BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TWENTY-FIRST MEETING, 2026 SESSION (21)
MAY 5, 2026

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 8:30 A.M. in the Boardroom with Chairperson Merten presiding, and the following other members present: Croker, Hartman, Ringgenberg, Snyder and with Auditor Susan Lloyd 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 Hartman, 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 Electric Cooperative, Estherville, IA, for installation of one new enclosure and direct buried cable along N. River Road in Section 6 Barnes Township from 707 N. River Road, along the north right-of-way to approximately 475' east and then go into the bottom of the north ditch for approximately 1,125' and then going north to service a new house. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson presented the Plans and Title Sheet for Project L-CO11(BV95)--73-11 for Bridge #95 on 40th Ave. north of 630th St., over the Maple River. Wilkinson stated that he will take bids through May 27, and then bring it to the Board to approve on June 2, and then sent to the contractor. Wilkinson stated that it is a working day contract, with 85 working days and a late start date of April, 2027. Motion by Hartman, second by Ringgenberg, to approve the Plans and Title Sheet for **Project L-CO11(BV95)--73-11**, Bridge #95, and authorize the Chair to sign. Carried.

Secondary Road Report: They have been graveling the gravel roads up by Sioux Rapids, doing tile repairs, and installing and widening driveways. One seasonal worker has started mowing, and the second seasonal worker will start next week. The contractor will be moving equipment into the county this week to begin working on Phase 2. The IDOT Phase 3 public information meeting is May 12 at the Alta Community Center. Wilkinson and his assistant, Justin Anderson, have been working on preliminary plans for next years big projects. The letting for Business 71 and N14 will be in June.

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

Motion by Croker, second by Ringgenberg, to approve the **minutes** of 4/28/2026 as corrected, today's **claims approval list, stamped warrant list, and Auxiant disbursements,** and to accept the following **reports**: None. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to approve the **Tobacco License Review Application** for Al's Corner Oil Company, DBA Sparky's One Stop Storm Lake. Carried.

Motion by Croker, second by Ringgenberg, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **Jt. DD #22** beaver bounty claim, payable to Ryan Smith for $50.00. Carried.

Motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the engagement letter for **Hunzelman, Putzier & Co., PLC**, to prepare the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Buena Vista County, Iowa as

of and for the year ended June 30, 2026, and the related notes to the financial statements, along with preparing the required supplementary information. Carried.

BVCS Early Childhood Iowa 3-County Board Program Director Annette Koster thanked the Board for agreeing to be fiscal agent and for being her employer of record for 20 plus years. Koster informed the Board that **BVCS Early Childhood Iowa** will not renew the fiscal agent agreement with Buena Vista County July 1, 2026, for FY'27, as they will be merging into a new service area. Koster asked the Board if they would consider continuing to be her employer of record. The consensus of the Board was they were in favor of allowing Koster to remain a Buena Vista County employee, but they were waiting for more information from Koster. Koster had some sample employer of record agreements and will prepare an agreement for the Board to consider at a future meeting. Koster stated that the realignment goes into effect July 1, 2026.

Bldg/Grounds Supt. Joe Keller was in attendance on behalf of the Parade of Flags to ask for permission from the Board to use the courthouse lawn for the Memorial Day Parade of Flags Dedication at 10 a.m. There will be six flags to dedicate. The guest speaker will be Veteran John Felton. The public is welcome to bring lawn chairs. Motion by Snyder, second by Hartman, to approve use of the Buena Vista County Courthouse law for **Memorial Day Parade of Flags Dedication,** and to waive the fee. Carried.

Bldg/Grounds Supt. Joe Keller gave his **department update**. Keller stated that he has been waxing floors for the last three weekends, and now needs to work on the steps, polishing them up. Keller has been doing yard work, and now that he has his budget numbers for next fiscal year, he will be working on the courthouse restoration project. Keller also informed the Board that he has been checking into the process of demolishing the Cherry Tree building at 315 E. 5th St., and what permits are required, stating that it is cheaper to build a building rather than to demolish one that is already there. Keller informed the Board that his part-time evening guy, Craig Boyd, that cleans various offices, is planning on retiring at the end of May. Keller will be posting a notice accepting applications for a part-time person to clean some offices at night.

Auditor Susan Lloyd informed the Board of a letter she received from Iowa State University, notifying the county of two no-cost opportunities available to Iowa counties to strengthen **cybersecurity** readiness and incident preparedness, both supported by Iowa State University's Center for Cybersecurity Innovation and Outreach. Lloyd informed the Board that her office receives training on cybersecurity often from the Secretary of State's Office, for elections, and stated that it would be beneficial for other offices to receive training too. The consensus of the Board was that they are in favor of this offer and would like to have it discussed at the next department head meeting.

There being no further business, motion by Ringgenberg, second by Hartman, to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 a.m. until Tuesday, May 12 at 8:30 a.m. for a special session. Carried.