

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
SEVENTEENTH MEETING, 2026 SESSION (17)  
APRIL 7, 2026**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 8:30 A.M. in the Boardroom with Chairperson Merten presiding, and the following other members present: Croker, Hartman (online), 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, and Snyder. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.

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

Motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **utility permit** for Iowa Lakes Regional Water, Spencer, IA, to bore along 580<sup>th</sup> St. and 110<sup>th</sup> Ave, between Sections 22,26 & 27 Washington Township for a water line from private property to private property. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Snyder, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **utility permit** for Iowa Lakes Regional Water, Spencer, IA, to bore along 450<sup>th</sup> St., between Sections 13 & 24 Lee Township for a water line from private property to private property. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson reviewed his FY'27 IDOT preliminary budget that will be submitted to the State, along with his 5-year program for construction and repairs. The budget has not been approved for filing, so it was just a review with the possibility of minor changes to take place yet. Motion by Croker, second by Snyder, to table approving the Chair to sign the **State IDOT budget** for FY27 and **5-year Construction Program** for FY'27 until the actual budget was available. Carried.

The Board asked Wilkinson to return after the close session to keep the meeting on schedule.

The Chair opened the public hearing for a **Master Matrix** for Lance Heuser #2- South Site in Section 25 of Maple Valley Township, with Environmental Health Director Ben Mueggenberg, and Tim Humes present and eleven unidentified callers online. Mueggenberg stated that there are no new facilities, just an increase in the number of head in the barn, and they received 440 points for the Matrix. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Croker, to close the public hearing. Carried.

Motion by Croker, second by Ringgenberg, to approve the **Master Matrix** for Lance Heuser #2- South Site in Section 25 of Maple Valley Township and authorize the Chair to sign. Carried.

**Hear the Public:** Tim Humes informed the Board since it was International Beaver Day and that he stopped in to ask that they review a new study from Iowa State University on the benefits of beavers on the environment. He said that several European countries are working to bring them back after eradication of them in the early 1900s. He also mentioned that he felt having the Marina as a Conservation Education Center was a great use of space. He would like to see it as a starting point for an environmental zipline tour. The Board thanked Tim for his suggestions. Merten asked if there was anyone else that would like to speak during hear the public and there was none.

Fourth and fifth graders from Storm Lake Elementary School were present to read the Proclamation Declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Hartman, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **Proclamation Declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month**. Carried. The Board thanked the students for coming and reading the proclamation.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Merten, to approve the minutes of 3/31/2026 as presented, today's claim approval list, and Auxiant disbursements. Carried.

County Attorney Paul Allen was present for his appointment. Motion by Snyder, second by Hartman, to go into closed session (at 9:40 A.M.) under Chapter 21.5(1)(c) of the 2026 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, and Snyder. Motion carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to go out of closed session at 10:50 A.M. Carried.

Hartman left the meeting at 10:50 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.

Chairperson Merten brought Wilkinson back to finish his Engineer Report. Wilkinson started by telling the group that estimates for the Business 71 and N14 repairs came in about \$169,000 more than what was available in the Farm to Market fund. He said that IDOT gave him a couple of options to fix this and he wanted to give the Board time to think about it before action needed to be taken. The first option was to write a check to the State to supplement the difference, or the second option was to write a resolution stating that the money would be transferred shortly after July 1 to allow it to come out of FY27 budget. Wilkinson did tell the Board that he had enough money in this year's construction budget so that they could write the check now. He will bring it back to the Board for final approval in the next couple of weeks. He says if the estimates came in for less than any money we put into the Farm to Market, those funds would stay with our county and could be used later on different projects.

He mentioned that IDOT would like to have an informational meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup> prior to the public informational meetings they will be having on Highway 7 and 70<sup>th</sup> Ave. He said he will keep them updated on the time and location.

Wilkinson told the group that he had received a complaint from a homeowner on 70<sup>th</sup> Ave south of C63 on all the dust from the trucks running up and down them. Both Merten and Snyder are concerned about setting a precedent since the county normally doesn't put down dust control unless it is county vehicles causing the dust. The crew also started their four 10 hours day this week. The office will be staffed 7-3:30 on Fridays. Wilkinson let the group know he would be going next week to his national conference, but he would join online Tuesday for the budget and send Justin if they had any questions.

Motion by Croker, second by Snyder, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Engagement Letter for Northland Securities as Underwriter. Carried.

There being no further business, motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 a.m. until Tuesday, April 14 at 8:30 a.m. for a special session. Carried.