BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
FORTY-SIXTH MEETING, 2026 SESSION (46)
NOVEMBER 10, 2026

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in special session on Tuesday, November 10, 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 Croker, second by Snyder, to amend today's **agenda**, adding the appointment of a representative on the IDALS Water Quality Project. Carried.

Drainage Engineer Brian Blomme informed the Board that IDALS is coming forward to explore drainage districts for wetland water quality sites and then rating them to see which might be the best footprint for the project. Blomme stated that there needs to be a Board representative on the Task Force, and that he will be the appointed Engineer for Buena Vista, Calhoun, and Sac counties. Clay County is the fiscal agent. Blomme recommends this project as IDALS will fund 100% of the project. The kickoff meeting will be in Fort Dodge on November 19, at 10:00 a.m. at the Crossroads Hotel. Motion by Croker, second by Ringgenberg, to appoint Paul Merten as the Board's representative on the **Multi-County Water Quality Task Force**. Carried.

Drainage Engineer Brian Blomme, along with Assistant Drainage Engineer Eric Yunginger, provided information to the Board regarding an opportunity for Yunginger to be trained and licensed to fly a drone for inspections of drainage districts. Blomme stated that they both used this technology at ISG, and that Eric is 80% done with his studies, that he has done on his own, and so he would like to send Yunginger to a Drone FAA Part 107 Test Prep Course. Blomme stated that the early bird price is $450 for a 2-day course. Motion by Croker, second by Ringgenberg, to approve the request to send Eric Yunginger to Teraflex Ag for **FAA Part 107 Drone training**. Carried.

Secondary Road Report: They have been blading gravel roads and stockpiling gravel. They have been trimming around guardrails, mowing, doing some tile repairs, driveway work, and brush cutting. N14—they are still removing and crushing the old concrete and pouring it back in. They hope to put the crossroad culvert in this week at the intersection, but they found a city watermain on top of the drainage pipe there, so they had to change to a 15" pipe instead of a 24" pipe, to run under the watermain. On Bridge #95, the contractor is driving piling on the north abutment starting today, and then when finished this week, they will move to the south side. Phase 3—there is nothing new to report. They are waiting for the next DOT update meeting, which will be online in December, and having a Board update in January. Engineer Wilkinson stated that he and Assistant to the Engineer Justin Anderson are working on plans for other projects.

County Attorney Paul Allen was present for his appointment. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Snyder, to go into **closed session** (at 9:09 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 Hartman, second by Ringgenberg, to go out of **closed session** at 9:20 a.m. Carried.

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 Croker, to approve the **minutes** from 11/3/2026 as presented, and accept the following **reports:** October Sheriff's Report of Fees Collected, Post-Election Audit Report and Auditor Election Certification for the 11/3/26 General Election. Carried.

Motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the **Re-Location Agreement** with MidAmerican Energy Company and Ulteig Engineers, Inc. Carried.

Motion by Hartman, second by Croker, to accept the Assessor's recommendation for allowance of the **2026 Family Farm Credits**, as per Iowa Code Section 425.3. Carried.

County Attorney Paul Allen was present for his appointment. Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Hartman, to go into **closed session** (at 9:39 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 Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to go out of **closed session** at 10:19 a.m. Carried.

Pursuant to Chapter 50.24 of the 2026 Code of Iowa, and upon completion of the **Canvass** of the tally lists of the November 3, 2026 Buena Vista County General Election, motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to declare the results as follows, and to direct the Auditor to prepare abstracts and certificates of election as necessary:

TOTAL VOTERS: 6,144 (*elected, R=Republican, D=Democrat, L-Libertarian) 56.8% turnout

For **United States Senator**

Ashley Hinson-R	3,156
Josh Turek-D	2,546
Thomas Laehn-L	179
Scattering	8

For **U.S.Representative-4th Dist**

Chris McGowan-R	3,310
Dave Dawson-D	2,390
Scattering	7

For the office of **Governor & Lt. Governor**

Zach Lahn & Derek Wulf-R	3,146
Rob Sand & Dave Muhlbauer-D	2,916
Scattering	10

For the office of **Secretary of State**

Paul D. Pate-R	3,549
Ryan Peterman-D	2,331
Scattering	3

For the office of **Auditor of State**

Chris Cournoyer-R	3,309
Taylor Wettlach-D	2,439
Scattering	3

For the office of **Treasurer of State**

Roby Smith-R	3,327
John Norwood-D	2,423
Scattering	3

For the office of **Secretary of Agriculture**

Mike Naig-R	3,638
Chris Jones-D	2,258
Scattering	1

For the office of **Attorney General**

Brenna Bird-R	3,333
Nate Willems-D	2,484
Scattering	4

For **State Senator—District 3**

Lynn Evans-R	3,379

For **State Representative—District 5**

Keith Glienke-R	840

Mike Frantz-D	2,502
Scattering	7

Stephanie Steiner-D	249
Scattering	0

For **State Representative—District 6**

Megan Jones-R	3,237
Scattering	101

For **County Supervisor-District 1**

*Kathy Croker-R	4,226
Scattering	77

For **County Supervisor-District 2**

*Kelly Snyder-R	4,225
Scattering	69

For **County Supervisor-District 3**

*Paul Merten-R	3,447
Tom Grau-D	2,383
Scattering	7

For the office of **County Treasurer**

*Danelle Haberman-R	4,315
Scattering	69

For the office of **County Recorder**

*Curtis J. Reis-R	4,232
Scattering	65

For the office of **County Attorney**

*Paul Allen-R	4,152
Scattering	57

For the office of **Township Clerk** / **Trustee**

Barnes	*Josh Jessen	74	*Ralph Warkentin	75	
	Scattering	0	Scattering	0	
Brooke	*Jason Fastenow	8	*Karl Laursen	6	
	Scattering	1	Scattering	1	
Coon	*Randy Richter	74	*Joel Ehlers	77	
	Scattering	1	Scattering	0	
Elk	*Linda Mattson	76	**David Rydstrom	1	**(winner drawn by Board
	Scattering	0	Scattering	7	of Supervisors)
Fairfield	*David Balder	68	*Scott Loving	74	
	Scattering	2	Scattering	0	
Grant	*Andrew J. Kelly	112	*Matthew D. Richardson	116	
	Scattering	0	Scattering	1	
Hayes	*Thomas L. Rice	201	*Doug Imming	208	
	Scattering	2	Scattering	1	
Lee	*Duane Lansink	4	*Gary Wernimont	1	
	Scattering	0	Scattering	5	
			TRUSTEE-VACANCY (2)		
			*Kale Glover	1	
			*Bruce Ferguson	1	
			Scattering	3	
Lincoln	*Alan Nelsen	4	*Mike Rebhuhn	6	

	Scattering	1	Scattering	3	
Maple Valley	*David Schmitz	5	*David Arnts	7	
	Scattering	2	Scattering	4	
Newell	*Brad Mahler	81	**Gary Morenz	1	**(winner drawn by
	Scattering	0	Scattering	3	Board of Supervisors)
Nokomis	*Megan Peterson	108	*Bradley Pedersen	6	
	Scattering	1	Scattering	8	
			TRUSTEE-VACANCY		
			*Bradley Pedersen	3	
			Scattering	10	
Poland	*Julie Schultze	71	*Steven Lind	74	
	Scattering	0	Scattering	0	
Providence	*Julie Kruse	2	*Randy Kruse	2	
	Scattering	3	Scattering	7	
Scott	*Anna Mae Robbins	89	**Ervin Brake	2	**(Winner drawn by
	Scattering	0	Scattering	8	Board of Supervisors)
Washington	*Dean Assmann	4	*Doug Miller	4	
	Scattering	4	Scattering	7	

For the office of **County Hospital Trustee**

*Brenda Halverson	3,319
*Duane Miller	3,007
*Richard Lampe	3,096
*Tara Radke	3,003
Scattering	42

For **Soil & Water Conservation Commissioner**

*Sean Waldstein	3,192
*Robert R. Donahoo	3,135
Scattering	40

For **Soil & Water Conservation Comm'r--Vacancy**

*Thomas Bonagura	6
Scattering	238

For **Agricultural Extension Councilmembers**

*John Wilson	2,777
*Annie Millard	2,724
*Salli Nichols	2,859
*Neira Ek Rodriguez	2,668
*Jan Worthan	6
Scattering	180

Court of Appeals Judges

John M. Sandy	Yes-2,755 No-788
Julie A. Schumacher	Yes-2,779 No-742

District 3A Court Judges

Charles Borth	Yes-2,747 No-780
Carl J. Petersen	Yes-2,705 No-762
Andrew J. Smith	Yes-2,830 No-744
Adam Miller	Yes-2,740 No-729

District 3A Associate Judges

Jennifer Bennett Finn	Yes-2,695 No-759
Kristi Busse	Yes-2,772 No-730

Constitutional Amendment 1

Yes-3,225 No-1,895

Summary: Provides that any bill to increase the individual income tax rate or the corporate income t ax rate, or the rate of any other type of tax based upon income or legal and special reserves, shall require the affirmative votes of at least two-thirds of the members elected to each house of the legislature for passage. Further,the two-thirds majority voter requirement applies to the passage of a bill to establish a new tax on any type of income or legal and special reserves imposed by the state. The requirement excludes taxes imposed at the option of a local government. A lawsuit challenging the proper enactment of a bill under this section must be filed no later than one year following the enactment.

Motion Carried.

There being no further business, motion by Croker, second by Snyder, to adjourn the meeting at 11:43 a.m. until Tuesday, November 17 at 8:30 a.m. for a regular session. Carried.