

TWENTIETH MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Fremont, State of Colorado, met in Regular Session on September 22nd, 2026, at 615 Macon Avenue, Room LL3, Fremont County Administration Building, Cañon City, Colorado. Chair Pro Tem McFall called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

INVOCATION

Bradley Buck from Bridge to Life Assembly of God 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 as presented. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes / September 8, 2026

2. Approval of Bills for \$3,323,378.97

3. Schedule Public Hearings:

a. Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 9:30 AM

CDP 26-001 Yoder Homes LLC

The proposed development is a business that maintains and repairs RV roofs inside a 4,000-square-foot building. The property is located at 235 7th Avenue in Penrose.

Representative: Angela Bellantoni

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

ADMINISTRATIVE & INFORMATIONAL

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 9/22/2026 4:15

1. Staff / Elected Officials:

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

Shawn Sutton gave the Sales & Use Tax Report, available in full at www.fremontcountyco.gov.

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

County Administrator Carochi gave the County Administrator Report, available in full at www.fremontcountyco.gov.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 9/22/2026 17:19

1. Recognition of Retirement and Years of Service for Ron Blanchard

Commissioner McFall recited **Resolution No. 22** recognizing Ron Blanchard's retirement and Years of service.

Mr. Blanchard thanked the commissioners for their recognition and his whole team; he knows these projects only get done when they work together. He enjoyed his time and thanked them all.

Commissioner Grantham moved to adopt **Resolution No. 22**, recognizing Mr. Ron Blanchard's retirement and years of service. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Tony Fabrizio, a Fremont County DOT employee, approached and said that was an impressive list, but the main thing about Ron is that he is an all-around good person. He admitted to only working with him for a few months, but Ron is the star of their unit, and everybody is going to miss him dearly.

2. Proclamation recognizing September 22, 2026, as National Scenic Byway Day
Representative: Charlotte Bumgarner, Gold Belt Tour Scenic & Historic Byway

Mrs. Bumgarner told the board that the Gold Belt Tour Byway was one of the first five byways in Colorado, established on September 22nd, 1989. It spans 131 miles and passes through cities and towns such as Canon City, Florence, Victor, and Cripple Creek.

Mr. Bumgarner said Colorado has 26 byways totaling 2,500 miles, and the nation has 187. He believes it's worthwhile because of the initiative's size and the tourism it will bring to different areas.

Commissioner Grantham recited the proclamation for National Scenic Byway Day, which appears below.

Commissioner Grantham moved to approve September 22nd, 2026, as National Scenic Byway Day. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

3. Proclamation recognizing October 2026 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Representative: Sarah Fisher, Family Crisis Services

Ms. Fisher introduced herself and read the proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month below.

Commissioner McFall expressed shock at the statistics that one in four women and one in seven men experience domestic violence. He also asked Ms. Fisher whether she sees an impact on victims since legislators in Denver decriminalized crime, which makes the maximum sentence much lower, or some dangerous criminals are still allowed bail.

Ms. Fisher expressed that the office's desire is to see the abusers fully punished under the law, but pertaining to Family Crisis specifically, they try to keep their focus on what survivors need.

Commissioner Grantham moved to approve the proclamation, recognizing October 2026 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

4. Professional Review Fees Request

Planning and Zoning requests the ability to bill an applicant for review fees that exceed the application fee for a current project.

Representative: Dan Victoria, Director, Fremont County Planning & Zoning

Director Victoria said the department should request additional billing from the applicant for review costs. The additional costs include the fees up to and including any amount that exceeds the application fee for the current project. The excess fees result from the Planning & Zoning Department engaging an outside consultant. The applicant requested an outside consultant after voicing a perceived staff bias during the review of this project. Section 306 of the Fremont County Resolution allows the board, at its discretion, to assess additional fees. In addition to the non-refundable application fee imposed by the board through a separate resolution, the board may, at its discretion, assess additional fees and amounts deemed appropriate by the board to cover the actual costs of evaluating the application, including, but not limited to, retaining any necessary expert review or investigative assistance for any portion of the application or its accompanying documents.

Commissioner McFall reiterated that because the permit fee typically covers the time it takes to process an application, the cost of this application has risen well above that amount, so the Planning and Zoning Department is requesting additional funds. Commissioner McFall asked how they plan to obtain the exact extra amount owed.

Director Victoria agreed with Commissioner McFall's statement.

Commissioner Grantham asked whether this would apply only to this application or to all pending applications.

Planning and Zoning Director Victoria said they are only asking for this application.

Commissioner McFall wanted Attorney Bellas's opinion on whether they should make this motion on a case-by-case basis, given that the Resolution authorizes them to impose additional fees, though the amount could vary depending on the consultants needed.

County Attorney Bellas said the zoning resolution does permit billing applicants additionally; this occurs when outside professionals provide services beyond those provided by county employees. He said it doesn't happen often, but some applications require specialized expertise or more staff than the county has. He said it would apply in any case where the county has hired an outside professional.

Commissioner McFall asked Director Victoria whether they need to add any stipulations to ensure these fees are paid before the application progresses further.

Planning and Zoning Director Victoria answered that, so far, his plan, depending on the board's vote, is to provide the applicant with the invoices. The Fremont County Planning Commission and this board of commissioners have not yet heard of this application. Whether the applicant chooses to contest the charges or the timeliness of payment has not been determined yet, since this has never happened before.

Attorney Bellas said that it would depend on whether the additional services required would extend through the board of commissioners' process, meaning more funds would be due even after those meetings occur. If additional services were still required after that point, it would be hard to figure out what kind of stipulation to impose.

