

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
FIFTY-SECOND MEETING, 2025 SESSION (52)  
DECEMBER 23, 2025**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in special session on Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at 8:30 A.M. in the Boardroom with Chairman Merten presiding and the following other members present Croker, Hartman, Snyder, and with Auditor Susan Lloyd as clerk for the meeting. Absent: Ringgenberg.

Unless otherwise indicated, all the following **motions** offered at this meeting were carried with the following vote: Ayes: Croker, Hartman, Merten, Snyder. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.

Motion by Snyder, second by Croker, to amend **today's agenda**, adding a certificate of appreciation for Jim Temple to the action items. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson presented information to the Board for the purpose of a Tiger Brand 72" side rotary mower, to be used along the gravel roads. Wilkinson stated that they currently have a pull behind mower that is used along the hard surface roads. The cost of the mower is \$41,285. Motion by Snyder, second by Croker, to approve the purchase of a Tiger Brand 72" side rotary **mower** for Secondary Roads, with a cost of \$41,285. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson informed the Board that he would like to order two tandem **truck chassis** now, to be paid for out of the FY'27 budget. Wilkinson stated snow equipment delivery is 490 days out, and they need to have the chassis ordered so that they know what kind of snow equipment to order that will be put on the chassis. The cost of the two tandem truck chassis is \$339,552. The consensus of the Board was to table this until next week.

**Secondary Roads Report:** They have been working on equipment in the shop, and mounting brine tanks on three trucks and getting them working. They will also be hauling gravel to stockpiles.

Motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign a **Certificate of Appreciation** for Jim Temple for his 26 years of service to Buena Vista County Secondary Roads. Carried.

Chairman Merten asked if there was anyone online that wished to be heard during **Hear the Public** and there was none. Terry Murray was present in-person and asked for training for the Secondary Road employees on using the motor graders. Murray also stated that there are lots of allocation requests coming in, and he appreciates selling off equipment that isn't needed, and budget constraints on purchases, as taxes are high.

Sheriff Kory Elston informed the Board that the main network switch needs to be replaced at the LEC. The network has been going down a lot, and it hasn't been replaced since the LEC was built. Elston stated that the cost is around \$28,000, and he would like to use CARES funds to pay for it. Motion by Snyder, second by Croker, to approve the purchase of a main **network switch** for the LEC and to pay the cost out of CARES funds. Carried.

Emergency Management Director, Aimee Barritt, presented her FY'27 funding request. Barritt is requesting \$85,000 for **Emergency Management** and \$22,000 for **Hazmat**. Barritt stated that the EMPG Grant is tied up in litigation, and not knowing if any funds will be available, that is the reason for the increase of \$20,000 for her agency request. The Hazmat contract is with Sioux City Fire for \$1/person based on the 2020 population. The contract runs through 2027. Barritt updated the Board on activities her agency has been involved with over the past year and on initiatives for the coming year.

**Buena Vista County EMS Association** President, Kirk Reetz, presented their FY'27 funding request. Reetz thanked the Board for their support and is asking for \$10,000, which is the same as the current year. The funds they receive from the county is primarily allocated for EMS provider training in the county. The EMS Association pays for initial education, as well as the continuing education required to maintain certification. They currently have 38 responders, all volunteers. They also put the funds towards any equipment costs to keep equipment up-to-date. The Board thanked Reetz and stated that they appreciate all they do.

Stephanie Henrich, Executive Director with **CAASA**, along with Katie Farrel, one of her advocates, presented their FY'27 funding request. Henrich stated that they use the funding for responding to crisis calls. In FY'25, their advocates provided direct services to 41 survivors in BV County, including crisis intervention, counseling, medical and legal advocacy, relocation assistance, transportation, and help with basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. CAASA operates with limited state and federal funding, \$595,637 per year for all 19 counties, while salaries alone are \$501,416 annually. Henrich stated that they are requesting \$10,000 from Buena Vista County, an increase of \$2,500 over the current fiscal year. They thanked the Board for their continued support.

Lucille Fitzsenry and Kristen Watts, **Buena Vista Historical Society & Genealogy Library** thanked the board for the contribution to the historical society. Fitzsenry and Watts updated the Board on the progress after the April, 2025 storm took the roof off their building and the water damage that occurred. They are requesting \$12,000 for FY'27, an increase from the current allocation of \$4,500. The funds would be utilized to install new commercial-grade carpet tiles, replacing the carpet damaged by the April, 2025 storm.

Gary Sundblad and Brady Bonin, **Albert City Threshermen & Collectors Assn.** presented their FY'27 funding request of \$5,000. Sundblad stated that in 2026, their show is going to be having an "Old Power Roundup & Wheat Run", which will feature pre-1930's tractors and equipment as well as demonstrating an old-fashioned wheat run with many old combines in the field at the same time. Sundblad stated that the money would be used for advertising in local and national publications, to hopefully draw 15,000-20,000 people to their event. The board said how proud they are for the national spotlight this event brings to the county. They thanked Sundblad and Bonin for coming and told him they would get back to them on the allocation for the coming year.

Vernon Winterhof, **Hanover Historical Society**, presented their funding request of \$1,500 for FY'27, the same as FY'26, and stated that they appreciate the financial assistance from the county. Winterhof stated that their property has 11 buildings, most of which are over 100 years old. There are always repairs that are needed, and currently they have a house that needs shingle replacement. Winterhof stated that they have two buildings that had door damage due to the Good Friday storm. The Board thanked Winterhof for everything they do.

**Storm Lake United** Executive Director Laura Hanks and Events Coordinator Andrea Armonza, reviewed previous activities of Storm Lake United. Hanks is requesting \$40,000 for FY'27, which is \$5,000 over their current approved amount for FY'26. Hanks stated that the additional funding from the county will allow them to promote the commercial, industrial, and tourism opportunities that the city and county have to offer. Hanks stated that one of the main goals guiding their strategic plan is to expand the reach outside of Storm Lake into the surrounding communities in Buena Vista County, adding additional meaning to Storm Lake United. The Board thanked them for coming in.

Motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to approve the **minutes** from 12/16/2025 as corrected, and accept the following **reports**: None. Carried.

There being no further business, motion by Snyder, second by Hartman, to adjourn the meeting at 11:24 a.m. until Tuesday, December 30 at 8:30 a.m. for a regular session. Carried.