

## THIRTEENTH MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Fremont, State of Colorado, met in Special Session on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, at 615 Macon Avenue, Room LL3, Fremont County Administration Building, Cañon City, Colorado. Chairman Bell called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Debbie Bell	Commissioner	Present
Dwayne McFall	Commissioner	Absent
Kevin Grantham	Commissioner	Present
Justin D Grantham	Clerk and Recorder	Absent
Eric Bellas	County Attorney	Present
Shawn Sutton	Assistant County Administrator	Present

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration of **Resolution No. 14** Prohibiting the Use of Fireworks and Delegating Certain Authority to the Fremont County Sheriff

**Sheriff Allen Cooper** approached the podium to make it clear that this bans all use of personal fireworks under the Stage 2 fire ban. It gives Sheriff Cooper authority to impose heavy fines on people who do not comply; he believes it is necessary due to the extreme fire danger in our area from high winds and super-dry vegetation.

**Assistant County Administrator Sutton** presented photos of several fires that have already occurred this year in Fremont County. He began with the “24 Fire,” which burned 7,385 acres, and the “County Road 11 Fire,” which has burned 107 acres but was still highly problematic; it was 30% contained at the last check. He believes the immediate support, including an air attack, had a significant impact on containing it. He wanted to personally thank the Deer Mountain and Tallahassee fire departments; they arrived on scene very quickly and cut a dozer line, which significantly helped mitigate the spread of the fire. He then showed photos from the “K.O. Fire,” which was essentially across the highway from the “24 Fire.” The K.O. Fire burned approximately 64 acres and was dangerously close to many homes, which is believed to be the reason for the immediate air support. He then reported the “Aspen Acres Fire,” which has burned over 28,000 acres so far and is 0% contained. There is concern for Fremont County because this fire is burning in neighboring counties. Mykel Kroll, Fremont County Emergency Manager, has traveled to Pueblo County to offer as much support as possible. He brought equipment that enables them to boost cell phone service in areas where it isn’t usually available. Mr. Kroll also created a handout to inform the

public about fire starters, such as sparks from power equipment, cigarette butts, sparks from trailer chains, and parking vehicles on grass.

**County Attorney Bellas** explained the action this Resolution will take. It delegates the authority to suspend the fire ban. The fire ban is always in effect in Fremont County unless suspended by action of either the Board of County Commissioners or the Sheriff. The Board previously delegated the authority to suspend the fire ban to Sheriff Cooper. This action aligns the entire operational procedure regarding fire control and fire danger with the reality that the Sheriff is Fremont County's Fire Warden. It also explicitly delegates the authority to reimpose a fire ban and to determine the stage of fire restrictions in Fremont County; this authority also allows the Sheriff, in the future, to ban the use of all fireworks.

**Commissioner Grantham** asked Sheriff Cooper what the consequence is if people choose to ignore this ban.

**Sheriff Cooper** responded that they could receive a citation and associated fines ranging from \$250, depending on the specific offense. If the person starts a fire, it will rapidly become a felony.

**Commissioner Grantham** moved to approve **Resolution No. 14**, series of 2026, a resolution banning the use of fireworks and further delegating authority to the Sheriff to suspend, impose, and ban fireworks. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

**Commissioner Bell** adjourned the meeting at 10:16 am.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXbfGsywA1M>

---

Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners