

THIRTEENTH MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Fremont, State of Colorado, met in Regular Session on July 8th, 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

Commissioner McFall 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 24, 2025
2. Approval of Bills for \$1,273,751.47
3. Ratification of Chairman Signature on Fremont County Airport Contract with Electrical Excellence Enterprises
4. Ratification of Chairman Signature on Fremont County Airport BLM Tanker Base Lease Extension
5. Ratification of Chairman Signature on Agreement for Use of Rock Chipper
Schedule Public Hearing: 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 7/8/2025 4:11

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.

Commissioner Bell announced that all the commissioners will attend the National Association of Counties annual conference in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. They all serve on different boards for the steering committees, and it gives them a chance to run federal legislation themselves and advocate for not only Fremont County but all of Colorado.

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

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

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1. Presentation by Jeff Lindsey, District Attorney

Mr. Lindsey said he was appointed by the chief judge as the district attorney November 1st, 2024. He introduced his team sitting behind him, as Paul Martinez chief investigator who came with almost 35 years of law enforcement serving in various roles. Assistant District Attorney Stacy Turner and the office manager Kayla Turell. He addressed that there used to be a complaint on the office hours which is now open five days a week Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm. Another improvement since the beginning of the year is that all employees got raises considering some were just above the poverty level it was deemed necessary. He said they have been diligently working on minimizing the discovery violations that have been causing inappropriate outcomes in court as well as improving the office environment by having group activities and updating equipment that makes discovery more efficient. They have now added a front desk receptionist to the Fremont County office to eliminate all automated phone call systems to alleviate public frustration. Another change includes they always have a lawyer on call to be able to always communicate with the sheriff's office and police departments. Mr. Lindsey said that he gathered the 12th, 20th, and 4th judicial districts to create a new policy and procedure which was deemed necessary considering it had not been updated since 2001.

Commissioner McFall asked what the turnover rate is in his offices.

Mr. Lindsey answered that it has been necessary to acquire new staff since previously there wasn't much supervision and a lot of mistakes in discovery were occurring.

Commissioner Bell asked what kind of experience the new staff brings to the office.

Mr. Lindsey said they do not have any fresh out of college lawyers, most of them are seasoned with prosecution work.

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2. Gateway Depot and Plaza Day Proclamation
Representative: Royal Gorge Chamber Alliance

Commissioner Grantham recited the Gateway Depot and Plaza Day Proclamation which can be found in its entirety at the bottom of these minutes.

Rich Millard RGCA president and CEO introduced Kathleen Kennedy the chair of the foundation and Bob Stoval the chair of the Royal Gorge Chamber Alliance board of directors. He said they were excited to be present at the meeting to mark the beginning of the new building that will introduce a new hub to the community thanks to the ARPA funds and community support. July 10th at 5:00pm marks the official opening of the new building, they welcome the community to view the new building.

Ms. Kenndy said that it is very exciting that they bought a train station. She truly believes it elevates the community which includes local partners, tourism, and the public at large.

Mr. Stoval said this truly began with a vision from Rich hoping to acquire building if it came for sale and that he has spent countless late nights painting.

Commissioner Bell moved to approve the Gateway Depot and Plaza Day proclamation for Thursday, July 10th, 2025. 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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3. **Resolution No. 9** Imposing the Fire Ban as Provided in Ordinance No. 2012-1, and Further Delegating Authority to the Sheriff to Suspend the Fire Ban

County Attorney Bellas said that Fremont County has had permanent fire restrictions since 2012, but the community has been fortunate enough that they have been suspended since November of last year. However, conditions can change so rapidly based on high winds, high temperatures, very low humidity which makes it necessary to act quickly to deal with the everchanging elevated risks. Bellas explained that the way the ordinance has previously operated is the board of commissioners has the authority to suspend and impose but the board must post a notice and hold a public meeting. This resolution

delegates the authority to the fire warden which is the Sheriff for Fremont County to suspend or impose the fire ban.

Commissioner McFall explained that instead of having the sheriff notify the board then either waiting two weeks for a meeting or calling a special meeting he now will have the control which enables things to get taken care of more efficiently.

Sheriff Cooper reiterated that this resolution would enable him to work closely with the fire chiefs, fire wardens, and emergency management to keep a close watch on how dry the vegetation is.

Commissioner McFall moved to approve **Resolution No. 9** series of 2025. It's a resolution imposing fire ban as provided in Ordinance 2012-1 and further delegate authority to the sheriff to suspend the fire ban. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

County Attorney Bellas asked Sheriff Cooper to state if we are in a fire ban or not and what stage.

Sheriff Cooper said the county is now in a stage 1 fire ban as of 10:04 am July 8th, 2025.

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4. **Resolution No. 10** appointing the Veteran's Service Officer for a term from July 8, 2025, to January 11, 2028

Commissioner Grantham recited **Resolution No. 10** in its entirety which can be found on the Fremont County Clerk's self-service site at: <https://fremontcountyco-web.tylerhost.net/web/user/disclaimer>.

Commissioner Bell said that she has already had the pleasure of seeing Cheryl Baur interact with the veterans in the community and is confident she is the perfect person for the position.

Commissioner Bell moved to approve **Resolution No. 10** series of 2025 appointing the veteran service officer for a term from July 8th of 2025 to January 11th of 2028, and the officer is Cheryl Baur. 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. Notice of Transfer of Approved CUP - Correction
CUP 16-002 J & J Stone Pit #1 (Holcim is taking over operations at this site.)
CUP 04-002 Ranch Land Rock Pit #2 (Holcim is taking over operations at this site.)
CUP 15-001 Phillips Ranch Property Gravel Pit #2 (Holcim is taking over operations at this site.)
Representative: Dan Victoria

Planning & Zoning Director Victoria explained that there was an error on the intent of the applicant, they received a transfer of ownership when the request was supposed to be for change of operator. The

staff requested that the record show permits with the original ownership and the approval for change of operator.

Commissioner McFall moved to approve the authority for planning and zoning department to record new CUP's such as CUP 16-002 J & J Stone Pit, CUP 04-002 Ranch Land Rock Pit, and CUP 15-001 Phillips Ranch Property Gravel Pit all of which should have been transferred Holcim now known as Amrize. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

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6. Secure Transportation Service Permit Renewal for American Medical Response (AMR)

County Attorney Bellas said a secure transportation service does not only require a license, but each individual vehicle must be permitted. This specific agenda item is a Type One secure vehicle which is a vehicle that has physical barrier between the driver and passenger.

Commissioner Bell moved to approve the secure transportation service permit renewal for American Medical Response Ambulance Service, Inc. a Delaware Corporation doing business in Colorado as American Medical Response known as AMR. This is for a type one secure transportation vehicle year 2005 make and model is a Ford Expedition. 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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7. Appointment of new member to the Fremont County Weed Advisory Board for a term ending December 31, 2027.

Commissioner McFall said that Mr. Welding has extensive knowledge and experience with noxious weeds in the community.

Commissioner McFall moved to the appointment of Bryan Welding to the Fremont County Weed Advisory Board for a term ending December 31st, 2027. 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.

None.

Commissioner Grantham adjourned the meeting at 10:21am.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRo9DhWtMsg&t=141s>

Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners



Fremont County Board of Commissioners

Gateway Depot and Plaza Day Proclamation

Whereas: The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, with the support of local businesses, reached Cañon City in 1874; and

Whereas: In 1909 the Cañon City Merchant's Association campaigned to have the railroad construct an attractive and permanent depot at the corner of what is now 9th Street and U.S. Highway 50; and

Whereas: In 1935 local merchants formed the Cañon City Chamber of Commerce to connect and promote businesses in the region; and

Whereas: In 2022 the Cañon City Chamber of Commerce became the Royal Gorge Chamber Alliance with the aim of expanding that connection to promote and support the businesses and promote tourism and economic vitality for the entire Royal Gorge Region; and

Whereas: In 2025 the Royal Gorge Chamber Alliance, with the support of the local community, acquired and remodeled the Denver and Rio Grande Depot. The depot was then redesignated as Gateway Depot and Plaza to become a center of business and non-profit vitality as well as a regional visitor and relocation center.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED by the County Commissioners of Fremont County that July 10, 2025, be proclaimed "Gateway Depot and Plaza Day" in Fremont County. The County Commissioners urge all people of Fremont County to recognize the Royal Gorge Chamber Alliance for its accomplishments in establishing a first-class business and welcome center in the heart of Cañon City.

Signed this 8th Day of July 2025.

Kevin Grantham, Chairman
District 1

Debbie Bell
District 2

Dwayne McFall
District 3