

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
ELEVENTH MEETING, 2026 SESSION (11)
FEBRUARY 24, 2026**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 8:30 A.M. in the Boardroom with Chairman Merten presiding and the following other members present: Croker, Hartman, Ringgenberg, and with Auditor Susan Lloyd as clerk for the meeting. Absent: Snyder.

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

Motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to amend **today's agenda**, adding the Resolution on wages for FY'27. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson presented a utility permit from the Storm Lake Water Department to install a sampling station in the south ditch along South Shore Drive in Section 15 Hayes Township. Public Works Director Ron Convert was present to answer any question that the board had. Motion by Hartman, second by Ringgenberg, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **utility permit** for Storm Lake Water Department, to install an above ground water sampling station in the south ditch along South Shore Drive, in Section 15 Hayes Township. Carried.

Motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Iowa DOT **Certificate of Completion and Final Acceptance of Agreement Work** for Project #RC-CO11(118)--9A-11 for the RISE Grant Phase 1 paving project around Platinum Crush. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson requested to advertise for a seasonal worker for the Secondary Road Dept. Motion by Croker, second by Ringgenberg, to approve the request to advertise for a **seasonal worker** to mow ditches for the Secondary Road Department. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson informed the Board of his recommendation to hire Bill Ingwersen, for the E01 position, starting him at \$2.00 under the current E01 rate, with .50/hour increases at 6-month reviews for the first two years. Motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to approve Wilkinson's recommendation to **hire** Bill Ingwersen, as an E01, effective February 26, 2026, at a rate of \$32.65 per hour, which is \$2.00 under the E01 rate, with .50/hour increases at 6-month reviews for the first two years and eligible for any raises given by the Board of Supervisors. Carried.

Secondary Road Report: The Phase 3 online meeting with the DOT and the County will be March 2, and part of the discussion will be where and when to have a public meeting, sometime between April 20 and May 15. The crew is still cutting brush and picking up trees. Engineer Wilkinson stated that the DOT was holding a training at his office today and he would be attending when he was done with the board meeting. The Board asked about Business 71 and N14 and Wilkinson stated that the projects will be let together, but the DOT is requesting that the paperwork be separated, so he is working on that.

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

Assessor Joe Cronin stopped in to answer questions that the Board had regarding the **Vanguard Appraisals** that were sent out. Cronin stated that people can call in and make an appointment to discuss their property appraisal with Vanguard, and the appointments will be help next week. Cronin made the

comment that the market is what is setting the assessments. The Board thanked Cronin for coming in to explain the process to them.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Hartman, to approve the minutes of 2/17/2026 as presented, today's claim approval list, stamped warrants, and Auxiant disbursements, and accept the following reports: FY'25 Audit Report for BV County. Carried.

Motion by Merten, second by Ringgenberg, to approve the Class C Liquor License and Outdoor Service for LCCC, Inc, DBA Lake Creek Golf. Carried.

Auditor Lloyd reviewed the proposed levies and ending fund balances for FY'27. Motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to set the public hearing on the proposed property tax levies, for March 25, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. in the Boardroom. Carried.

Chairman Merten reviewed the Compensation Board's recommendations for the FY'27 elected official salaries. Recommendations were as follows: 3.% increase for the Auditor, Attorney, Recorder, Sheriff, Treasurer, and Supervisors, and a \$2,000 stipend for the Board Chair, a \$500 stipend for the Board Vice-Chair, and a \$5,000 stipend for the Auditor, as the Board's Budget Director, and to continue Longevity for all Elected Officials. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Croker, to accept the Compensation Board's salary recommendations, setting the FY'27 salary increase for the Attorney, Auditor, Recorder, Sheriff, Treasurer, and Supervisor at 3%, a \$2,000 stipend for the Board Chair, a \$500 stipend for the Board Vice-Chair, a \$5,000 stipend for the Auditor, as the Board's Budget Director, and reaffirmed the longevity schedule for all elected officials. Carried.

RESOLUTION #2026-02-24-A
ELECTED OFFICIAL COMPENSATION SCHEDULE
FY 2026/2027

WHEREAS, the Buena Vista County Compensation Board met on November 19, 2025 to consider recommendations for the elected officials wages for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year based on salaries of comparable positions within Buena Vista County and within the State of Iowa as required by Sections 331.905 & 331.907 of the Code of Iowa, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors recognizes the Compensation Board's continued commitment in its position to try and equalize the elected officials' salaries to bring them in line with duties and comparable salaries and acknowledges receipt of the Compensation Board's recommendation of an increase of 3.0% for the Attorney, Auditor, Recorder, Sheriff, Supervisors, and Treasurer. Plus, the continuation of longevity for all Elected Officials, a \$2,000 stipend for the Board Chair, a \$500 stipend for the Board Vice-Chair, and a \$5,000 stipend for the Auditor as Budget Director (in lieu of the Board Secretary stipend) for FY 2026/2027 as follows:

County Attorney	\$161,551
County Auditor	94,526
County Recorder	87,030
County Treasurer	87,030
County Sheriff	132,827
County Supervisors	42,211
Supervisor-Vice Chair	42,711
Supervisor-Chair	44,211

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors that the compensation schedule recommended by the Buena Vista County Compensation Board at their meeting on November 19, 2025, be approved as follows.

County Attorney	\$161,551
County Auditor	94,526
County Recorder	87,030
County Treasurer	87,030
County Sheriff	132,827
County Supervisors	42,211
Supervisor-Vice Chair	42,711
Supervisor-Chair	44,211

Dated this 24th day of February, 2026.

Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors

/s/ Paul Merten, Chairperson.....Attest: Susan K. Lloyd, County Auditor

Hartman left the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

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

Motion by Croker, second by Ringgenberg, to approve **wage increases** for FY'27, for the non-elected officials and their employees that are not under another Board as: Drainage Department-Brian Blomme and Eric Yunginger (which were both approved by the shared 3-County Drainage Board); Bldg/Grounds-Joe Keller, Vance Cords, Jon Buss, Craig Boyd; I.T. Tyler Van Houten, Eric Chase; and Zoning Administrator, as they were presented in their respective budgets. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Merten, to approve a 3% **wage increase** for FY'27, for all Secondary Road employees, except the County Engineer who is on a contract, based on their current base rate. Carried.

There being no further business, motion by Ringgenberg, second by Croker, to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 a.m. until Tuesday, March 10 at 8:30 a.m. for a regular session. Carried. (No meeting is planned for March 3)