Commissioner Grantham interjected that the cost of an application process, because of its complexity or whatever else, should not hinder the taxpayers, and he is ready to move forward with a motion.

Commissioner McFall had one more question for Attorney Bellas; to his understanding, the zoning regulations state that the resolution must be changed by a separate resolution.

County Attorney Bellas replied that, to his knowledge, the board would only need to authorize the Planning and Zoning Department to separately bill for additional professional time.

Commissioner Grantham moved to approve the Planning and Zoning Department's request, allowing it to bill an applicant for review fees that exceed the application fee for the current project. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 9/22/2026 49:06

5. Adoption of the 2027 Fremont County Holiday Schedules

Commissioner McFall explained that the County has two holiday schedules: one for 8-hour employees and one for 10-hour employees.

County Administrator Carochi rationalized that this year's proposed schedule allows all county employees to receive a total of 100 hours of paid holiday time, with allocations adjusted to match each employee's regular work schedule. Staff who work 10-hour workdays will receive nine paid holidays (10 hours each) and one floating holiday, totaling 100 hours. Employees on an 8-hour workday will receive 10 paid holidays (8 hours each) and floating holiday leave totaling 20 hours, for a total of 100 hours. This approach ensures consistency and fairness across the organization while recognizing the differences in daily work schedules. If the commissioners approve this today, our HR Director, Beltz, will post and distribute the 2027 holiday calendar.

Commissioner Grantham moved to approve the holiday schedules as presented for the four-day-a-week and 10-hour schedule as well as the five-day and eight-hour schedule. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED 9:30 a.m.

None.

Commissioner McFall adjourned the meeting at 9:52 am.

To view the YouTube Video for the Commissioner Meeting, go to the following website:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnLhj0HQ_wo

Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners



Fremont County Board of Commissioners

NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY DAY PROCLAMATION

September 22, 2026

WHEREAS, scenic byways preserve and celebrate the unique natural beauty, history, culture, archaeology, recreation, and scenic resources that define the character of communities across America; and

WHEREAS, the Gold Belt Tour Scenic Byway serves as an important transportation corridor and destination, connecting residents and visitors to the stories, landscapes, and heritage that make our region distinctive; and

WHEREAS, scenic byways contribute to local economies by supporting tourism, small businesses, hospitality, recreation, and community development; and

WHEREAS, scenic byways encourage stewardship of our nation's treasured places while promoting education, preservation, and appreciation of local history, culture, and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the volunteers, organizations, businesses, local governments, and citizens who support the Gold Belt Tour Scenic & Historic Byway play a vital role in protecting and enhancing the quality of life in our communities; and

WHEREAS, National Scenic Byway Day provides an opportunity to recognize the contributions of designated scenic byways and to encourage residents and visitors alike to explore and enjoy these special roads and the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, the Gold Belt Tour Scenic & Historic Byway, designated as both a Colorado Scenic and Historic Byway and a National Scenic Byway, extends 131 miles through five historic communities – Florissant, Cripple Creek, Victor, Cañon City and Florence, showcasing Colorado's richest gold rush history and breathtaking mountain scenery and serving as a source of pride for residents and visitors alike.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED by the County Commissioners of Fremont County that Tuesday, September 22nd, 2026, is hereby designated as NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY DAY. The County Commissioners urge all people of Fremont County to celebrate the scenic, historic, cultural, recreational, archeological and natural treasures found along the Gold Belt Tour Scenic & Historic Byway and through America's Byways.

Signed this 22nd Day of September, 2026.

Kevin Grantham
District 1 Commissioner

Debbie Bell
District 2 Commissioner

Dwayne McFall
District 3 Commissioner



Fremont County Board of Commissioners

Proclamation

Domestic Violence Awareness Month October 2026

WHEREAS, 1 in every 4 women, and 1 in every 7 men will experience domestic violence during their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, approximately 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic violence every year; and

WHEREAS, when a family member is abused, it can have long-term damaging effects on the victim that also leave a mark on family, friends, and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, the problem of domestic violence is not confined to any group or groups of people, but crosses all economic, racial, gender, educational, religious, and societal barriers, and is sustained by societal indifference; and

WHEREAS, the crime of domestic violence violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security, and humanity due to the systematic use of physical, emotional, sexual, psychological, and economic control and/or abuse; and

WHEREAS, victims should have help to find the compassion, comfort, and healing they need, and domestic abusers should be punished to the full extent of the law; and

WHEREAS, victims of violence should have access to medical and legal services, counseling, emergency and transitional housing, and other supportive services so that they can escape the cycle of abuse; and

WHEREAS, important partnerships have been formed among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, healthcare providers, allied professionals, and victim services to assist victims of domestic violence and their families; and

WHEREAS, we dedicate ourselves to protecting vulnerable members of our community; and

WHEREAS, Fremont County has a moral obligation to work to prevent domestic violence, address its brutal and destructive effects and make ending domestic violence a local priority.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED by the County Commissioners of Fremont County that the month of October is hereby designated as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and urge all citizens to actively support the work of Family Crisis Services in the elimination of domestic violence.

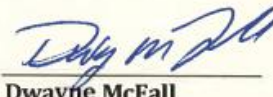
Signed this 22nd Day of September 2026.


Kevin Grantham

District 1 Commissioner


Debbie Bell

District 2 Commissioner


Dwayne McFall

District 3 Commissioner