BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
FORTY-FIFTH MEETING, 2026 SESSION (45)
NOVEMBER 3, 2026

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, November 3, 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 Snyder, to amend today's **agenda**, adding discussion and action on a damaged vehicle claim for Secondary Roads. Carried.

Engineer Bret Wilkinson informed the Board that an employee had an accident with a **2012 Chevy Silverado**, going into a ditch and hitting a box culvert, totaling the pickup. The insurance company gave Secondary Road the option to either keep the pickup and they would issue the county $9,775.00, which is less the salvage value and $500 deductible), or the insurance company takes ownership and issues the county a check for $10,464, which is $500 less due to the deductible. Wilkinson stated that he talked with Maintenance Supt. Dan Bailey and the guys in the shop, and none of them thought they would get the $689 salvage, as the tires are not in good shape. Wilkinson also informed the Board that the employee has been placed on a 5-year suspension from driving a county vehicle home. The Board asked if this was the same vehicle that was repaired before, after an accident occurred by the same employee. Wilkinson stated that this was a different pickup that what was damaged and repaired before. Merten asked Wilkinson if he will have to replace the pickup that was totaled, and Wilkinson stated that he would wait and see how his equipment budget turns out later in the fiscal year.

Secondary Road Report: They have been hauling gravel, and fixing shoulders. On Bridge #95, the contractor is driving piling. N14—they are crushing the old concrete and pouring it back in. Phase 2—they did get the painting done and extended the no passing zones on 70th Ave, and the asphalt patch on 80th Ave. Linn Grove—the signs and lights are up except for the one coming downhill. Phase 3—there is nothing new to report.

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

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Hartman, to approve the **minutes** from 10/27/2026 as presented, today's **claims approval list, stamped warrant list, and Auxiant disbursements,** and accept the following **report:** September NW IA YES Center minutes. Carried.

Motion by Croker, second by Ringgenberg, to approve and authorize the Auditor to **void and reissue check** #335205 dated 7/28/26 to MidAmerican Energy for $177,495.72. Carried.

Tracy Feathers, Director of Development for **Family Crisis Centers**, and an advocate expressed their gratitude for the funds received from the County and gave an update to the Board on the previous year's activities. In Buena Vista County, they saw 50 domestic violence clients, 54 homicide & violent crime clients, 3 clients needing supervised visitation or exchanges, 23 clients for housing, and took 117 crisis line calls. Feathers requested funds for FY'28 in the amount of $6,500.

The Chair opened the public hearing for four **Master Matrixes** for New Fashion Pork-Farm 116 Ehlers, New Fashion Pork-Farm 169 Watts, New Fashion Pork-Farm 117 Bloom, and New Fashion Pork-Farm 157 Booges , with Environmental Health Director Ben Mueggenberg present and Emily Wagener,

New Fashion Pork online with other unidentified callers. Mueggenberg stated that there are no new facilities, just an increase in the number of head in the barn. Wagener stated that they would like 4,000 head around for market, and due to health concerns, they wanted to increase the numbers, so that they can market out at the same as what the barns were to market out. Mueggenberg stated that notice had been published in both newspapers and there have been no comments made. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Snyder, to close the public hearing. Carried.

Motion by Hartman, second by Snyder, to approve the **Master Matrix** for New Fashion Pork-Farm #169 Watts and authorize the Chair to sign. Carried.

Motion by Croker, second by Ringgenberg, to approve the **Master Matrix** for New Fashion Pork-Farm #116 Ehlers and authorize the Chair to sign. Carried.

Motion by Hartman, second by Ringgenberg, to approve the **Master Matrix** for New Fashion Pork-Farm #117 Bloom and authorize the Chair to sign. Carried.

Motion by Croker, second by Snyder, to approve the **Master Matrix** for New Fashion Pork-Farm #157 Booges and authorize the Chair to sign. Carried.

County Attorney Paul Allen was present for his appointment. Motion by Croker, second by Ringgenberg, to go into **closed session** (at 9:46 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, Snyder. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Snyder, to go out of **closed session** at 9:57 a.m. Carried.

There being no further business, motion by Ringgenberg, second by Hartman, to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m. until Tuesday, November 10 at 8:30 a.m. for a special session. Carried.