

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
FORTY-NINTH MEETING, 2025 SESSION (49)  
DECEMBER 2, 2025**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, December 2, 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 Croker, second by Ringgenberg, to approve **today's agenda**. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Croker, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **Roads Maintenance Agreement** with the City of Lakeside. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Hartman, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **Roads Maintenance Agreement** with the City of Linn Grove. Carried.

Motion by Hartman, second by Snyder, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **Roads Maintenance Agreement** with the City of Rembrandt. Carried.

**Secondary Roads Report**: Chairman Merten questioned if we had an agreement with Truesdale and Wilkinson said no that we only do the main road in town under the Farm to Market requirements. Wilkinson told the group that he had not seen the Railroad diagnostic testing done a couple of weeks ago and had nothing to report. Phase 2 is moving just a little behind schedule due to the weather. They are hoping to have the culvert back filled and ready to be opened by the end of the week. The contractor will then be done until Spring.

Plows were out Saturday, Sunday and Monday cleaning from the last storm. Motor graders went out Sunday and Monday. Hartman asked if the brine truck was used this time and was told it is not completed yet but hopefully some warmer temperatures will allow them to still test it out this winter once completed. They are still hauling some rock for stock piling while the quarries are still open and refilling the salt sheds. Wilkinson was questioned when Business 71 would be bid-let, and he responded that they were still completing some engineering and that once it was completed it would be submitted to the DOT for review, and they would then get a letting date, hopefully late winter or early spring. Merten mentioned that some of the traffic signs out by Lakeside were being blocked by trees and Wilkinson said he would check into it. Wilkinson closed by telling the group he would be going to Des Moines this week for meetings but could still be reached by phone and email.

Drainage Engineer Brian Blomme stopped in during **Hear the Public** to update the Board on the DD13 drainage meeting the city held the previous night. He told the Board that only 11% of the acreage and 15% of the owners wrote letters for remonstrance and 50% of the owners and 70% of the land is required so that would not be an option. He did tell the Board that the city received 8 objections. Both Blomme and the Board question if that was an accurate representation and wondered if all the landowners are even aware of what is happening. Blomme did tell the group that he felt that by the city tabling everything until February when Tyson is to get back to the city on what exactly they are expecting that things might be moving in the right direction.

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

Emergency Management Coordinator Aimee Barritt informed the Board that the **Hazard Mitigation Plan** was last approved July 2023, and so an update needs to be done and approved by July 2028. Barritt started the process earlier this year and got notice that \$30,000 would be funded by the Federal Government and that the State would fund \$4,550 leaving the county to cover \$10,950 of the \$45,500 bill. Barritt contracted with JEO Consulting out of Carroll, IA to update the plan and they will be doing this during FY28. Monthly bills will be sent and once paid reimbursement can be requested. Barritt told the Board she is looking forward to working with this company as they redid Clay County's plan after the flood and they were very happy with them. Motion by Snyder, seconded by Ringgenberg, to approve \$45,500 in funding for the **Hazard Mitigation Plan** Update. Carried.

Barritt also told the Board that on December 5 at 1:00pm that she and Sioux Rapids City Officials are going to kick off a fund-raising campaign for the American Legion Building in Sioux Rapids. She explained that they are getting close to getting the FEMA worked out but would need about \$83,000 in matching funds to receive the FEMA grant. She said that they have a little over \$30,000 in volunteer hours but would still need to raise the remaining \$50,000. Rusty Smith and Lacey Garberding will be presenting to all the local media the importance of the Legion to the community and all donations will go through the Disaster Relief Fund so that donators will receive a letter for tax deductions.

Motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to approve the **minutes** of 11/25/2025 as presented, today's **claim approval list, and Auxiant disbursements**, and accept the following **reports**: Audit Report NW IA YES Center, Conservation Annual Report. Carried.

Ginny and Rusty Smith of the **Sioux Rapids Historical Society** informed the Board that they had completed the furnace and air conditioning project with a little bit of money left over that they used to commission a sign for the Memorial Building that houses Abner Bells cabin and other memorabilia. She mentioned that this year's funding would be used for more programs and events as they have now completed all the repairs that were needed from the flood. They are requesting \$1,000 in funds for FY'27 and thanked the Board for their support each year. The Board thanked them for all their hard work.

Conservation Director/Weed Commissioner Greg Johnson presented his 2025 Annual Conservation Report. Johnson reviewed the information presented in the report highlighting the 425 programs and the camping. He told the group that he had contracted with Placer AI to gather data on the visitors to the park. He said that the information is collected based on cell phone usage. He said they could see how many times the same cell phone was in an area and the duration and frequency that it was used. He is hoping to use this information to make the parks better for the type of visitors using them. He did a brief update on the Linn Grove Dam and FEMA stating that they can't get any direct answers and that they are still waiting for the approved projects to be appropriated. He explained that the channel cut by the flooding is part of the Park Project with FEMA and not the Dam project.

Motion by Croker, second by Snyder, to accept the **2025 Annual Conservation Report**. Carried. Johnson did tell the group that Conservation had received a monetary gift of \$150,000 from John G. Black Family Trust. This money is to be used for Educational Programs and park improvements. Johnson put \$25,000 in the Educational Trust and the remainder in the LATF Trust.

Johnson presented the group with the Storm Lake Marina Maintenance Agreement Amendment stating that it just renewed the same agreement another year. Johnson said that he would be in next week to present the transfer agreement. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Croker, to approve the **Storm Lake Marina Maintenance Agreement**. Carried.

Snyder asked Johnson if he had heard anything on a new location for trap shooting. Johnson said he had an idea, but it would take a substantial investment to make it happen. He would keep thinking on it.

There being no further business, motion by Snyder, second by Hartmen, to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 a.m. until Tuesday, December 9 at 8:30 a.m. for a special session. Carried.