

SECOND MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Fremont, State of Colorado, met in Regular Session on January 27th, 2026, 615 Macon Avenue, Room LL3, Fremont County Administration Building, Cañon City, Colorado. Chairwoman Bell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Debbie Bell	Commissioner	Present
Dwayne McFall	Commissioner	Absent
Kevin Grantham	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

Alicia Swearingen from Royal Gorge Vineyard 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 Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes / January 13, 2026
2. Approval of Bills for \$3,605,528.49
3. Schedule Public Hearings: None.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE & INFORMATIONAL

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- a. Semi-Annual Treasurer's Report and Public Trustee Quarterly Report,

Kathy Elliott, County Treasurer & Public Trustee

County Treasurer Elliot gave the Semi-Annual Treasurer's Report, which can be found in its entirety at www.fremontcountyco.gov.

Commissioner Grantham moved to accept the Treasurer's Semi-Annual Report. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion carried by unanimous content.

Public Trustee Elliott gave the Public Trustee Quarterly Report, which can be found in its entirety at www.fremontcountyco.gov.

Commissioner Grantham moved to accept the Public Trustee Quarterly Report. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion carried by unanimous content.

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b. 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.

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c. 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.

Commissioner Grantham moved to accept the County Clerk's Monthly Report. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion carried by unanimous content.

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d. 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.

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

Chris Onley from Colorado Springs Utilities appeared at the meeting to update the commissioners on the ongoing issue concerning water usage and the need Colorado Springs must find more water sources. He said they intend to come up with a long-lasting plan that could last for up to 50 years as the entire state continues to grow especially around the Arkansas River basin.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

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Planning and Zoning Director Victoria interjected that since the meeting date has officially been changed for the second meeting in February to the 19th, he advised that the commissioners should make the official notice to the public for a public hearing to be held on said meeting.

Commissioner Grantham moved to schedule a public hearing for SRU 25-002 for Diana's Pumpkin Patch on Thursday, February 19th at 9:30am. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED 9:30 a.m.

1. VPR 25-001 McKinley Elementary School
Vacation of Public Right of Way that is a 16' .193 acres Right-of-Way platted for an alleyway, that crosses lots 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, & 28, of Macon's Subdivision. It serves no transportation or utility function, the McKinley Elementary school has been developed on a portion of this alleyway on lots 22, 21, 25, and 26.
Representative: Scott Morton

Commissioner Bell opened the public hearing at 9:33am.

Mr. Morton is the director of operations for Canon City Schools. He said that they have been working diligently to upgrade and add to our schools and during the process they discovered that there was a right-of-way established in the 60's that runs right through the property and they are asking permission for the it to be vacated and bring them back into legal standing.

Planning and Zoning Director Victoria describe the right-of-way in more detail, explaining that it is 16 feet by .193-acre right-of-way that crosses through lots 21, 22, 25 and 26. It is not used for transportation or utility function. The only comment from an agency was from the Fremont Conservation District saying the applicant must notify all applicable utility companies which have already been made. Director Victoria said that the applicants have requested a waiver of the application fees due to the nature of the application. The Department of Planning and Zoning recommends approval with the approval of a partial refund to the customer in the amount of \$557 but retain \$43 to cover the recording fees.

Commissioner Bell – closed the public hearing at 9:38am.

Commissioner Grantham moved to approve the vacation of public right-of-way 25-001 for Mckinley Elementary School located at 1240 McKinley St, Canon City, CO 81212 with the approval of the waiver for a partial refund but retain the \$43 for recording fees. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

NEW BUSINESS continued at 9:39am.

1. Fremont County Search & Rescue Annual Report Presentation for Calendar Year 2025

Presenter: Randy Sorge & Dustin Elliott

Mr. Elliott introduced himself as the current commander for Fremont Search and Rescue. He was elated to be present and give an update on the previous year the team had experienced together. He started off explaining that being a part of the Colorado Search and Rescue Association enables them to share resources amongst the other Colorado Search and Rescue teams. Their team is a non-profit organization funded by donations and some legislation was recently passed that they receive funding through the state as well as receiving a portion of license plate sales that represent search and rescue. He mentioned that they operate under the Sheriff's office meaning that they get dispatched from 911 calls. They have a total of 26 members, and they are trained in all types of rescues such as low angle, high angle, canine, alpine, and avalanche rescue. One of the goals for this year is to get more people trained for the drone as well as acquiring a new and improved drone to do more detailed searches. They accomplished a total of 18 missions, which is surprisingly low with an average of 27 to 30 missions a year. One mission was to get a woman who broke her ankle 3 miles into the trail at Newlin Creek. They also participated in the search for the missing hunters in Conejos County.

Mr. Sorge took over the presentation to share what he focused on the previous year, which was team training courses in conjunction with other agencies. They did high angle training with Canon Fire on their new fire tower. They train their new canines with El Paso County and have collaborated with Tallahassee, Deer Mountains, and Florence fire districts. They also introduced six new members which makes the total number 26 with the goal of being over 30. All the members have spent a total of over 8,000 hours training, doing missions, and participating in events in 2025.

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2. Appointment of a new member to the Fremont County Tourism Council for a term beginning January 27, 2026, and ending December 31, 2027.

Commissioner Grantham moved to appoint Gail Dexter to the Fremont County Tourism Council for a term beginning today and ending on December 31, 2027. 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 10:05am.

To view the YouTube Video for Commissioner Meeting, go to the following website:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVILbBS0gUc>

Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners