

TWELFTH MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Fremont, State of Colorado, met in Regular Session on June 24th, 2025, 615 Macon Avenue, Room LL3, Fremont County Administration Building, Cañon City, Colorado. Chairman Grantham called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Kevin Grantham	Commissioner	Present
Debbie Bell	Commissioner	Present
Dwayne McFall	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

Joe Garkovich from Mercy Today Ministries 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 moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from June 10, 2025
2. Approval of Bills for \$3,423,067.86
3. Schedule Public Hearings: None.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE & INFORMATIONAL

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 6/24/2025 3:18

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, Tony Carochi, County Administrator

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

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

Commissioner Bell said the National Association of Counties annual meeting is coming up and it is going to be held in Philadelphia County where she will gather with the steering committee that she is a part of, specifically agriculture and rural affairs. She explained that the committee is able to run resolutions that will be discussed, and if approved by the committee it will be pushed onto the board of NACO and then be a part of national policy. The resolution she is currently working on plans to create financial support for the agricultural industry across the country which will be the fifth year this resolution has been pushed.

Commissioner McFall said that he serves on the steering committee, focusing on public lands which is approximately 50% of Colorado. A main concern is the forest health across the state. Commissioner McFall has reintroduced natural disaster mitigation, which means instead of having to file a 1099 after \$500, it will be \$6,000, when you hire someone to do fire mitigation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 6/24/2025 27:16

1. Requesting the issuance of a Malt, Vinous, and Spiritous & Fermented Malt Beverage Special Events Permit Fremont Adventure Recreation for an event at 1194 County Road 110, Florence, CO 81226 on the following date: June 28th from 4:00 pm to 11:30pm in 2025.
Representative: Katie Elder

Ms. Elder said this is a music relaxation event located at Desert Reef Hot Springs.

Commissioner Bell asked if the people serving the alcohol are trained at all and how will they ensure no one under 21 will consume alcohol.

Ms. Elder answered that the servers are TIP's certified and will check everyone's ID's, then they will receive a wristband. Anyone under the age of 21 will get a big black X on their hand.

BOCC Clerk Sammy Ryan began the staff report by saying the application was submitted in full on May 15th for an event on June 28th, which is the 45th day before the event, still meeting the requirement. Kat McNeil initially was representing the application but was unable to attend so Katie Elder stepped in to answer any questions. This the first time this location has requested a special event permit but based on the Public Health and Sheriff Departments recommending approval, along with a very detailed diagram the Clerk's office recommends approval.

Commissioner Bell moved to approve the issuance of a malt, vinous, and spiritous & fermented malt beverage special events permit to Fremont Adventure Recreation for an event at 1194 County Road 110 in Florene, CO on June 28th from 4:00pm to 11:30pm. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 6/24/2025 31:04

2. Secure Transportation Service License and Permit for Biruk Eshetu dba Air Ride Colorado LLC

Mr. Kroll said this is another request for a Type One Class A secure transport license for Fremont County specifically for behavioral health transport. This company has met all the requirements, which includes a vehicle inspection, and all the documents were prepared.

County Attorney Bellas reiterated that the distinction between the types and classes are that Class A would be for physical restraint if needed and Type One has a physical barrier inside the vehicle.

Commissioner McFall moved to approve the secure transport service license Class A for three years and permit Type One for one year to Biruk Eshetu doing business as Air Ride Colorado LLC and the vehicle permit is for a 2014 Ford Explorer. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED 9:30 a.m.

1. **SRU 24-005 Marchand Ranch Wedding & Event Venue**

Wedding and Event Venue to be operated 7 days a week. Events will primarily be held in the afternoons or evenings. The Venue has an occupancy of 250 guests inside of the structure.
Location: 4801 State Highway 9, Canon City 81212 Applicant: Tiffany Foster

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

Mrs. Foster said that she thanks the Lord and Savior as well as everyone that has helped this dream come to fruition. She believes Marchand Ranch exposes people to the beauty of Fremont County and helps sustain the community by people staying in hotels, dining in, and shopping at local shops. She said nearly 80% of the vendors used at the venue are based in the community, such as family-owned businesses. She said they are proud of uplifting the town without changing the character and are

dedicated to preserving it. Although they are a for-profit business, they do open their doors free of charge for non-profit organizations several times a year.

Planning and Zoning Director Victoria said SRU 24-005 Marchand Ranch Wedding and Event Venue will be operated seven days a week during afternoons and evenings with an end time of 10:00pm to 10:30pm with cleanup of the facility beginning at 11:00pm. The venue has an occupancy of 250 guests inside of the structure. The lot dimensions of the overall lot are 220 acres but the boundary of the SRU is just over three acres. All the parking requirements have been met including ADA accessibility, the property has had an active TUP since April 25th of 2023 and the department has not received any complaints. The property itself and surrounding area is zoned as residential three, Colorado Department of Transportation has approved a traffic plan with conditions of them having two access points. Black Hills Energy will service the electrical and Republic will provide trash service. They have obtained an approved noxious weed plan. The department received a letter last minute expressing concerns of loud noises regarding the fireworks.

