

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING, 2026 SESSION (25)
JUNE 2, 2026**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, June 2, 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.

Motion by Snyder, second by Croker, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **utility permit** for Iowa Lakes Regional Water, Spencer, IA, to drill under 70th Ave. between Sections 24 and 19 Brooke Township, for a new service line at 4581 70th Ave. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson informed the Board that four bids were received on Project L-CO11(95)--73-11, the Bridge #95 replacement. The four bidders were: Christensen Bros., Inc., Cherokee, IA, for \$547,385.50, Dixon Construction Co., Correctionville, IA, for \$599,727.10, Godbersen-Smith Construction Co. & Subsid., Ida Grove, IA, for \$653,373.75, and Graves Construction Co., Inc., Spencer, IA, for \$689,301.85. Wilkinson recommends awarding the bid to Christensen Bros., Inc. Wilkinson stated that there is a late start date of April 2027. Motion by Hartman, second by Ringgenberg, to accept the bid of Christensen Bros., Inc., Cherokee, IA, of \$547,385.50, for **Project L-CO11(95)--73-11**, the Bridge #95 project, and authorize the Chair to sign the contract. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson informed the Board that they received three quotes for fuel for FY'27: New Century FS quoted .22 for #1 Ultra LS 2% Bio and .19 for #2 Ultra LS 2% Bio for the out shops and .14 for #1 Ultra LS 2% Bio and .12 for #2 Ultra LS 2% Bio for the Storm Lake shop. Pro Cooperative Energy quoted .299 for #1 Ruby Fieldmaster ULSD and .194 for #2 Ruby Fieldmaster ULSD for the out shops and .199 for #1 Ruby Fieldmaster ULSD and .139 for #2 Ruby Fieldmaster ULSD for the Storm Lake shop. Ag State quoted .18 for #1 Ultra LS and .15 for #2 Ultra LS for the out shops and .18 for #1 Ultra LS and .09 for #2 Ultra LS for the Storm Lake shop. Wilkinson recommends Ag State for all sites. Motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to accept and approve the Secondary Road Department **Fuel Bid** from Ag State, for delivery of #1 Ultra LS at .18 bid margin and .15 bid margin for #2 Ultra LS for the out shops and .18 bid margin for #1 Ultra LS and .09 bid margin for #2 Ultra LS for the Storm Lake shop for FY'27. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson informed the Board of an email that he received from the DOT questioning what the Board understands about the **70th Ave. and Hwy 7 intersection**. Merten stated that he disagrees with the comment that the Board doesn't understand. Merten said the State should have known that when RISE went back to the State that it was intended to pay for the county's share of the intersection, and the county was generous about matching the RISE funding. Croker questioned why 90th Ave. was built at 60 degrees, yet the State insists on 90 degrees for 70th Ave. and Hwy 7 and was previously agreed to be 75 degrees. Croker stated that more right-of-way will need to be purchased, and more time will be needed, and the county is not giving them a blank check, Merten commented that the DOT hasn't said whether they accept the county's proposal or not, and questioned when the RISE dollars expire. Wilkinson stated that the RISE dollars are under the State's control. Croker stated that the Board is well aware, and the implication was there in January that the State was paying for the intersection.

Secondary Road Report: They have been mowing, raising the road on 40th Ave., and hauling gravel. Jim Eaton was in attendance and stated that there is a problem with no passing zone on 70th Ave. by Platinum Crush, and jake brakes on both directions on 70th Ave.

The Chair opened the Public Hearing on New Coop's request to install a **90,000-gallon anhydrous ammonia tank** at 6135 S. Hwy 71, with Env Health/Zoning Director Ben Mueggenberg, New Coop Operations Manager Frank Huseman, County Attorney Paul Allen, EMA Director Aimee Barritt, Engineer Bret Wilkison, Treasurer Danelle Haberman, Tony Manriquez, and Jim Eaton were present. Huseman stated that they are in 33 counties, and they are proposing a 90,000-gallon anhydrous ammonia tank at 6135 S. Hwy 71. Huseman stated that they have worked with EMA Director Aimee Barritt, and safety measures are in place. Huseman stated that they have safety training annually. Huseman stated that they will have 230 tons of product, but portions of the year, the tank will be empty. Barritt stated that she has shared information with Sioux City Hazmat, and they have looked at the best-case scenarios and the worst-case scenarios. Barritt stated that there is a lot of traffic on Hwy 71, so they will work with DOT and area fire departments. Huseman informed the Board that there is a commitment from New Coop to work with EMA and safety trainers. The Chair asked if there were any comments either in-person or online, and there was none. Motion by Snyder, second by Hartman, to close the Public Hearing. Carried. Croker commented that she sees the advantage for farmers and for growth but would rather see this location further out in the country. Motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to approve the request of New Coop to install a 90,000-gallon anhydrous ammonia tank at 6135 S. Hwy 71. Ayes: Hartman, Ringgenberg, Snyder. Nays: Croker. Abstention: Merten. Motion carried.

Chairman Merten asked if there was anyone online that wished to be heard during **Hear the Public** and there was none. Jim Eaton was present to comment that there is a driveway problem in the county. Eaton stated that landowners are being told that when they remove the culvert under their driveway, that it must be replaced with a pipe that meets the county's standard. Eaton stated that he doesn't know why they need to replace the culvert with one that is fireproof. Eaton also said there are problems with Conservation, not spraying ditches or trees, he wishes more people would come out and look. Engineer Wilkinson stated that the County maintains driveways once they are installed by the landowner, and informed Eaton that Secondary Road has 2,000 miles of ditches to clean and maintain.

Treasurer Danelle Haberman introduced her new Motor Vehicle employee, **Tony Manriquez**. The Board welcomed Manriquez.

Rebecca Greenway, Northland Securities was present online to present debt schedule scenarios for either a 7- or 10-year issuance term on **General Obligation Refunding Capital Loan Notes Series 2026A**. She also shared information with the Board on a 5-year issuance. No action was taken, but it will be discussed again at their next meeting.

Board Member Croker introduced the following Resolution entitled "RESOLUTION FIXING DATE FOR A MEETING ON THE AUTHORIZATION OF A LOAN AGREEMENT AND THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$1,900,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING CAPITAL LOAN NOTES OF BUENA VISTA COUNTY, STATE OF IOWA (FOR ESSENTIAL COUNTY PURPOSES), AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF NOTICE THEREOF", and moved that the same be adopted. Board Member Ringgenberg seconded the motion to adopt. The roll was called, and the vote was, Ayes: Croker, Hartman, Merten, Ringgenberg, Snyder. Nays: None. Whereupon, the Chairperson declared the resolution duly adopted as follows:

RESOLUTION #2026-06-02-A

RESOLUTION FIXING DATE FOR A MEETING ON THE AUTHORIZATION OF A LOAN AGREEMENT AND THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$1,900,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING CAPITAL LOAN NOTES OF BUENA VISTA COUNTY, STATE OF IOWA (FOR ESSENTIAL COUNTY PURPOSES), AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF NOTICE THEREOF

WHEREAS, it is deemed necessary and advisable that Buena Vista County, State of Iowa, should provide for the authorization of a Loan Agreement and issuance of General Obligation Refunding Capital Loan Notes, to the amount of Not to Exceed \$1,900,000, as authorized by Sections 331.402 and 331.443, of the Code of Iowa, for the purpose of providing funds to pay costs of carrying out essential county purpose project(s) as hereinafter described; and

WHEREAS, the Loan Agreement and Notes shall be payable from the Debt Service Fund; and

WHEREAS, before a Loan Agreement may be authorized and General Obligation Capital Loan Notes, issued to evidence the obligation of the County thereunder, it is necessary to comply with the provisions of the Code of Iowa, as amended, and to publish a notice of the proposal and of the time and place of the meeting at which the Board proposes to take action for the authorization of the Loan Agreement and Notes and to receive oral and/or written objections from any resident or property owner of the County to such action.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF BUENA VISTA COUNTY, STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. That this Board meet in the Board Room, County Courthouse, 215 E. 5th Street, Storm Lake, Iowa, at 9:00 A.M., on the 16th day of June, 2026, for the purpose of taking action on the matter of the authorization of a Loan Agreement and issuance of Not to Exceed \$1,900,000 General Obligation Refunding Capital Loan Notes, for essential county purposes, the proceeds of which notes will be used to provide funds to pay the costs of refunding and refinancing outstanding general obligations of the County, including the General Obligation Capital Loan Notes, Series 2025A, dated June 18, 2025.

Section 2. The Auditor is authorized and directed to proceed on behalf of the County with the negotiation of terms of a Loan Agreement and the issuance of General Obligation Refunding Capital Loan Notes, evidencing the County's obligations to a principal amount of Not to Exceed \$1,900,000, to select a date for the final approval thereof, to cause to be prepared such notice and sale information as may appear appropriate, to publish and distribute the same on behalf of the County and this Board and otherwise to take all action necessary to permit the completion of a loan on a basis favorable to the County and acceptable to the Board.

