

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
THIRTY-THIRD MEETING, 2026 SESSION (33)  
AUGUST 4, 2026**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in special session on Tuesday, August 4, 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 Ringgenberg, to amend today's **agenda**, adding a fireworks permit application. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Hartman, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **utility permit** for Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, Estherville, IA, to bore under 480<sup>th</sup> St. in Section 6 of Fairfield Township, from the north right-of-way to the south right-of-way to provide service to 1932 480<sup>th</sup> St. Carried.

**Secondary Road Report:** They have been hauling gravel and limestone, working on driveways and blading the gravel roads. Phase 2--they will calibrate the ready-mix this week and will pave next week. After that, they will have shoulder work to do and then striping. Phase 3—there will be an online update meeting with the DOT Thursday on the Hwy 7 & 70<sup>th</sup> Ave. intersection. Bus.71/N14—They had the pre-construction meeting last Thursday, and they were working on a schedule. The contractor called the next day to say that they will start on N14 early September and paved before winter. PCI, the sub-contractor, wants to repair a box culvert on Bus.71 in October or November, then come back in April 1 or before, to continue with the project.

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

Motion by Hartman, second by Snyder, to approve the **minutes** of 7/28/2026 as corrected, and to accept the following **reports**: None. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Snyder, to approve and to authorize the Chair to sign the **fireworks permit** for Mike and Mary Pedersen, 497 560<sup>th</sup> St., Alta, IA to be held on August 8, 2026. Carried.

County Attorney Paul Allen and Payroll Deputy Yvonne Sandhoff were present to discuss HR and how the county is going to move forward with issues and questions that come up. Currently, HR questions go through Sandhoff, and during the time when the county contracted with Renee Von Bokern, Sandhoff would forward questions onto Von Bokern to take care of. Von Bokern retired in December, 2025, so after that, HR questions came to Sandhoff or to County Attorney Paul Allen to answer. In June, Von Bokern contacted Auditor Lloyd and asked if BV County might be interested in her services, that full retirement wasn't for her, and stated that she wanted to get back to providing HR services to a few of her former clients, which includes Buena Vista County. Allen stated that a while back he had requested rate information from an HR attorney at Ahlers Law Firm if the county contracted a yearly fee or if the county wanted a "pay as you go" hourly rate. Von Bokern had stated that if a situation arose that legal guidance was needed, then she would contact the HR attorney at Ahlers Law that the county would have an agreement with, and then the attorney would take over that particular case. Merten commented that the

\$9,500 fee for Von Bokern's HR services is much better than having to hire a full-time HR person, and by also having an agreement with an HR attorney at Ahlers Law Firm, the county would have the best of both. Motion by Snyder, second by Croker, to contract with Renee Von Bokern for HR services for a fee of \$9,500 per year and to also contact an HR attorney at Ahlers & Cooney Law Firm and obtain a contract with them for **HR services** as needed. Carried.

Sheriff Kory Elston met with the Board to ask permission to advertise and hire an additional dispatcher. Elston stated that with the recent retirement in the Sheriff's Department, there would be funds to cover another dispatcher, plus they have had one dispatcher out on leave and another possible retirement, so he would like to get someone in and have them trained. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Snyder, to approve the Sheriff's request to advertise and hire an additional **dispatcher**. Carried.

There being no further business, motion by Hartman, second by Croker, to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m. until Tuesday, August 11 at 8:30 a.m. for a regular session. Carried.