

TWELTH MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Fremont, State of Colorado, met in Regular Session on June 23rd, 2026, at 615 Macon Avenue, Room LL3, Fremont County Administration Building, Cañon City, Colorado. Chairman Bell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Debbie Bell	Commissioner	Present
Dwayne McFall	Commissioner	Present
Kevin Grantham	Commissioner	Present
Justin Grantham	Clerk and Recorder	Present
Eric Bellas	County Attorney	Present
Tony Carochi	County Administrator	Present

INVOCATION

Grant Adkisson from Canyon Cowboy 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 McFall moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion was carried by unanimous consent.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes: None.
2. Approval of Bills for \$3,674,416.02
3. Schedule Public Hearings: None.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE & INFORMATIONAL

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 6/23/2026 3:20

- a. County Clerk's Monthly Report, Justin Grantham, County Clerk

Clerk Grantham gave the County Clerk's Monthly Report, which can be found in its entirety at www.fremontcountyco.gov.

Clerk Grantham explained that in the primary election, if you are registered as a Democrat, you will receive a Democratic ballot, and the same applies to Republicans. If registered unaffiliated or independent, you will receive both ballots and will only be able to vote one ballot.

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.

Commissioner McFall reiterated that most of our wildfires are human-caused, either by a spark from a loose trailer chain, a blown tire, or by burning when it isn't permitted.

Commissioner Bell announced that Fremont County officially participated in the taping of an episode of the Viewpoint series featuring Dennis Quaid. The episode showcased regional development strategies and communities that successfully integrate technology, education, and natural resources to create sustainable, long-term growth. The commissioners chose three people to feature. They began the day at Observe Ranch in Penrose. Cat Davidson, the owner, shared her story of traveling across the country in an RV while searching for the perfect place to launch this business. She found it in Fremont County. Rob Brown, FEDC Executive Director, followed. He told the story of economic homesteading, a contemporary approach here in Fremont County where individuals prioritize connection, community stability, and a professional opportunity over traditional urban density. By highlighting the collaborative efforts of local leaders, educators, and business owners, the episode aims to demonstrate how a regional economy functions when diverse sectors such as agriculture, advanced manufacturing, and outdoor recreation work in tandem. Their final interview took place at Barn Owl Precision Agriculture on the Emergent Campus in Florence, with CEO and co-founder Sarah Hinkley. They showed her enthusiasm and inspiration for the technology that empowers farmers today. For example, they created the autonomous nano tractor, which can weed and spray for farmers while they focus on other important agricultural activities. Commissioner Bell expressed excitement about expanding the project to fully showcase our community and about people in this area understanding that they do not have to choose between professional success and quality of life, because in Fremont County you can have it all.

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

Regina Melcher approached the podium to express concerns about a proposed data center to be built off Highway 120 in Portland. She does not want the noise, lights, pollution, or the waste of one of our most precious resources, water, in our community. She believes this proposal has been hidden within a tiny home manufacturing company. She is familiar with opposing proposals that threaten the community's health and happiness, for example, by forming a coalition when Holcim (now known as Amrize) sought to burn hazardous waste materials such as fingernail polish remover and paint thinner.

Commissioner Bell responded that they all care deeply about the community and are well-versed in the challenges that come with data centers, having spoken with other counties that have banned or accepted them. She wanted to make it clear that they had not heard anything regarding someone wanting to build a data center. The tiny home manufacturing company is real; she has personally toured the facility, and she believes it is a great addition to the community. However, she acknowledged that they, as Fremont County Commissioners, do not have authority over what the incorporated areas, such as Canon City or Florence, do within their jurisdictions.

Commissioner McFall said, along with what Commissioner Bell was pointing out, those local authorities are also not allowed to make decisions for unincorporated Fremont County. They also cannot annex areas that aren't already adjacent to the city or town limits.

Commissioner Grantham reiterated that Colorado simply does not have the water supply to keep these centers cool and that, because they are a subset of the state's rules and have not made a final decision on the matter, they must wait.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 6/23/2026 30:20

1. Proclamation Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America and the 150th Anniversary of the State of Colorado

Commissioner Bell read the Proclamation, which appears in full at the end of these minutes.

Commissioner Grantham encouraged the public to visit the Administration Building to admire the flags and read interpretations of historic flags dating back to the pre-Revolutionary War period.

Commissioner Bell moved to approve this proclamation commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States of America and the 150th anniversary of the state of Colorado. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye. The motion was carried by unanimous consent.

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 6/23/2026 38:27

2. Consideration of Resolution Authorizing Processing of C-PACE Application for 1173 SH 120 LLC to Fund Certain Energy, Water and Resiliency Measures Associated with The Redevelopment of Industrial Property
Representative: Eric Bonick, Managing Partner, 1173 SH 120 LLC

Mr. Bonick explained that the funding they hope to receive through the C-PACE application is critical to scaling up production capacity and hiring additional personnel for the factory. It will allow their

company to recoup approximately the \$10 million in capital they have invested in the project to date. After the Fourth of July, their company plans to host a hiring event and onboard 10 to 15 employees. By the end of the year, they hope to have 30 to 40 full-time employees in the factory working on the production side.

Commissioner Bell commented that she was able to visit the facility not long ago, and she is very excited for them to finally be at this step in the process to ramp up production and hire more citizens.

County Attorney Bellas reiterated that this approval is only for this company to continue the application process through the CPACE program.

Commissioner McFall said the county previously supported the CPACE program, but the state managed it poorly and didn't listen to concerns raised during the various meetings the commissioners held with them. Finally, some improvements were made, and they decided to bring it back. This type of company is what this program is for.

Commissioner Grantham moved to approve **Resolution No. 13**, series of 2026, authorizing the processing of CPACE application for 1173 State Highway 120 LLC to fund certain energy, water, and resiliency measures associated with the redevelopment of industrial property. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion was carried by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED 9:30 a.m.

None.

Commissioner Bell adjourned the meeting at 9:45 am.

To view the YouTube Video for the Commissioner Meetings, go to the following website:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_SU9tnwS1LI

Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners



Fremont County Board of Commissioners

Proclamation

COMMEMORATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

WHEREAS on July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, affirming the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS, the year 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, a milestone that invites reflection on the courage, vision, and sacrifice of those who forged a new path toward freedom; and

WHEREAS, on August 1, 1876, Colorado was admitted to the Union as the 38th state, earning the proud nickname "The Centennial State" in honor of the nation's 100th birthday; and

WHEREAS, for two hundred and fifty years, the people of the United States of America have demonstrated resilience, innovation, and a deep respect for the natural beauty and resources of our country; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's history is rich with the contributions of pioneers, miners, ranchers, farmers, entrepreneurs, educators, artists, and countless others who have shaped our communities; and


WHEREAS, this very special Semiquincentennial and Sesquicentennial year marks a time to reflect on our shared heritage, honor the achievements of past generations, and commit ourselves to building a future that preserves the unique character and values of both Colorado and the United States of America; and

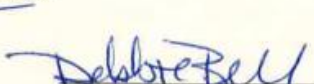
WHEREAS, this anniversary provides an opportunity to honor the diverse people, cultures, and communities that have shaped our shared history and contributed to the ongoing story of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Fremont County joyfully join other communities across the country in parades, celebrations, and ceremonies to celebrate this historic occasion.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED by the County Commissioners of Fremont County that the year 2026 is hereby designated as a **Year of Celebration and Rededication** in honor of the **250th Anniversary of the United States of America** and the **150th Anniversary of the State of Colorado**, and all residents are encouraged to participate in activities that reflect our nation's history, unity, and enduring spirit.

Signed this 23rd Day of June, 2026.


Kevin Grantham
District 1 Commissioner


Debbie Bell
District 2 Commissioner


Dwayne McFall
District 3 Commissioner