Section 3. That the Auditor is hereby directed to cause at least one publication to be made of a notice of the meeting, in a legal newspaper, printed wholly in the English language, published at least once weekly, and having general circulation in the County. The publication to be not less than four clear days nor more than twenty days before the date of the public meeting on the issuance of the Notes.

Section 4. The notice of the proposed action to issue notes shall be in substantially the following form:

(To be published on or before: June 11, 2026)

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF BUENA VISTA COUNTY, STATE OF IOWA, ON THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED AUTHORIZATION OF A LOAN AGREEMENT AND THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$1,900,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION

REFUNDING CAPITAL LOAN NOTES OF THE COUNTY (FOR
ESSENTIAL COUNTY PURPOSES), AND THE HEARING ON THE
ISSUANCE THEREOF

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Board of Supervisors of Buena Vista County, State of Iowa, will hold a public hearing on the 16th day of June, 2026, at 9:00 A.M., in the Board Room, County Courthouse, 215 E. 5th Street, Storm Lake, Iowa, at which meeting the Board proposes to take additional action for the authorization of a Loan Agreement and the issuance of Not to Exceed \$1,900,000 General Obligation Refunding Capital Loan Notes, for essential county purposes, to provide funds to pay the costs of refinancing outstanding general obligations of the County, including the General Obligation Capital Loan Notes, Series 2025A, dated June 18, 2025. Principal and interest on the proposed Loan Agreement will be payable from the Debt Service Fund.

The annual increase in property taxes as the result of the issuance on a residential property with an actual value of one hundred thousand dollars is estimated not to exceed \$13.93. This estimate only considers the impact on property taxes of financing authority established by this hearing for the above-described project(s). The notes may be issued in one or more series over a number of years. Finance authority established by this hearing may be combined with additional finance authority, causing the estimate for the annual increase in property taxes for the entire issuance to be greater than the estimate stated herein. Changes in other levies may cause the actual annual increase in property taxes to vary.

At the above meeting the Board shall receive oral or written objections from any resident or property owner of the County to the above action. After all objections have been received and considered, the Board will at the meeting or at any adjournment thereof, take additional action for the authorization of a Loan Agreement and the issuance of the Notes to evidence the obligation of the County thereunder or will abandon the proposal to issue said Notes.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Supervisors of Buena Vista County, State of Iowa, as provided by Sections 331.402 and 331.443 of the Code of Iowa.

Dated this 2nd day of June, 2026

/s/ Susan K. Lloyd, County Auditor, Buena Vista County, State of Iowa

(End of Notice)

PASSED AND APPROVED this 2nd day of June, 2026.

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

Tony Pertzborn, Barb Wetherell, and Christian Grote, Stille Pierce & Pertzborn Agency presented information for Principal Vision and Dental renewals. The trend for Dental is increasing rates 8%, but they are increasing the county's renewal 17.8% due to claims and a loss ratio of 131%. Vision has a 5% increase with a loss ratio of 107.2%. Pertzborn reviewed three options and stated that if the county went to option 2, keeping coverages the same, Dental would decrease from the 17.8% increase to a 9% increase, with a 1-year rate guarantee. Vision would decrease from the 5% increase to no change, with a 1-year rate guarantee. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Croker, to accept and approve going with option 2, with a 9% increase with a 1-year rate guarantee for **Dental**, and no change for **Vision**, with a 1-year rate guarantee. Carried.

County Attorney Paul Allen was present for his appointment. Motion by Snyder, second by Hartman, to go into **closed session** (at 10:46 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 Croker, second by Hartman, to go out of **closed session** at 11:35 A.M. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Merten, to approve the **minutes** of 5/26/2026 as corrected, today's **claims approval list and Auxiant disbursements**, and to accept the following **reports**: April 24 CIJDC Meeting minutes, April 7 CIJDC Executive Committee meeting minutes, April 9 CIJDC Executive Committee meeting minutes, April 17 CIJDC Finance Committee meeting minutes, May 5 CIJDC Finance Committee meeting minutes, and May 20 CIJDC Contract Committee meeting minutes. Carried.

There being no further business, motion by Merten, second by Croker, to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 p.m. until Tuesday, June 9 at 8:30 a.m. for a special session and to canvass today's Primary Election. Carried.