Commissioner Bell commented that they received a separate letter that morning in full support of this SRU.

Planning and Zoning Director Victoria said that Fremont County Department of Transportation does not have any concerns and will continue the process of issuing an access permit once the SRU is approved and they receive notice. The building department believes the business follows everything and the planning commissioner approved as presented. The applicant does have one waiver request for landscaping. The planning and zoning staff found the application follows the requirement of the Fremont County Zoning Resolution. They recommended approval of the SRU with the contingency of a revised site plan being more precise on the location of the new structure that is planned to be built.

Commissioner Bell addressed that in the application it states that the event often goes past the projected 10:00pm or 10:30pm end time.

Mrs. Foster said they close at 11:00pm and she is not sure where the 10:00pm came from. The complaint about the noise level was received in October of last year only one time and they have done 100 weddings since then, so in her opinion that is a very small problem. She explained that she has obtained a decimal reader to monitor and keep the noise level down.

Commissioner Bell reiterated that if the time is 11:00pm then it needs to end right at 11:00pm.

Mrs. Foster promised that the music would be off and clean up would begin promptly at 11:00pm. She also wanted to address the concern about fireworks. She said they had them only four times last year and that they are always conducted by an actual certified fireworks technician that is permitted and licensed through the state. There is also a fire station three miles away that she notifies when they will be conducting fireworks.

Commissioner Grantham said that if they follow the fire ban restrictions in the Tallahassee Fire District, it should be sufficient.

Commissioner McFall asked if she was satisfied with the negotiation that was settled with Colorado Department of Transportation concerning parking.

Mrs. Foster responded that she is satisfied, she said it will be helpful considering the couple typically consumes alcohol and they encourage them to prearrange transportation.

Commissioner Grantham – closed the public hearing at 9:48am.

Commissioner Bell moved to approve SRU 24-005 Marchand Ranch Wedding and Event Venue. This venue will operate seven days a week. Events will primarily be held in the afternoons or evening and; the venue has an occupancy limit of 250 guests inside the structure. The location is 4801 State Highway 9, Canon City, Colorado. This motion does include a waiver of landscaping for the parking lot as well as a contingency of receiving the revised site plan with an approval from CDOT within six months. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 6/24/2025 54:00

2. CUP 24-001 Red Creek Quarry

Holcim is seeking a Conditional Use Permit for Red Creek Quarry. The operation will be a limestone quarry that will encompass 1,492 acres including a Materials Transport and Access Corridor (MTAC) between the Red Creek Quarry location and the cement plant. The estimated lifespan of the quarry is 100 years, but request is for the life of the mine. Location: 3500 State Highway 120, Florence 81226

Commissioner Bell announced that she will recuse herself from the discussion and decision of this agenda item since she shares a seat on the Fremont Exceptional Women board with one of the applicants' representatives.

Commissioner Grantham opened the public hearing at 9:55am.

Hamza Mekhfi, the plant manager expressed gratitude to be present for this momentous occasion. He said that Holcim US became Amrize yesterday. He is excited for the future of being the largest concrete manufacturer in the US. He said his team and him are present today to ensure the long-term success as the new company by acquiring CUP 24-001 Red Creek Quarry. He said the company came to a meeting in 2022 to receive a proclamation for the 125th anniversary of the current plant. The plant opened in 1897 and produces 1.2 million tons of cement every year, employing 200 people. 75% of which are Fremont County residents. He claimed that over the past ten years the company has generated over 19.4 million dollars in taxes to Fremont County.

Dave Wales, the safety manager at the Portland Cement Plant, gave a safety report, which included the fact that they have worked over 1.7-million-man hours, without incident. He is proud of the 25-member emergency response team, which is more than double of any other cement plant. They are the only team in southern Colorado that is confined space rescue certified.

Maria Renteria, the human resources manager, said that in the last 10 years, the plant has invested 150 million in the workforce since 2014. They have participated in one job fair so far this year and plan on doing two more.

Megan Rueniak, the environmental engineer, talked about the community engagement around Fremont County, such as Tire Day in May where they collected over 1,500 tires. They will be hosting Scouting America Day in September where they will help scouts earn merit badges in mining, society, and soil and water conservation. They plan to continue the participation by organizing a gold tournament for local elementary schools and reengaging with the chamber of commerce as well as being a bronze sponsor for Florence Fourth of July Festival.

Tim Smith, the quarry manager said the Red Creek Quarry will expand the plant to operate by 100 years. It has six sections southeast of Fremont County. Two of them are in Fremont County and the other four are in Pueblo County. The Bear Creek Quarry is 6.3 miles away and they will create a long-modernized conveying system to transport the product (MTAC).

Mike Toelle the raw materials quarry operation manager said the current quarry will run out of limestone in an estimated four to five years. He said the process of obtaining a new quarry began in 2010 with acquiring different land and creating a way to get the raw material back to the plant. He explained the reason that the conveyor belt curves are to only cross the Minnequa Canal once instead of five times, if it were a straight line. The conveyor system itself is 6.3 miles long and 280 feet wide. There will be a transport road all along the system that is 40 feet wide. They have consulted with the Division of Wildlife and CORE of Engineers to get their approval on the drainage plan and wildlife crossings which totals 13.

Shad Shapiro, the environmental manager, said they have submitted the paperwork to the state to get a Title 5 permit and they have not received any concerns or comments from Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. He said they are working on modifying the water permit since there will be some groundwater discharge, as well as the water plan, since they have dust suppression concerns.

Mr. Toelle explained that this has been a very long process, starting in 2018 by obtaining correct permitting that started with the Division of Reclamation, which was granted in March of 2024. He said they constantly check the water quality which includes groundwater and surface water. They applied for an access permit to CDOT for I-96, with an easement through Ranchlands LLC. The Special Use Permit for Pueblo County plans to be submitted at the end of June or beginning of July to permit the other four parcels of the quarry. The plan is for the company to obtain all necessary permits in 2025 to begin prepping the quarry to then hopefully be pulling limestone late 2027 or early 2028.

Commissioner McFall asked County Attorney Bellas how they will proceed considering the company's application has the name Holcim US all over it and they are now claiming the name of the company is Amrize effective as of yesterday.

County Attorney Bellas answered that the ownership of the company has not appeared to change, this is only a rebranding. So, he suggested that the board just needs to mention both names in whatever action they choose to make.

Commissioner McFall asked Mr. Toelle when their current mine will be fully reclaimed.

Mr. Toelle explained that they reclaim as they move. As soon as they are onto a new area, the company backfills, and the current mine is already 65% reclaimed.

Commissioner McFall asked for more detail on what they will need dust suppression for, such as the conveyor system.

Mr. Toelle said that the conveyor system is an enclosed system so it would not be necessary to need dust suppression for it, and at the transfer points there will already have dust collectors installed. The purpose for dust suppression is mainly for the road.

Commissioner McFall wanted clarity on the access for I-96 and what kind of road they will be putting in as well as crossing the canal.

Mr. Toelle said there will be a bridge for the maintenance road and a half mile back from the canal is where the crossing of County Road 112 will be. The conveyor system will be 16 feet high, so it will allow semi-trucks to go between the pioneer operation and use the 112 to get back to the plant.

Commissioner Grantham asked where they are in the process of obtaining the Special Use Permit from Pueblo County.

Mr. Toelle said the entire packet is ready to be submitted but they waited for the company name change before submitting.

Commissioner Grantham asked about the blasting schedule and how close is the nearest resident.

Mr. Toelle answered that the blasting schedule was set during the air quality permit and the reclamation permit process. He said the nearest resident is 1.6 miles away and they will be blasting once a day five days a week or less.

Planning & Zoning Director Victoria began the staff report with CUP 24-001 Red Creek Quarry. It will operate during daylight hours, seven days a week, with 27 employees. The quarry encompasses 1,492 acres which includes a 219.72-acre tract for material transport that spans between the Red Creek Quarry and the cement plant. They will install a six-foot chain-link fence and a 40-foot-wide roadway. They will install a 184x70 metal building, a sanitation water well, and a 20,000 gallon double walled above ground fuel tank with a concrete wall crash protection structure. The traffic volume will remain the same at 54 trips a day with only two access points. There will be lighting around the metal building and all along the MTAC. The department sent out reports to Fremont County Department of Public Health and Environment, Fremont County Department of Transportation, Colorado Department of Transportation, Fremont County Conservation District, and Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety; none of them expressed concern. The Planning Commission voted to approve this project as presented since the application follows the requirements of the Fremont County zoning resolution. The staff of Planning & Zoning recommend approval of the Conditional Use Permit with the landscaping waiver.

Commissioner Grantham opened the discussion to public comment.

Joan Elliot, the president of the Florence Chamber of Commerce, spoke for the expansion of Amrize since, in her opinion, it has provided a livelihood for many citizens in Florence, and is a very positive enhancement for the community.

Rich Millord, president and CEO of Royal Gorge Chamber Alliance, spoke in support of the CUP, especially since it has transitioned from an international company to a more localized and community focused operation. He said considering the company has been a part of the community for 128 years, it speaks to the commitment this company has to the area. It adds millions of dollars to the economy and diversification to the workforce, since the area is mostly seasonal tourism.

Steve Wolf, mayor of Florence, encouraged the approval of the CUP since it enhances the economy, workforce, and community. He said he has a background in geology, and he is impressed with the Amrize team and their commitment to doing things correctly.

Preston Troutman mayor of Canon City pointed out that this company has had ample opportunity to leave the area. In fact, they have fought hard and have done extraordinary technological and engineering things to be able to stay in the area.

Commissioner Grantham – closed the public hearing at 10:47am.

Commissioner McFall moved to approve CUP 24-001 Red Creek Quarry, for Amrize Cement Inc., also known as Holcim US. The operation will be a limestone quarry that will encompass 1,492 acres, including material transport and access corridor, which is an MTAC between Red Creek Quarry location and the current cement plant. The estimated life is 100 years with this approval for life of use of the mine and a waiver of the landscaping and encouragement that they continue with the wildlife commitment concerns. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Commissioner Grantham adjourned the meeting at 10:55am.

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2MR_WByG7r0&t=4599s

Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners