

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
THIRTY- SEVENTH MEETING, 2025 SESSION (37)
SEPTEMBER 9, 2025**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 8:30 A.M. in the Boardroom with Chairman Merten presiding and the following other members present Croker (virtual), 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 Snyder, second by Hartman, to approve **today's agenda**. Carried.

Secondary Roads Report: Wilkinson told the group that he had his workers and contract haulers hauling gravel to the roads to get them done before harvest starts. The mowers are still going full time and probably will be until the middle of October to keep up with grass. He said they like to do one final mowing after the first hard frost to make sure the grass is kept down over the winter. Crews are still working on blading for now but will be looking to start putting snowplows on starting next month. Merten asked how it was going with getting the trees cleaned up in the ROW way so there would be no sight line issues this fall. Wilkinson said that they are still working on this and will go back to that heavier once the gravel is all hauled. He will be bringing the Board quotes on a new skid loader next week.

Platinum Crush Road Project Update: The pre-bid meeting was held last week to allow potential bidders to ask questions and for clarification. Wilkinson stated that no questions arose that concerned him and felt the meeting went very well. Bids will be accepted until 1:00 pm on September 18th and then the Board will award the bid on September 23. Wilkinson will meet with Mid-American on September 16 at 10:00 on moving the electrical poles before construction on 80th can begin.

Heidi Kuhl, Northland Securities joined the meeting to review the financial plan for the \$4.8 million GO Bonds. Kuhl started by reviewing the timing of the issuance and the structure of the borrowing. She explained that these are just estimates based off the numbers she had been given and if the actual bid comes in higher or lower, she will adjust accordingly. Northland will go to the bond market on October 6th with the issuance resolution to be adopted on October 21st and the fund available November 5th. She did mention of talk that interest rates might go down and felt that it was a good time to enter the bond market. No action was needed at this time.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Croker, to approve the **minutes** of 8/26/2025 as presented, today's **claims approval list, and Auxiant disbursements**, and accepting the following **report**: August Board of Health minutes, September Safety Committee minutes, Dry Hydrant Grant update from EMA director Aimee Barritt, January VA commission minutes. Carried.

Motion by Hartman, second by Snyder, to approve and to authorize the Chair to sign the **fireworks permit** for Doug DeRoos, 5673 50th Ave, Alta, IA to be held on September 12, 2025, because the July date was cancelled due to a family emergency. Carried.

Motion by Hartman, second by Ringgenberg, to approve and authorize Supervisor Kelly Snyder to docu-sign the **Secondary Manufacturers Opioid** settlement. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Hartman, to authorize Supervisor Kelly Snyder to sign the ballot for **Purdue Opioid Settlement** accepting their bankruptcy plan. Carried.

Motion by Croker, second by Snyder, to table the approval of the **2025 Confidential Military List**, **2025 Confidential Disabled Military List**, **2025 Homestead Credit List**, **2025 Homestead 65+ list**, and the **Disallowance List of ten 2025 Homestead Tax Credits** as per Iowa Code Section 425.7, and the **Disallowance List of one 2025 Military Credit** until next week as Croker is still waiting on answers to a couple of questions. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, seconded by Hartman, to authorize the Chair to sign Resolution #2025-09-09-A. Ayes: Croker, Hartman, Ringgenberg, and Merten. Nays: Snyder. Carried.

RESOLUTION OF THE BUENA VISTA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RESOLUTION No. 2025-09-09-A

WHEREAS Buena Vista County is a stakeholder in the Central Iowa Juvenile Detention Center (hereinafter CIJDC), and

WHEREAS the CIJDC is the Respondent in Hardin County Case No. CVCV102247, whereby Hardin County calls into question the validity of prior 28E agreements, and

WHEREAS the outcome of that litigation is uncertain, and Buena Vista County has an interest in the outcome of that litigation, and

WHEREAS the CIJDC Commission has voted 22-5 to approve the attached compromise settlement agreement resolving the litigation, and

WHEREAS the compromise settlement agreement is a compromise between Hardin County and the CIJDC that acknowledges the membership of counties joining the CIJDC through 2012 and also allows the remaining counties to maintain certain benefits that the litigation does not otherwise guarantee, while also allowing the counties joining through 2012 to adopt a new 28E agreement and even vote to allow the remaining counties to regain full membership in the CIJDC, and

WHEREAS the Parties will file with the Court a consent decree memorializing the full terms and conditions of the Parties' compromise settlement agreement following approval of the compromise settlement by a majority of the member counties.

