

SEVENTEENTH MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Fremont, State of Colorado, met in Regular Session on August 11th, 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	Absent
Eric Bellas	County Attorney	Present
Shawn Sutton	Assistant County Administrator	Present
Dan Victoria	Planning & Zoning Director	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 Grantham moved to approve the agenda, including the addition of Resolution Number 18 for SRU Diana's Pumpkin Patch on the Consent Agenda. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes / July 28, 2026
2. Approval of Bills for \$1,335,233.38
3. Resolution Approving SRU for Diana's Pumpkin Patch from 2/19/2026
4. Ratification of Chairman's Signature on Fremont County Public Health Agency Work Statement
5. Schedule Public Hearing: None.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE & INFORMATIONAL

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 8/11/2026 3:02

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.

b. County Administrator Report, Shawn Sutton, Assistant County Administrator

Assistant County Administrator Sutton gave the County Administrator Report, which can be found in its entirety at www.fremontcountyco.gov.

Commissioner McFall joyfully announced the success of this year's county fair: 72 animals were sold, totaling \$188,192.00. On the other hand, fire danger in our county remains extreme; the county is so dry that DOT has stopped mowing for fear of throwing sparks if the mower hits a rock.

Commissioner Bell added that there are many categories to choose from in the Open Fair, such as growing flowers, quilting, and baking cookies. The Commissioners are strong advocates for 4-H, as it is the best program available for youth.

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

Charolette Burrous approached the podium to present an award to the commissioners on behalf of the America's Parade Committee for the Community Spirit Award.

Will Colon, owner of Colon Orchards, appeared today to draw attention to the alarming growth of the homeless population. He's used to some homeless people being present, but his rights as a property owner once protected him. He has had problems before with local law enforcement agencies unsure where city and county jurisdiction begins and ends. Miscommunications arise when one agency issues a trespassing ticket that is not entered into the system for other agencies to see. Mr. Colon asked the commissioners to speak with the Sheriff and Chief of Police to hopefully reach an MOA and to notify officers to better assist, because he is not willing to let people trespass or threaten him with assault.

Commissioner Bell agreed that inaction explained as "Well, it's coming from Denver" is unacceptable and has not heard this statement herself. Fremont County does not accept damage to or trespassing on personal property and agrees to investigate such incidents.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 8/11/2026 29:38

1. Proclamation naming August 19, 2026, as Richard Baker Day in Fremont County

Commissioner Bell read the proclamation, noting that Mr. Baker's first flight was on October 31st, 1968. He has played many roles throughout his career as a pilot, including working for various local companies, serving as an airport manager, and serving as a technical expert and consultant. He received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award, the highest honor for certified pilots, for achieving 50 years of safe flight operations. He also received the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award for 50 years of exemplary service, technical proficiency, and dedication to the field. Only 38 people in Colorado have received both awards. The proclamation can be viewed at the bottom of these minutes.

To review the proclamation in its entirety, please visit fremontcountyco.gov under the Commissioner agendas and minutes tab.

Wes Brandt, the Fremont County Airport Manager, approached the podium to say he has known Mr. Baker for 22 years; he hired him at the airport, and they worked together for 15 years. Mr. Baker taught Mr. Brandt a great deal, and he wanted to publicly thank him because he believed he would not be here today if it weren't for Mr. Baker.

Commissioner McFall moved to accept the proclamation recognizing Richard Baker for lifetime achievement in aviation and designate August 19th, 2026, as Richard Baker Day in Fremont County, Colorado. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 8/11/2026 43:09

2. Proclamation naming August 11, 2026, as Bruce McCandless Veterans Community Living Center at Florence Day in Fremont County
Representative: Rick Gutierrez, Director, Fremont County Department of Public Health and Environment

Public Health Director Gutierrez explained that before firefighters gained control of the north side of the Aspen Acres Fire, the Bruce McCandless Veterans Community Living Center was in a very vulnerable position. Although the center was outside the evacuation zones, the staff still took time to plan, recognizing how quickly conditions can change. He said that, as someone with a background in emergency preparedness, he understood the magnitude of the coordination required. The staff has been working together to plan and practice for a potential evacuation ever since the 24 Fire. Public Health Director Gutierrez then recited the proclamation, which can be found in its entirety at the bottom of these minutes.

Barbara Moore, Administrator for Bruce McCandless Veteran Community Living Center, wanted to comment that it was very scary to have a fire so close, but she was very grateful for the tremendous help they received from the Colorado Department of Human Services. She described how all their sister facilities coordinated and received assistance through their transportation partnerships to get everyone to their temporary locations.

Commissioner Grantham moved to approve the proclamation, proclaiming August 11th of 2026 as Bruce McCandless Veterans Community Living Center at Florence Day here in Fremont County. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 8/11/2026 54:48

3. MS 26-001 Free Eleven Minor Subdivision

Requesting approval for a minor subdivision that will create a total of two (2) lots. Located at 1115 Fremont Street, in Penrose.

Planning and Zoning Director Victoria stated that the planning commission held a hearing on this minor subdivision on July 7th. The applicant, Travis Jenkins, is requesting approval of a two-lot minor subdivision at 115 Fremont Street in Penrose. Both lots exceed the one-half-acre minimum. However, the depth is barely more than twice the lot length, and the applicant requested a deferral of the drainage plan until the time of development. The Fremont County Building Department reported that there are no violations on the property and that septic permits have been issued. Colorado DOT stated that the applicant must obtain an access permit from Fremont Street. Director Victoria said the planning and zoning department recommends approval, with the following: approval of waiver requests 1 and 2. Number one is the drainage plan and report. Waiver two is Appendix One, Section B, number 10: the length-versus-width requirement. As a contingency item, the applicant must have the surveyor correct a few red lines on the plat and add a note stating that the drainage plans for lots one and two will be deferred until the time of development.

Commissioner Bell noted that the commissioners have reviewed the entire 71-page packet, which is straightforward.

Commissioner Grnatham said that the depth is only two feet out of compliance. The rule is intended to prevent people from splitting lots into 50-foot-wide by a-mile-deep parcels.

Commissioner McFall moved to approve minor subdivision 26-001, Free Eleven Minor Subdivision, with the following waivers approved. Waiver number one is a drainage plan and report. Waiver number two is Appendix One, Section B, number 10, which is a waiver for depth. A registered surveyor must correct the additional red line, and a surveyor must note on the plat that the drainage plan for lots one and two may differ until the time of development. One condition: the applicant must also apply for and receive an access permit from CDOT at Fremont Street. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Upon vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

4. Reappointment of Dan Brixey to the Fremont County Board of Appeals with a term expiring August 1, 2029.

Commissioner Grantham moved to reappoint Dan Brixey to the Fremont County Board of Appeals for a term expiring on August 1st of 2029. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED 9:30 a.m.

None.

Commissioner Bell adjourned the meeting at

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5guegv8jojA&t=2536s>

Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners



Fremont County Board of Commissioners

Proclamation

RECOGNIZING RICHARD BAKER FOR A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT IN AVIATION AND DESIGNATING AUGUST 19, 2026, AS "RICHARD BAKER DAY" IN FREMONT COUNTY, COLORADO

WHEREAS, Richard Dail Baker, Jr. logged his first solo flight on October 31, 1968; and

WHEREAS, Richard Baker has been a resident of Fremont County since June of 1971, and a service member and veteran of the United States Army since he entered service in December of 1971; and

WHEREAS, Richard Baker has been a fixture at the Fremont County Airport for more than 50 years, having flown for recreation, served as a pilot for several local companies, served as airport manager, and served as a technical expert and consultant; and

WHEREAS, National Aviation Day is celebrated each year on August 19th, the anniversary of the birth of Orville Wright, who with his brother, Wilbur, were pioneers of aviation, and is a fitting and appropriate day to honor Richard Baker; and

WHEREAS, the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award is the Federal Aviation Administration's highest honor for certified pilots, recognizing individuals who have demonstrated professionalism, skill, and aviation expertise through more than 50 years of safe flight operations; and

WHEREAS, the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award honors aviation maintenance technicians who have completed 50 years of exemplary service in aircraft maintenance, upholding the highest standards of safety, technical proficiency, and dedication to the field; and

WHEREAS, Richard Baker has earned both the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award and the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award, an extraordinary dual distinction achieved by only a select few in the aviation community, including only 38 in the history of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, throughout his lifetime, Richard Baker has exemplified excellence in aviation, contributing to the safety, innovation, and advancement of aircraft operations and maintenance, and serving as a mentor and leader to countless pilots, mechanics, and aviation professionals; and

WHEREAS, Richard Baker has consistently demonstrated a thorough understanding of Federal Aviation Administration regulations, ensuring compliance with evolving standards that govern safe and responsible flight; and

WHEREAS, Richard Baker's commitment to professionalism, regulatory expertise, and operational excellence has set a high benchmark for all who serve in the aviation community; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as manager of the Fremont County Airport, Richard Baker developed and implemented a 10-year plan for growth, taking advantage of grant funding opportunities and strengthening relationships between Fremont County and the FAA; and

WHEREAS, Richard Baker has continued to contribute to the success and growth of the Fremont County Airport by managing the construction of new and state-of-the-art hangars and facilities which have increased capacity, use and revenue for the benefit of the airport and Fremont County; and

WHEREAS, Richard Baker's decades of service, dedication, and passion for aviation have brought honor to Fremont County and stand as an inspiring example of commitment to craft, community, and country; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting for Fremont County to publicly acknowledge Richard Baker's outstanding achievements and express gratitude for his lasting impact on aviation and on all those who have benefited from his knowledge, skill, and mentorship.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED that the Board of County Commissioners of Fremont County, Colorado hereby recognizes and honors Richard Baker for his lifetime of achievement in aviation and designates August 19, 2026, as "Richard Baker Day" in Fremont County, Colorado.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that Fremont County encourages all residents to join in celebrating Richard Baker's extraordinary contributions to aviation and in recognizing the significance of his accomplishments.

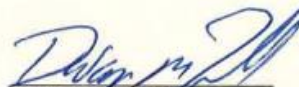
Signed this 11th Day of August, 2026.



Kevin Grantham
District 1 Commissioner



Debbie Bell
District 2 Commissioner



Dwayne McFall
District 3 Commissioner



Fremont County Board of Commissioners

Proclamation

Bruce McCandless Veterans Community Living Center at Florence Day

WHEREAS, the safety, dignity, and well-being of our veteran senior citizens and vulnerable residents are among the highest priorities of Fremont County; and

WHEREAS, on July 6th, 2026, the dedicated leadership and staff of Bruce McCandless Veterans Community Living Center at Florence responded swiftly, professionally, and compassionately during the Aspen Acres Fire requiring the evacuation of sixty-three (63) residents; and

WHEREAS, through careful planning, teamwork, and unwavering commitment, the facility successfully relocated all 63 residents while maintaining continuity of care, protecting their health and safety, and providing reassurance to residents and their families during a time of uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable accomplishment reflects the exceptional dedication of the facility's administrative staff, nurses, certified nursing assistants, support staff, transportation partners, and all others whose coordinated efforts made the evacuation possible; and

WHEREAS, the actions demonstrated by the employees of Bruce McCandless Veterans Community Living Center at Florence exemplify the highest standards of public service, emergency preparedness, professionalism, compassion, and commitment to the residents entrusted to their care; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners wishes to recognize the extraordinary efforts, resilience, and selfless service displayed by the staff and leadership of Bruce McCandless Veterans Community Living Center at Florence, whose actions brought honor to their profession and served as an example of excellence throughout our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED by the County Commissioners of Fremont County by the virtue of authority vested in this Board, that August 11th, 2026, is hereby designated as Bruce McCandless Veterans Community Living Center at Florence day in Fremont County and the residents of Fremont County are called upon and encouraged to observe this day by recognizing and commending Bruce McCandless Veterans Community Living Center at Florence, its leadership, and staff for their outstanding emergency response and the successful evacuation and return of sixty-three (63) residents.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this recognition serves as a lasting expression of the County's appreciation for the courage, professionalism, and compassion demonstrated by Bruce McCandless Veterans Community Living Center at Florence, and with best wishes for its continued services to the residents of Fremont County.

Adopted this 11th day of August, 2026.

Kevin Grantham
District 1 Commissioner

Debbie Bell
District 2 Commissioner

Dwayne McFall
District 3 Commissioner