

## TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Fremont, State of Colorado, met in Regular Session on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, 615 Macon Avenue, Room LL3, Fremont County Administration Building, Cañon City, Colorado. Chairman Grantham called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Kevin Grantham	Commissioner	Present
Debbie Bell	Commissioner	Present
Dwayne McFall	Commissioner	Present
Justin Grantham	Clerk and Recorder	Present
Eric Bellas	County Attorney	Present
Tony Carochi	County Administrator	Present
Dan Victoria	Planning & Zoning Director	Present

### **INVOCATION**

Todd Luce from Grandview Christian Church gave the invocation.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Commissioner Bell** said they need to add new business item number nine which is the reappointment of Rudl Mergelman to the Fremont County Planning Commission with the term expiring on December 31<sup>st</sup> of 2028, Commissioner Bell then moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Minutes from November 23, 2025, and December 9, 2025
2. Approval of Bills for \$4,216,952.72
3. Ratification of Chairman Pro Tem Signature on Emergency Responder Communications Enhancement System Purchase Order
4. Ratification of Chairman Signature on Fremont County Sheriff Office Contract for Medical Staffing and Administration Amendment
5. Schedule Public Hearings: None.

**Commissioner McFall** moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE & INFORMATIONAL**

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1. Staff / Elected Officials:

- a. Sales & Use Tax Report, Shawn Sutton, Budget & Finance Officer

**Shawn Sutton** gave the Sales & Use Tax Report, which can be found in its entirety at [www.fremontcountyco.gov](http://www.fremontcountyco.gov).

- b. County Administrator Report, Tony Carochi, County Administrator

**County Administrator Carochi** gave the County Administrator Report, which can be found in its entirety at [www.fremontcountyco.gov](http://www.fremontcountyco.gov).

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2. Citizens who wish to address the Commissioners on a matter not scheduled on the agenda.

**Joe Stock** said he wanted to bring a frivolous weight charge to the commissioner's attention. He believes diesel weight should not count towards load capacity weight in calculating license plate fees, because it can cause a several hundred-pound difference which leads to a higher fee to pay. He also mentioned that it doesn't seem sustainable to him to increase the property taxes on an old or already existing property considering there are new properties being added to the tax roll every year.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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1. 2024 Fremont County Financial Statements & Management Letter  
Representative: Kyle Logan, Logan and Associates, LLC

**Mr. Logan** introduced himself and explained that the audit process began in September by testing internal controls such as cash dispersant transactions, payroll, and federal award program money. They check the revenues claimed to have been made as well as verifying funds. That is by calling the financial institution to verify that the county possesses the assets they claim. They also scan through the approved board of county commissioner meeting minutes to make sure contracts and actions were honored. He brought the commissioners' attention to the first page of the audit, which stated in the independent

auditor's opinion they gave the county an unmodified opinion which basically means a clean pass. He wanted to mention a few highlights, such as total assets for the year went up by \$8.4 million over the course of 2023. He explained that 42% of the county's total assets come from buildings and infrastructure. Cash and investments total 44% of the total and that grew by \$3.9 million. In his professional opinion they could operate for six months in the event the county had no revenue coming in from the state.

**Commissioner Bell** moved to accept the 2024 Fremont County Finical Statements and management letter as presented by Mr. Logan. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

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2. **Resolution No. 21**, Series of 2025 Opposing the Colorado PUC's Clean Heat/Electrification Mandate and Affirming the Right of Fremont County Residents to Choose Their Energy Sources

**Commissioner Grantham** recited **Resolution No. 21**, to be able to view it in its entirety please visit the Fremont County Clerk and Recorder website at <https://fremontcountyco-web.tylerhost.net/web/user/disclaimer>.

**Commissioner McFall** commented that he does not believe the electrical grid is prepared for the strain nor is it responsible for expecting everybody to pay more for new construction and revamp old buildings.

**John Hamrick** approached the podium to express his deep concern about the future of the common person and business owners. He reiterated that this order includes wood furnaces, dryers, and water heaters. It will increase consumer expenses by \$397 million a year, which will fall to the average consumer. He said in the year 2024 Colorado households paid four times more for electricity than natural gas, he expects utility companies to start offering incentives to rip out functioning appliances and new restrictions put on gas hookups and even higher rates. Which would make natural gas not necessarily banned but it would make so expensive to use, making it extremely impractical. Mr. Hamrick then declared that Colorado Lawmakers should have the courage to be transparent about their intention to raise energy costs.

**Commissioner Grantham** explained that the utilities companies and even public heath pleaded that 41% emissions decrease by 2035 was not realistic and asked that they lower the target to a 30% decrease. He said that we currently have a base load energy system which is the big smokestacks that can be adjusted for low and peak consumption times. Not based on loaded energy includes solar panels and windmills which will not adjust.

**Commissioner Grantham** moved to approve **Resolution No. 21** series of 2025. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

2. **Resolution No. 22**, Series of 2025 Repealing Fremont County Ordinance 2004-1 and Eliminating the County Imposed Impact Fee for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services for the Use and Benefit of the Canon City Area Fire Protection District

**Attorney Bellas** said the Canon City Area Fire Protection District is a special tax district, it is funded by both a mil levy and by impact and development fees. The fire protection district imposes these fees when a building permit is pulled in the area. He explained that in 2004 the county passed a resolution allowing a special tax to help the strain on these fire protection districts from the impact of new development. The county is now no longer required to impose that fee since last November statute was passed that allows the fire district to impose the fee themselves. The new fee schedule was implemented immediately upon approval on November 17<sup>th</sup> after they conducted a new study regarding impact fees.

**Commissioner McFall** moved to approve **Resolution No. 22** series of 2025, repealing Fremont County's Ordinance 2004-1 and eliminating the county-imposed impact fee for the fire protection and emergency medical services for the use and benefit of the Canon City Fire Protection District. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

3. Reappointment of Janna Dixon to the John C. Fremont Library District Board of Trustees with a term expiring December 31, 2030, and an opportunity for reappointment at that time.

**Commissioner Bell** moved to reappoint Janna Dixon to the John C. Fremont Library District Board of Trustees with a term expiring December 31, 2030, with an opportunity for reappointment at that time. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

4. Reappointment of Shandra Begalle to the John C. Fremont Library District Board of Trustees with a term expiring December 31, 2030.

**Commissioner McFall** moved to reappoint Shandra Begalle to the John C. Fremont Library District Board of Trustees with a term expiring December 31, 2030. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

5. Reappointment of Sandy Johnston to the Penrose Community Library Board of Trustees with a term expiring December 31, 2030.

**Commissioner Bell** moved to reappoint Sandy Johnston to the Penrose Community Library Board of Trustees with a term expiring December 31, 2030. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

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6. Reappointment of John Hamrick to the Fremont County Planning Commission with a term expiring December 31, 2028.

**Commissioner McFall** moved to reappoint John Hamrick to the Fremont County Planning Commission with a term expiring December 31, 2028. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

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7. Appointment of a new member of the Fremont County Weed Advisory Board for a term beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2028.

**Commissioner Bell** moved to appoint Dean Brady as the new member to the Fremont County Weed Advisory Board for a term that will begin on January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2026 and end on December 31<sup>st</sup> of 2028. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

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8. Reappointment of Rudl Mergelman to the Fremont County Planning Commission with a term expiring December 31, 2028.

**Commissioner McFall** moved to reappoint Rud Mergelman to the Fremont County Planning Commission with the term ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2028. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

## **PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED 9:30 a.m.**

None.

**Commissioner Grantham** adjourned the meeting at 10:33am.

To view the YouTube Video for Commissioner Meeting, go to the following website:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDBZOe6T8U>

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Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners