

THIRD MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Fremont, State of Colorado, met in Regular Session on February 11th, 2025, 615 Macon Avenue, Room LL3, Fremont County Administration Building, Cañon City, Colorado. Chairman Grantham called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

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

INVOCATION

Paul Hinson from Royal Gorge Vineyard 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 with the change of removing item number four and renumbering the next two items. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes: None
2. Approval of Bills for \$1,312,823.40
3. Ratification of Chairman Signature on Alpine Depot, LLC Airport Land Lease
4. Schedule Public Hearing: None

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

ADMINISTRATIVE & INFORMATIONAL

1. Staff / Elected Officials:

- 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.

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

County Manager Carochi gave the County Manager Report, which can be found on in its entirety 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

1. Recognition of the Boys and Girls Club and 4-H extension office for their partnership implementing Health Rocks and Smart Moves curriculums funded by the SBLOCK grant, Anna Carochi, Prevention Program Coordinator, Fremont County Department of Public Health and Environment

Ms. Carochi said her role as Prevention Program Coordinator is to manage the Block Grant that funds the Health Rocks curriculum at the CSU Extension Office and the Smart Move curriculum at the Boys and Girls Club. She sees the impact these programs are having on the youth in Fremont County since these organizations have been implementing this curriculum in the after-school programs and other community events. The curriculum includes teaching children about how to make healthy decisions when it comes to drug use and social media. Between both programs they now serve 309 youth which is a 47% increase from the 210 students last year.

Julianna Dinkle the director of the CSU Extension office said that the programs they do with local youth, by doing Kids Club on No School Fridays with third, fourth, and fifth graders. This year's funding has allowed the organization to hire consistent personnel to work these programs, they believe it is very important to influence and give children tools to make good decisions.

Eric Thompson said it is a great opportunity for the Boys and Girl's Club to be a part of this program, it is one of twelve that the club participates in. He thanked the county in helping to fund these things, especially since the club has grown a lot in the past two years. The past summer the club had over 150 teens come through a week, indicating how much they are seeking entertainment. Even the younger

generation and their parents are needing more help because they have seen their numbers grow in those programs as well. He concluded with they are hopeful that they can find more funding considering the growth and operating budget is the biggest challenge.

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2. Fremont County Airport Presentation, Wes Brandt, Director

Mr. Brandt said the purpose of this presentation was to explain the roles of the airport staff, the services they provide, and some of the airport aircraft operations that are performed at the airport. The main goals are to oversee the airfield which include the runways, taxiways, ramps and to make sure the airport is safe and secure for all people who are at the airport. The airport administration has plans of growth and development specifically building new hangars. In the next few years, they plan to replace three taxiways since they are constantly having to seal and fill cracks. He said one of the ways that the airport supports itself is by having five hangars that they rent out and maintain as well as three rental office spaces. They offer aircraft parking, marshalling and to refuel visiting aircraft. Mr. Brandt said the services that they offer include a flight simulator, aircraft rental, and flight instructions. Some of the operations based out of the airport are aerial firefighting, search and rescue missions, and medical flights, they also get frequent visits from the Air Force and Army that both utilize the airport for training operations.

Commissioner McFall wanted confirmation from Mr. Brandt that the airport is 90% grant funded, including the flight simulator.

Mr. Brandt said that our airport and a few other small one's band together and share FA money for airport improvements where instead of each airport gets \$150,000 projects, that every few years they get to do a \$600,000 project.

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3. **Resolution No. 6**, Series of 2025 Opting Out of The Graywater Control Program and Prohibiting the Use of Graywater Within Fremont County

County Attorney Bellas said that last May legislation and the Governor of Colorado signed House Bill 24-1362. This allows graywater to be used for all different purposes which are defined in both the regulations and statute as "things such as agricultural uses, recycling, and for flushing toilets." The downside to this law is that it creates unfunded mandates. If the county were to participate in it, it would require the county to develop and adopt a monitoring program to carry into effect the graywater control program. This would include design, permitting, monitoring, licensing, and enforcing. Fremont County does not have the capacity within any existing department meaning it would require hiring additional personnel and it would not come anywhere close to funding itself, with all the factors being considered the county is choosing to opt out of this program.

Commissioner Bell moved to accept **Resolution No. 6** series of 2025 opting out of the gray water control program and prohibiting the use of gray water within Fremont County. Commissioner McFall

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

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4. Secure Transportation Vehicle Permits and Secure Transportation Service Licenses for AA Secure Ride LLC and Admas Transport LLC

County Attorney Bellas explained that these items are slightly different classes of secure transportation. These licenses are for transportation services involving behavioral health patients that do not require the level of care that would be received from an ambulance. Listed on the agenda is Class A and Class B the difference between them is that Class A allowed for the use of limited physical restraint if necessary to protect the safety of the patient. Class B does not, Class B is by far the lowest level of service. Issuing these licenses for these two companies enables them to provide transportation services for Behavioral Health clients.

Commissioner McFall moved to approve AA Secure Rides Class A Security Transport license for the permit. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Commissioner Bell moved to approve Secure Transport Vehicle Permit and Secure Transportation Service License for Admas Transport LLC for Class B. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

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5. Update from Congresswoman Brittany Pettersen's Office (CO-7)
Representative: Justin Kurth, Regional Director and Outreach Coordinator

Mr. Kurth said he wanted to update the commissioners on Congress Woman Petterson's progress and to let them know they are closely monitoring the President's indefinite pause on the grants and loans. He also said if anyone in the community is directly impacted by this freeze, he would be grateful to know. Mr. Kurth reminded the commissioners that at the end of last year former President Biden passed the John Griffin Regional Reservoir Project through the Water Resources Development Act. This authorized up to \$50 Million investment in Fremont County water and water infrastructure supply. He said they are exploring if this specific project needs the full \$50 million and if it doesn't, is it allowed to go elsewhere if the money remains with investing in Fremont Couty since the law does not limit it to the John Griffin Project. Mr. Kurth wished that there was a bigger update on the progress of getting Fremont County the Veteran's Clinic, currently with the new administration taking office the FY 26 budget has yet to be released. A bill that was introduced by the congress woman and signed into law called Fix Our Forest Act, which would help communities impacted by natural disaster recover and rebuild more resilient in the future from threats. Through reforestation and restoration efforts it included a bipartisan amendment that would promote the use of emerging technology important to some colorado based industries, such as, low earth orbit satellites to enhance wildfire mitigation, early detection, and community protection.

Commissioner McFall commented that the Fix Our Forest Act is a great one considering our forests are in terrible health and this allows support to improve the health of our forests.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED 9:30 a.m.

None.

Commissioner Grantham adjourned the meeting at 9:52am.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5V-iQotV1U>

Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners