

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
THIRTY- NINTH MEETING, 2025 SESSION (39)
SEPTEMBER 23, 2025**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, September 30, 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. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.

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

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Snyder, to approve the **utility permit** for Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, Estherville, IA, to convert the existing overhead to underground, burying cable along 615th St., in Section 7 Providence Township, from approximately 650' east of Hwy 71, along different points, to approximately 3,600' east of Hwy 71 along the south right-of-way. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson informed the Board of the eight bids received on the Phase 2 road project. Bids were received from: Peterson Contractors, Inc., Reinbeck, IA (\$2,391,959.61), Godbersen-Smith Construction Co. & Subsidiary, Ida Grove, IA (\$2,572,736.41), Cedar Valley Corp., LLC, Waterloo, IA (\$2,588,854.64), Wicks Construction, Inc., Decorah, IA (\$2,712,294.01), Bainbridge Construction, LLC, Kingsley, IA (\$2,771,216.24), Moyna, C.J. & Sons, LLC, Elkader, IA (\$2,784,092.35), Reilly Construction Co., Inc., Ossian, IA (\$3,009,199.42), and Hulstein Excavating, Inc., Edgerton, MN (\$3,320,695.86). Wilkinson recommended awarding the contract to the low bidder, Peterson Contractors, Inc. Motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to approve and award the contract for **Project #L-PAV24--73-11**, Phase 2 of the Platinum Crush Road Project, to Peterson Contractors, Inc., Reinbeck, IA, in the amount of \$2,391,959.61, and to allow the Chair to sign the contract as soon as it is ready. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson informed the Board that the **City of Marathon** had contacted the County Auditor to see if the County was interested in the parcel of land where the city's old water treatment plant was located, since it is next to the Goldsmith Pit, in Section 20 Poland Township. The consensus of the Board was that they are not interested in this small piece of land owned by the City of Marathon, where their old water treatment plant was, and the city will be notified.

Secondary Roads Report: They have been hauling gravel and hope to wrap it up next week in the north part of county. They are almost done with graveling the east part of the county. Tile crews are out making repairs. They have one mower still out working.

Platinum Crush Road Project Update: Engineer Bret Wilkinson has received a set of plans from the State and their engineering firm regarding Hwy 7 and 70th Ave. and 80th Ave. The onsite meeting on Phase 3 will be October 1 at 10:00 a.m. Wilkinson stated that the plans show a turn lane of 550' for eastbound traffic on Hwy 7 turning south on to 70th Ave., which he states would allow six trucks to line up there. Wilkinson stated that the standard turn lane is 250' plus taper. Wilkinson stated that the State plans to raise the 70th Ave. intersection about a foot, which will help with the sight, but there will still be an issue with sight on 80th Ave.

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

Motion by Croker, second by Snyder, to approve the minutes of 9/16/2025 as presented, today's claims approval list, and Auxiant disbursements, and accepting the following report: August Conservation Board minutes. Carried.

Motion by Croker, second by Ringgenberg, to approve the request from NW IA Regional Housing Trust Fund to have the Board approve and authorize the Chair to sign the FY'26 pledge contribution letter to NW IA Regional Housing Trust Fund, Inc. in the amount of \$2,080 as the funds are used for their local match, to maintain housing, which will contribute to economic retention of workers and work done. Carried.

Election Deputy Karla Ahrendsen presented the FY'25 Annual Urban Renewal Report for the Board to approve. Motion by Croker, second by Snyder, to accept the County's FY'25 Annual Urban Renewal Report and authorize the Chair to sign. Carried.

Motion by Hartman, second by Ringgenberg, to authorize the Auditor to void and re-issue check #329843 dated 4/22/25 to Stanley Law Firm, LLC in the amount of \$197.60. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Croker, to set a public hearing for a FY'26 BV County budget amendment, for October 28, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to approve the Auditor to notify S&P Global that a credit rating was being requested. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Croker, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Jt. DD #22 Lat 19-101 claim to Abel Drainage & Excavating, Inc. for \$7,630.00 for repairs and Jt. DD #22 Lat 19-101 claim to Kent Malm for \$80.00 for inspections. Carried.

Env Health/Zoning Director Ben Mueggenberg presented Zoning Compliance Permits for WECS (Wind Energy Conversion Systems). Also present for this discussion was Alex Luman-Minnesota Power, Michael Cummings-Fredrikson & Byron, Jessica Wilkening Travis-Merjent, Inc., Jim Moran-Allete Clean Energy, Josh Yernatich-Allete Clean Energy, Gwynn Gerlach-landowner, and Brittany Decker-Sunderman Farm Mgt. Co. The permits are for 59 locations, where 44-55 new wind turbines will be installed. There will be 259 current pads and turbines coming down. Mueggenberg stated that the permits are good for two years, and the intention is to have the decommissioning of the old turbines and installation of the new turbines done in 2027. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Hartman, to approve the Zoning Compliance Permits for WECS and allow Ben Mueggenberg to sign them all. Carried.

Auditor Susan Lloyd presented information to the Board, asking whether they would approve having someone come from Ahlers & Cooney for an HR training session with department heads. The consensus of the Board was to move forward with HR training for department heads.

Drainage Engineer Brian Blomme discussed a tile repair project conducted with the BV Tile Crew and a contractor for DD #81 west of Albert City. Blomme stated that the work was within the north road ditch of C-29. The lower 600' of Lateral 3 (12") was replaced with 12" tile along with 600' of 10" Lateral 3A was replaced with 12" tile. The new tile will be extended across N-14 when a road project is conducted. An existing manhole near the existing stop sign at the intersection will be tied in at that time. Blomme state that the repair was necessary due to the existing 1,200' tile segment experiencing multiple blowouts in recent years and creating washouts within the roadbed of C-29. Blomme stated that Secondary Road is willing to pay 50% of the cost of the pipe (\$3,805.44) and the District will reimburse Secondary Roads for the remaining \$3,805.44. The cost to the District for installation would be \$12,585.00. Motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to approve and authorize payment for labor to install 1,200' of 12" tile to DD #81, for a total cost of \$12,585.00. Carried.

Conservation Director/Weed Commissioner Greg Johnson gave a department update. The Weed Department has sprayed 1,600 miles of the 2,000 miles within the county. Johnson stated that they plan

on starting the fall application for State Roads on Monday and dedicating four spray days with the spray truck next week, and some follow up gator work may be necessary thereafter. The remaining 398 miles will take the Weed Department approximately 11-12 days (35 miles per day) to complete, which will put them right up to October 15. Johnson stated that they anticipate hydroseeding Platinum Crush the week of October 27th with November 12-21 timeframe being a backup. Conservation Department has lost some of their seasonal help. Johnson stated that they are still mowing, they have been installing playground equipment and they have some capital projects coming up. Johnson stated that he has not received any messages from FEMA, no funds have been obligated on the Linn Grove Dam since the County won arbitration.

County Attorney Paul Allen was present for his appointment. Motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to go into **closed session #1 and #2** (at 10:32 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 Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to go out of **closed session #1 and #2** at 10:58 a.m. Carried.

There being no further business, motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 a.m. until Tuesday, September 30 at 8:30 a.m. for a special session. Carried.