THEREFORE, the Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors hereby approve and adopt the attached compromise agreement, and authorize the CIJDC to execute and present to the court a consent decree consistent with the attached compromise settlement.

/s/ Paul Merten, Chairperson.....Attest: Karla Ahrendsen, County Election Deputy

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

Iowa Lakes Corridor: Senior Vice President Trevor Smith and Coordinator of Administration and Communication Alyssa Petersen with the Iowa Lakes Corridor and Beth Fraser a Corridor Member from Sioux Rapids joined the Board for an update and review of the happenings in the Corridor. Smith told the group he had been in BV county earlier for the ribbon cutting on 75 new townhouses owned by Kading Properties, LLC that will bring affordable rental housing to the community. Housing and daycare are the two biggest issues when trying to grow and maintain workforces in a community. He also updated the group that they had over 100 people show up at the golf outing to raise money for the "Home Grown Initiative" and enough money was raised that in 2026 a \$6,000 grant will be awarded in each member county. More information will be coming this winter.

Beth Fraser told the group how she worked to renovate her Sioux Rapids building after the flood and start her own business, Small Batch Baking Co., in the building that had been in her family for generations. She also told the group how she is working with Iowa Economic Development Authority Downtown Resource Center to help rebuild Sioux Rapids' Main Street which was severely damaged in the flood last summer. Beth told the group she has purchased the lot next to her building and is hoping to build retail space with apartments above it. The Sioux Rapids community needs affordable housing like many small rural communities. The Board thanked Beth for sharing her story.

Smith and Petersen closed by presenting the findings of the Business retention and expansion study and the employment survey conducted this winter. Businesses are still reporting growth in sales with Buena Vista County being slightly above the average. Both studies still show that affordable housing and daycare are playing a large role in retention and new hires. Merten asked the group if any direct advertising was utilized in areas where unemployment is higher and was told that the Corridor works with employment agencies and headhunters in these areas but are unable to do much for direct advertising. Petersen also highlighted the 19th Annual Entrepreneurial Class that was put on in August stating this was the largest class to date and was very impressed with all the participants. She pointed out that a Buena Vista University Student won the ideas portion of the class. She also highlighted how Katherine Cota helped facilitate Storm Lake businesses to allow the participants to stop and observe local businesses on the way home from the class since it was too far to travel during actual class time. The Board thanked the group for all the hard work that they put in and told them they always enjoy their updates.

Motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to approve the **Law Enforcement 28E Agreement** with the City of Albert City for FY'26 and FY'27. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Hartman, to approve the **Law Enforcement 28E Agreement** with the City of Lakeside for FY'26 and FY'27. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Snyder, to approve the **Law Enforcement 28E Agreement** with the City of Truesdale for FY'26 and FY'27. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Hartman, to approve the **Law Enforcement 28E Agreement** with the City of Linn Grove for FY'26 and FY'27. Carried.

Sgt Stacey Smith presented the service contract with Lexipol. He explained to the group the Sheriff Elston would like to use them for updating policy and procedure manuals. They have an extensive catalog of services that they offer. Smith told the group for the services that Elston is looking at the contract would be around \$30,000 for FY26 and \$30,000 for FY27 and he would use Federal Inmate Funds to pay this. The question was raised whether this would meet some of the continuing education requirements for the officers and Sgt. Smith was not sure. Motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to table signing the **service contract with Lexipol** until more information was available. Carried.

There being no further business, motion by Ringgenberg, second by Hartman, to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. until Tuesday, September 16 at 8:30 a.m. for a special session. Carried.