

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
FORTIETH MEETING, 2026 SESSION (40)  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2026**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in special session on Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at 8:30 A.M. in the Boardroom with Chairperson Merten presiding, and the following other members present: Croker, Hartman, Ringgenberg, and Snyder, and 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 Ringgenberg, to approve today's **agenda**. Carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Croker, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **utility permit** for Iowa Lakes Regional Water, Spencer, IA, to bore under 640<sup>th</sup> St., east of 170<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Section 26 of Providence Township, from private property to private property. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson brought back a revised contract from **Urban SDK** for computer generated traffic reports. The previous contract was for two years and included satellite imagery, for a total cost of \$137,511. The revised contract has removed satellite imagery, and was changed to a one-year contract, and lowered the price to \$35,091.22. The Board asked if there would be any grant funds available, and Wilkinson stated that possibly the Governor's Traffic Safety Grant might be a possibility. Another suggestion was to apply for a Community Foundation Grant, but that deadline is tomorrow. Merten commented that due to the cost he does not see an advantage to have this service. Ringgenberg commented the same thing, that she doesn't see a direct need for this. Snyder commented that maybe the cities would be interested, but Wilkinson stated that the cost would go up due to more users accessing the information. The consensus of the Board is to wait and not do anything with the contract.

Env Health/Zoning Director Ben Mueggenberg informed the Board that a public hearing needed to be scheduled for a rezoning request for Kenneth Larsen. Mueggenberg stated that the Zoning Board recommended the rezoning request. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Hartman, to set a public hearing for the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the **rezoning request** for Kenneth Larsen, in the SW ¼ SW ¼ of Section 22-92-37, for Tuesday, October 20, at 9:00 a.m. Carried.

Chairman Merten asked if there was anyone online that wished to be heard during **Hear the Public** and there was none. Tim Humes was present in-person to discuss the beaver bounty program that the county has. Humes stated that there are benefits of having beavers in the environment and doesn't want to see the beavers all trapped. Merten stated that the county will remove beaver dams when there are issues with them disrupting the flow of water. Engineer Bret Wilkinson also stated that in our world, we do not want beaver dams holding back the flow of water.

The Chair opened the public hearing for the 1<sup>st</sup> **FY'27 budget amendment**, Notice was published as required. No written objections were submitted, and no objections were offered during the hearing. Motion by Croker, second by Snyder, to close the public hearing. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Croker, to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> **FY'27 budget amendment** as published, to authorize the Chair to sign the Budget Amendment certification, **Resolution #2026-09-29-A**, amending the FY'27 Annual Budget, and to approve the following appropriations:

|                   |      |                                  |         |                   |
|-------------------|------|----------------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| Increase activity | 3520 | Opioid Abatement Fund (0036)     | Dept 23 | \$25,786          |
| Increase activity | 6110 | General Basic Fund (0001)        | Dept 22 | \$40,000          |
| Increase activity | 6200 | General Basic Fund (0001)        | Dept 22 | \$74,412          |
| Increase activity | 6320 | ARPA Fund (0033)                 | Dept 59 | \$15,000          |
| Increase activity | 6320 | Platinum Crush TIF Fund (0037)   | Dept 68 | \$397,876         |
| Increase activity | 0110 | Debt Service-Phase 1 Fund (2025) | Dept 85 | \$19,300          |
| Increase activity | 0200 | Capital Projects Fund (1540)     | Dept 81 | \$270,000         |
| Increase activity | 0220 | Capital Projects Fund (1520)     | Dept 22 | \$151,908         |
| Increase activity | 0220 | ARPA Fund (0033)                 | Dept 59 | \$748,498         |
| Increase activity | 0300 | General Basic Fund (0001)        | Dept 90 | \$27,000 Carried. |

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-09-29-A  
RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FY'27 ANNUAL BUDGET  
BY ADOPTING BUDGET AMENDMENT #1**

**WHEREAS** the Board of Supervisors approved Departmental Appropriations on June 30, 2026 for all departments, of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 in accordance with Section 331.434, Subsection 6, Code of Iowa; and

**WHEREAS** the Board of Supervisors has held the necessary hearing after having caused to be made the publication and notice required by law; and

**WHEREAS** the Board of Supervisors has reviewed the budget amendment #1 for FY'27, as presented by the County Auditor, increasing appropriations by \$1,769,780; and

**WHEREAS** the Board of Supervisors believe the aforesaid budget amendment #1 proposed for FY'27 to be in the best interests of Buena Vista County.

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

**SECTION ONE:** That the FY'27 budget for Buena Vista County, Iowa, on file in the County Auditor's Office is hereby amended and approved.

**SECTION TWO:** That this resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law, and the County Auditor is directed to make the filings required by law and to set up the books in accordance with the summary and details as adopted.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** this 29th day of September, 2026, by the Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors.

/s/ Paul Merten, Chair, Board of Supervisors.....Attest: Susan K. Lloyd, County Auditor

Jim Moran, **Allete Clean Energy** gave an update on the wind turbine project. They are looking at 2028 as their start date, with energy on the grid and selling electricity. Moran stated that they will start the project during late 2027 and early 2028. They will be doing a below ground investigation on existing sites this fall, and limited substation work this fall. Moran informed the Board that Allete Clean Energy likes to donate to non-profits, so if the Board had any suggestions on non-profits, they could let him know.

Public Health Director Tracy Gotto informed the Board that he would like to hire an Opioid Strategist/Nurse position, and requests Opioid Funds to pay for 25% of the salary for this position. Gotto stated that the Board of Health was in favor of hiring for this position. The exact amount will not be known until he has hired for the position, and then there will be additional funds needed for FICA, IPERS, and insurance. Motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to move forward with Public Health advertising and

hiring an **Opioid Strategist/Nurse** position, and to allow 25% of the salary and benefits to be paid from Opioid Funds. Carried.

**Secondary Road Report:** The triple pipe culvert on 40<sup>th</sup> Ave. is done. They are working on repairing the soft spots on the roads. They still have two mowers out, due to all of the rain that has fallen. Reding's is working on crushing concrete by the Engineer's Office. They will work on dust control next week by Albert City. They hope to have the second contractor working on N14 next week. Phase 2—they need to paint the lines on the asphalt project. Phase 3—the DOT update meeting was moved to October 19.

Motion by Hartman, second by Ringgenberg, to approve the **minutes** from 9/22/2026 as presented, and accept the following **reports:** August Conservation Board minutes, June SHIELD Board minutes, August NW IA YES Center minutes, FY'26 Certification of County Conservation Purposes Support by County Property Taxes (REAP Report), and August Solid Waste Commission minutes. Carried.

Motion by Croker, second by Snyder, to approve and authorize the Auditor to **void and reissue** check #332100 issued 10/21/2025 to Greg Sundblad for \$81.68. Carried.

Motion by Croker, second by Ringgenberg, to approve the **Jt. DD #22 Lat 406** claim of Abel Drainage & Excavating, Inc. for tile repairs, in the amount of \$1,606.20. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Hartman, to approve the **Jt. DD #14-42 Lat 219** claim of Abel Drainage & Excavating, Inc., for tile repairs, in the amount of \$2,081.00. Carried.

There being no further business, motion by Ringgenberg, second by Snyder, to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 a.m. until Tuesday, October 6 at 8:30 a.m. for a regular session. Carried.