

FIFTH MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Fremont, State of Colorado, met in Regular Session on March 10th, 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	Present
Kevin Grantham	Commissioner	Present
Justin Grantham	Clerk and Recorder	Absent
Eric Bellas	County Attorney	Present
Tony Carochi	County Administrator	Present

INVOCATION

Todd Luce from Grandview Christian 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 Bell said they will need to remove the February 24th Board of County Commissioners' Minutes from the Consent Agenda, because they are not ready for approval.

Commissioner Grantham moved to approve the agenda with those changes. 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 / February 19, 2026
2. Approval of Bills for \$1,515,281.63
3. Ratification of Chairman Signature on the South Region Emergency Management Mutual Aid Agreement
4. Ratification of Commissioner McFall's Signature on Collective Bargaining Agreement Between Fremont County Sheriff's Office and Fraternal Order of Police
5. Approval of Transfer of Two Parcels from John C. Fremont Library District to Penrose Community Library District

6. 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 3/10/2026 3:10

1. Staff / Elected Officials:

a. 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.

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 3/10/2026 10:55

b. District Attorney's Office Report, District Attorney Jeff Lindsey

District Attorney Lindsey said he has been in close contact with the Commissioners and County Attorney Bellas concerning the severe network issues that lasted over two weeks. He also announced that the 11th Judicial District is now fully staffed as of last week. They have two attorneys in Chaffee County, two in Park County, and the remaining staff in Fremont County. He said they were able to get back online just in time for a high-profile case near Teller County, which lasted three weeks. It was a hard-fought battle, but they emerged victorious, with the defendant being sentenced to three life sentences.

Commissioner Grantham asked how long the jurors deliberated before giving a verdict.

District Attorney Lindsey said it took them about two hours to come to a decision.

Commissioner Bell asked how he thinks this verdict might reflect on Fremont County as a whole.

District Attorney Lindsey responded that he believes it reflects very positively. Although most people view this area as retirement-focused, the jury selection showed a good mix of people—young professionals, blue-collar workers, and retirees were all represented. Seven jurors even returned for the sentencing hearing, which he noted is unheard of.

Commissioner McFall stated that approximately 300 to 400 individuals attended a hearing to speak against a bill concerning a ban on the commercial fur trade industry, including experts from the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Despite this opposition, the bill passed under the guise of following already-established rules.

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 3/10/2026 39:00

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

Dan Barnett, a 40-year resident post Air Force retirement, expressed concerns regarding the condition of Copper Gulch Road. He suggested chip sealing the road to reduce dust and mitigate heavy mud during precipitation. He also noted that numerous trees had been cut farther back from the road than appeared necessary and had been discarded in drainage ditches.

Fred Pauly stated that his primary concern involves the hills along the roadway. He explained that the salt solution, combined with overly hard-packed surfaces, creates an ice/mud mixture that makes travel unsafe.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED 9:30 a.m.

1. Revisions and updates to the Fremont County Department of Public Health and Environment Body Art Regulations
Representatives: Rick Gutierrez, Director, Fremont County Public Health, and Amy Jamison, Environmental Health, Fremont County Public Health

Commissioner Bell - opened the public hearing at 9:50am.

Public Health Director Rick Guitierrez said the Fremont County Department of Public Health and Environment is proposing several updates to the body art regulations. He said the department found this necessary because they have not been updated since their original adoption in 2009. He and Environmental Health Specialist Amy Jamison have spent numerous hours dedicated to ensuring that the proposed updates reflect the most current industry standards. They also evaluated the surrounding counties that have already updated their body art regulations to compare. After completing the process, they sent the proposed changes to all currently licensed body art establishments in Fremont County to allow feedback.

Richard Bunton, owner of Rustic Ink on Elm Street in Cañon City, provided public comment. He stated that in Michigan, the use of lidocaine in tattoo shops has been outlawed due to increasing incidents of adverse reactions and overdoses. He explained that clients often apply lidocaine products prior to appointments, and additional application during the tattoo process can lead to complications once the skin barrier is broken and absorption increases.

Mr. Bunton also stated that their soap is antiseptic, noting it contains 30% alcohol in its concentrated form. Additionally, he addressed concerns regarding the wrapping of fresh tattoos. He explained that traditional plastic wrap can reach body temperature and become a breeding ground for infection. While newer products such as “second skin” (Saniderm) have been used, he noted that the latex-based adhesive

can cause severe skin reactions. As an alternative, he recommended a liquid Band-Aid product made from natural ingredients, which seals the tattoo and remains effective for 10 to 12 hours.

Commissioner Bell - closed the public hearing at 9:57am.

Director Gutierrez responded to Mr. Bunton's comments, stating that these concerns were discussed with staff in December 2025; however, additional supporting information was not provided at that time. He suggested that tattoo establishments use discretion regarding lidocaine use or consider prohibiting it within their businesses. Regarding antiseptics, Director Gutierrez clarified that the "green soap" referenced does not meet the county's antiseptic standards. While it contains 30% alcohol in concentrated form, it is intended to be diluted, resulting in only 3% to 4% alcohol content. The county requires an alcohol content of approximately 70% for proper antiseptic effectiveness.

Commissioner Bell asked if the proposed new body art regulations for Fremont County are up to current state standards.

Public Health Director Guitierrez answered yes, the newly proposed regulations are ahead of the game and Fremont County would be leading the industry for the state of Colorado.

Commissioner McFall asked for clarification regarding the products that Mr. Bunton presented, if these new regulations prohibited him from using them.

Public Health Director Guitierrez said it would only prohibit the antiseptics that he wishes to use. He explained the green soap used is not recognized by them as being an antiseptic since it doesn't possess certain qualities. He acknowledged that it contains 30% but only in the concentrated form. The green soap is meant to be diluted and in the proper diluted form it only has 3% to 4% alcohol content while the requirement is significantly higher at 70%.

Commissioner Bell asked County Attorney Bellas since the date says effective as of February 1st, 2026, and that date has passed, what would be the appropriate date to put.

County Attorney Bellas answered that they would be allowed to put today since they provided the proper notice for the public hearing, but he would recommend deferring to Amy Jamison, the environmental health specialist. Whether she deems it necessary to provide notice of the establishments of the changing regulations, if so, he would recommend an effective date of 30 days from now.

Commissioner Grantham moved to approve the revisions and updates to the Fremont County Department of Public Health and Environment Body Art Regulations with an effective date of Monday April 13th, 2026. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

NEW BUSINESS continued at 10:05am

1. Fremont County Noxious Weed Management Priorities & Procedures
Representative: Brittany Pierce, Weed Management Director

Weed Management Director Brittany Pierce introduced herself and said that these revisions were made to ensure that they reflect current state laws that change regularly throughout the year in Colorado. She said it also clarifies some of the procedures concerning interacting with landowners and costs pertaining to budgets and programs.

Commissioner McFall commented that 10 seats on the noxious weed board help guide the revisions and appreciates Brittany for combing through the extensive, long, and every changing procedure. He shared that their department also works as a resource for private landowners to help with expenses and education.

Director Pierce affirmed that she believes her primary role is to be a resource for the community on the procedures and regulations regarding noxious weeds.

Commissioner McFall moved to approve the changes and updates to the Fremont County Management of Noxious Weed priorities and procedures, with an effective date of immediately. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Commissioner Bell adjourned the meeting at 10:12am.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHLN0EgAf0&t=1826s>

Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners