a.m. for a regular session.