

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
SEVENTH MEETING, 2026 SESSION (7)
JANUARY 27, 2026**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 8:30 A.M. in the Boardroom with Chairman Merten presiding and the following other members present Hartman, Ringgenberg, Snyder (virtually), and with Auditor Susan Lloyd as clerk for the meeting. Absent: Croker.

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

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

Motion by Snyder, second by Hartman, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **utility permit** for Iowa Lakes Regional Water, Spencer, IA, to bore under 450th St., east of 190th Ave., between Sections 18 and 19 Poland Township for a water line from private property to private property. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson presented quotes for two pickups that he would like to purchase and then he would be selling two older pickups, Units 52 & 61. Merten asked Wilkinson if he remembered a conversation back in September when he stated that he would be willing to give up purchasing two pickups to purchase the track loader. Wilkinson stated that he remembered the conversation and said that since some of his other purchases came in under his estimates, that he would have funds in his budget to pay for these two vehicles along with the additional brine tanks he is still looking to purchase. Hartman commented that he would like to wait until the full Board was present to make this decision. Wilkinson stated that he didn't know how long the quote would be honored for these trucks, and he knew that they were not sitting on the lot, they would have to be ordered. Snyder asked Wilkinson how much the used trucks are worth, and Wilkinson stated that he did not get a price if he were to trade them in, since he intended to sell them at an auction. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Snyder, to approve the County Engineer to purchase a **2500 Crew Cab Long Box pickup** for \$63,851 and a **2500 Regular Cab Long Box pickup** for \$59,080, and to sell by auction Unit 52 & Unit 61, both pickups, that are listed on the excess equipment list. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson presented a list of old equipment that he would like the Board to declare as excess and allow him to take to the March 4 auction in Pocahontas. Motion by Hartman, second by Ringgenberg, to declare the following items as **excess equipment** and allow the Engineer to take them to Pocahontas for a March 4 auction: Unit #27 single axle truck, Units 52 & 61 crew cab pickups, steel wheels, chain link fence, electric motor, 500 gallon fuel tank, old shop waste oil tank 500 gallon, old fuel tank 1000 gallon, pickup toolbox, used pipe, dryer fan from Alta shed, Diamond hydraulic tank and lift arm, miscellaneous exhaust pipes and muffler from sterling trucks, pigeonhole cabinets, miscellaneous hydraulic cylinders, ½ inch pipe 6" long, CAT G fuel tank, miscellaneous PTO shafts, two hydraulic tanks, Unit #133 chipper, PTO generator, Unit #143 3" trash pump, used RCP pipe, and Units #213 and #216 sand blasters. Carried.

Secondary Road Report: The guys are still hauling to gravel stockpiles. They are working on cleaning up equipment and the shop and getting the excess equipment ready to take to Pocahontas for the auction on March 4. Engineer Bret Wilkinson stated that letters are going out on the Phase 3 Project from the DOT, and they will be contacting landowners.

Treasurer Danelle Haberman presented the Semi-Annual report for the Board to approve before she publishes in the papers. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Snyder, to approve the **Semi-Annual report** (12/31/2025) as presented and for the Chair to sign the report. Carried.

Sheriff Kory Elston came in to request the remaining Capital Projects Loan dollars that were designated for vehicles in the I.T. Department (\$35,000), Bldg/Grounds (\$21,500), and Environmental Health (\$47,421) to purchase squad cars for his department, since the other departments are not going to be purchasing vehicles. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Hartman, to allow the Sheriff to use \$103,921 in remaining vehicle **capital loan dollars** from the I.T., Bldg/Grounds, and Environmental Health Departments during FY'26 to purchase squad cars. Carried.

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

Motion by Hartman, second by Snyder, to approve the **minutes** from 1/20/26 as presented, today's **claim approval list, Auxiant disbursements, and stamped warrant list**, and accept the following **reports**: December Central IA Juvenile Detention Center Board minutes. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Hartman, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **utility permit** of Corn Belt Telecommunications to install a fiber optic line into the City of Newell, that goes over, across, or beneath established drainage districts (DD #1, DD #15, DD #16-30-92, and DD #10-80-80 Sub 1). Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to approve and authorize the Board to sign the **Management Representation letter**, for Winther Stave for the FY'25 audit. Carried.

There being no further business, motion by Hartman, second by Ringgenberg, to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 a.m. until Tuesday, February 3 at 8:30 a.m. for a special session. Carried.