

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TWENTY-SECOND MEETING, 2026 SESSION (22)
MAY 12, 2026**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in special session on Tuesday, May 12, 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 Croker, second by Hartman, to approve today's **agenda**. Carried.

Secondary Road Report: They have been working on driveways and hauling gravel to the gravel roads up by Sioux Rapids, doing tile repairs, retrieving shoulders on hard surface roads, and mowing along the hard surface roads. Phase 2, PCI is planning on closing 80th Ave. today so they can begin dirt work. The IDOT Phase 3 public information meeting is today at the Alta Community Center. Wilkinson and two supervisors met with the IDOT last week to discuss financing of Phase 3, Another meeting with IDOT will take place next week to discuss financing with IDOT District 3 and a couple supervisors.

Chairman Merten asked if there was anyone online that wished to be heard during **Hear the Public** and there was nobody online that wished to speak. Kevin Cone was present in-person and stated that there are only three landowners that are involved and there have been no communications about when the road will be closed, etc. Cone also asked if the land acquisitions had been recorded and the acres taken out of production for ASCS. Cone asked Engineer Wilkinson when the other two miles on 70th Ave. would be done, and Merten told him that it is in the 5-year plan and scheduled for the end of the five years.

Motion by Hartman, second by Croker, to approve the **minutes** of 5/5/2026 as presented, and to accept the following **reports**: April Sheriff's Report of Fees Collected, May Safety Committee minutes, and April Board of Health minutes. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Croker, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the FY'27 **SHIELD** contract with NW IA Planning & Development Commission. Carried.

Sheriff Kory Elston informed the Board that he was notified by a representative from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC that it was discovered that a Marshal from Albert City, IA, was killed in the line of duty in 1901 and was never recognized, Elston stated that his office completed the necessary paperwork so that Marshal Charles J. Lodine's name will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC on Wednesday, May 13, 2026. Marshal Charles J. Lodine was shot and mortally wounded, November 16, 1901, in a gun battle with three bank robbers who were trapped at the depot in Albert City by Marshall Lodine and a posse. Lodine died on November 22, 1901 at the age of 33. Albert City Mayor Dale Skog and City Clerk Angie Nielson were also present for the recognition of Marshal Lodine. Skog commented that if you go inside the Albert City Depot, you can still see the bullet holes in the wall. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Snyder, to approve and authorize all the Board Members to sign a **Proclamation** proclaiming the week of May 10-16, 2026, as National Police Week & May 15, 2026 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and recognizing Marshal Charles J. Lodine, of Albert City, IA, who was shot in a gun battle with three bank robbers who were trapped at the depot in Albert City by Marshal Lodine and a posse, November 16, 1901, passing away November 23, 1901. Carried.

Supervisor Kelly Snyder told the Board that he received an email from the Iowa Lakes Corridor informing him that Senator Joni Ernst would be at the Cobblestone Ballroom & Event Center last week to present the Senate Small Business of the Week to Natalie and Nathan Schumann along with Jennifer and Chad Hustedt. Natalie Schumann and Jennifer Hustedt were present for the reading of county resolution honoring Cobblestone Ballroom & Event Center. Snyder read Resolution #2026-05-12-A, Honoring Cobblestone Ballroom & Event Center and asked the Board to approve and sign the resolution. Motion by Snyder, second by Huseman, to approve and authorize all the Supervisors to sign **Resolution #2026-05-12-A**, Honoring Cobblestone Ballroom & Event Center. Carried.

**Resolution #2026-05-12-A
Honoring Cobblestone Ballroom & Event Center**

WHEREAS, Cobblestone Ballroom & Event Center was originally built in 1929 overlooking Storm Lake, and has long served as a gathering place for celebrations and community events in northwest Iowa; and

WHEREAS, despite a fire in 1945 that destroyed much of the original building, the ballroom endured and continued to host performances and gatherings for decades; and

WHEREAS, the space remained preserved with original furnishing and memorabilia even after they closed their doors in November, 1986; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Cobblestone entered a new chapter when Natalie and Nathan Schumann along with Jennifer and Chad Hustedt purchased the building and began an extensive renovation; and

WHEREAS, after restoring the property, they opened the restaurant in early 2023 and later that fall reopened the ballroom itself, returning a long-standing community landmark to active use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors, extends its sincere congratulations to The Cobblestone Ballroom & Event Center for being named the Senate Small Business of the Week by Senator Joni Ernst, and expresses its gratitude to the Schumanns and Hustedts, along with the entire Cobblestone team, for their commitment to restoring and operating this historic venue and wish them the best of luck in the years to come.

Approved by the Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors on May 12, 2026.

/s/ Paul Merten, Board Chair, /s/ Dan Hartman, Vice-Chair, /s/ Kathy Croker, Board Member, /s/ Rhonda Ringgenberg, Board Member, /s/ Kelly Snyder, Board Member

Drainage Engineer Brian Blomme and Jim Eaton were present to discuss an invoice that Eaton submitted for work that he performed on DD #82. Blomme explained that in Section 13 of Nokomis Township, there was a tile issue, and that there were several laterals that had been installed as private tiles before DD #82 was constructed. Eaton had been told that it was an abandoned tile, and later Blomme and Eaton discovered it was an established tile. Eaton stated that Engineer Bret Wilkinson was contacted about the tile issue and was told that the county would not work on it. Eaton talked with Blomme, and it was agreed that Eaton would do the work on DD #82 for repairs and submit the invoice for reimbursement from the drainage district. After review of the invoice, Engineer Blomme recommended lowering the amount of item #2, materials used to fix the problem from \$810 down to \$500, and to strike the amount of item #4 for reseeding the area, from \$150 to \$0, since it is the landowners responsibility to reseed. Blomme recommended that the Board consider reimbursing Jim Eaton a total of \$1,950, instead of the \$2,410 that was billed. Eaton was okay with the changes, stating he was doubling some of the costs, the same that Secondary Road does for installing driveways and culverts, to get the Board's attention. Motion by Snyder, second by Hartman, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the reimbursement invoice of Jim Eaton for work he performed to a tile in **DD #82**, in the amount of \$1,950.00. Carried.

Motion by Croker, second by Snyder, to approve the contract with **Cost Advisory Services, Inc.**, to provide professional consulting services for FY2026, FY2027 and FY2028, at a cost of not to exceed \$4,450.00 for each annual cost allocation plan. Carried.

There being no further business, motion by Ringgenberg, second by Croker, to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 a.m. until Tuesday, May 19 at 8:30 a.m. for a regular session. Carried.