

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TWENTY-THIRD MEETING, 2026 SESSION (23)
MAY 19, 2026**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, May 19, 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**, as amended by postponing the BV County Walk Day Proclamation, due to the cold weather. 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 install a new water line by boring under 570th St. approximately 202' west of the centerline of the driveway at 565 570th St., between Sections 14 and 23 Nokomis Township for a new service. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Hartman, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **utility permit** for Mid-American Energy, Storm Lake, IA, to install a new pole on the west side of 105th Ave. in the pole line, and then bore under 105th Ave. to the east side of the road for a new service at 5624 105th Ave. in Washington Township. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson asked the Board to declare the ripper attachment for a Komatsu Dozer as excess equipment. Wilkinson stated that when he purchased the dozer, the attachment was included and the company wouldn't reduce the price of the dozer to remove the attachment, so it was left on. Wilkinson stated that he has been contacted by the company, and they have someone that is interested in purchasing the attachment, and they are willing to pay more than what was originally offered, so he would like to have it declared excess and be able to sell it back to the company to recoup some of the cost of the dozer he purchased. Motion by Snyder, second by Croker, to declare the ripper attachment for a Komatsu Dozer as **excess equipment** and allow Secondary Road to sell it. Carried.

Secondary Road Report: They are working on tree cleanup. The motor grader drivers are out checking their routes for downed trees that need to be picked up, and a map is being made so they know where to go back and pick up. Engineer Bret Wilkinson stated that several calls came in on Sunday night about downed trees, after the storm. They are hauling gravel when they have a chance. They have repaired some signs, worked on widening driveway entrances, still working on tile repairs, and working on the dirt pile on 40th Ave. Next week, they will be opening the bids for bridge #95. Business 71 and N14 will be let through the DOT June 16th. The DOT has asked for thoughts on the Hwy 7 and 70th Ave. project. The DOT is wanting a counter figure to move forward with the project. Two supervisors will be meeting with Engineer Wilkinson to come up with a figure and Wilkinson will put together a narrative as to how they arrived at a counter figure.

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

Env Health/Zoning Director Ben Mueggenberg and New Coop Operations Manager Frank Huseman were present to review New Coop's request to install a 90,000-gallon anhydrous ammonia tank

at 6135 S. Hwy 71. Huseman stated that IA Dept. of Ag and Land Stewardship (IDALS) outline the steps that are required, and the State does a visual inspection before it comes to the Board of Supervisors to set a public hearing and decide whether to approve or deny the project, and if approved, the application is submitted to the State. Mueggenberg stated that the property doesn't need to be rezoned, as it is already zoned as Industrial. Huseman stated that they would like to be up and ready to go for the fall anhydrous applications. Motion by Snyder, second by Croker, to set a **public hearing** on New Coop's request to install a 90,000-gallon anhydrous ammonia tank at 6135 S. Hwy 71, for June 2, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors Room. Ayes: Croker, Hartman, Ringgenberg, Snyder. Nays: None. Abstentions: Merten, as he is a member of New Coop. Motion carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Hartman, to approve the **minutes** of 5/12/2026 as presented, today's **claims approval list, stamped warrant list, and Auxiant disbursements**, and to accept the following **reports**: April Conservation Board minutes, April BV County Solid Waste Agency minutes, November North Raccoon River Watershed Management Coalition. Carried.

A request was received from Iowa Department of Administrative Services for the State Public Defender. The current lease expires on June 30, 2026, and the agency would like to renew the lease for a 5-year term and would like to know a proposed rental rate. Motion by Croker to increase the rent from \$50 per month to \$60 per month, with a one-year lease, to be re-evaluated every year to see what the county needs are. After some discussion of the Board, Croker withdrew her motion. Motion by Snyder, second by Hartman, to readdress the request from the **State Public Defender** to renew their lease for a 5-year term, at their May 26th meeting. Carried.

There being no further business, motion by Ringgenberg, second by Croker, to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 a.m. until Tuesday, May 26 at 8:30 a.m. for a special session. Carried.