

FOURTEENTH MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Fremont, State of Colorado, met in Regular Session on July 22nd, 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

INVOCATION

Craig Cavalier from the Federal Bureau of Prisons 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 July 8, 2025
2. Approval of Bills for \$3,764,587.56
3. Ratification of Chairman's signature on assignment of airport hangar lease to James C. Woolworth Living Trust
4. Adoption of 13th Subdivision Resolution Amendment, **Resolution No. 11**, Series of 2025
5. Adoption of Resolution Approving CUP for Red Creek Quarry, **Resolution No. 12**, Series of 2025.
6. Adoption of Resolution Approving Commercial Development Permit for Penrose RV & Boat Storage, **Resolution No. 13**, Series of 2025

7. 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 7/22/2025 4:45

1. Staff / Elected Officials:

- a. Public Trustee Quarterly Report, Kathy Elliott, Fremont County Public Trustee

Public Trustee Elliott said the second quarter ended with 22 foreclosures, 100 lien releases, and three new bankruptcies.

Commissioner Bell moved to accept the Public Trustee quarterly report for the second quarter of 2025. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

- b. Semi-Annual Treasurer Report, Kathy Elliott, Fremont County Treasurer

Treasurer Elliott said that the county is up \$3 million from last year.

Commissioner McFall moved to accept the semi-annual Treasurer Report of 2025. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Treasurer Elliott announced that there is now a program through escrotaxes.com that allows Fremont County property owners to pay property taxes monthly that charges a small percentage for a service fee. The company collects the money and once there is enough to pay the whole amount or half the company will then post the payment for the property owner.

- c. 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.

- 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.

Commissioner McFall said that the commissioners spent last week in Philadelphia for National Association of Counties conference. All the commissioners serve on different steering committees,

Commissioner McFall specifically serves on the Public Lands Steering Committee where they have a voice with congress to discuss issues such as public land use and agriculture.

Commissioner Grantham said he appreciated the conference because he was able to admire the historical sites as well as record an episode of One Fremont podcast in the great hall where they discussed the main topics of their steering committees.

Commissioner Bell announced that her lifelong dream of being a Fremont County commissioner is coming to an end when her current term ends in a year and half. She is honored to have served this great community the past 15 years and work alongside some very incredible people. She will not seek a fifth term.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 7/22/2025 43:46

1. Elks Lodge #610 125th Anniversary Celebration
Representative: Jennifer Irvine

Ms. Irvine introduced herself as the exalted ruler for the Canon City Elks Lodge. She wanted to share a few things about their organization that has made a profound impact across the nation. It was founded in 1868, and it is now a one of America's largest and most respective fraternal and charitable organizations. Locally there are 386 current members, the Elks Lodge has existed in Canon City since July 30th, 1900 beginning all meetings with a pledge of allegiance, open and close with prayer, and underscoring their dedication to American values and community fellowship. The local lodge has donated \$5,000 to local veteran programs and over \$6,000 directly to local youth.

Commissioner Grantham recited the proclamation for the 125th anniversary of the Elk's Lodge #610 which can be found at the bottom of these minutes.

Commissioner McFall moved to approve the proclamation for Elks Lodge 610 for the 125th year anniversary celebration which will take place July 26th, 2025. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 7/22/2025 57:08

2. Discussion of Ballot Measure Regarding House Bill 25-1247 Regarding
Lodging Tax Expansion

Commissioner Grantham explained that this agenda item is to discuss the possibility of putting a measure on the ballot to expand the potential uses for lodging tax funds as well as raising the ceiling from 2% to 6%. The taxes collected are to fund the tourism council which helps attract visitors to Fremont County from all over the world.

Attorney Bellas said the current use is promotion of tourism and enhancing visitor experience. The language that has been added to the statute would be housing and childcare for the tourism related workforce which includes seasonal workers and for other workers in the community or public infrastructure maintenance or improvements or enhancing public safety measures. It could fund local law enforcement, fire protection services, and emergency medical services.

Commissioner Grantham commented that a decision must be made swiftly since the deadline to notify the Clerk of intent to put something on the ballot is coming up.

Adam Arnold, a Fremont County Tourism Council member, suggested that if the amount gets raised to 6% that a chairman could be appointed that can communicate with the state, grant initiatives, and keep in touch with the tourism businesses. He believes this would raise productivity and boost tourism funds, which is vitally important since it brings in over \$100 million to the community annually. With the funds that could possibly be received, Mr. Arnold suggested that it could be spent on enhancing the tourism experience by improving trails, adding water features, or more public restrooms.

Commissioner Grantham asked what the approximate revenue is at 2% and what the projected revenue is if it is raised to 6%.

Mr. Arnold answered that the current at 2% is \$350,000 and at 6% it would be 1.05 million.

Commissioner McFall clarified that this would be paid by people that stay at hotels and motels in the area not by local citizens. This increase could help pay for things such as fixing roads and help pay for emergency services such as search and rescue.

Mr. Arnold said that the focus of these funds is to create more revenue for the county by creating a strong marketing plan.

Commissioner Bell added that no tax funding will be put towards this ballot measure, which means no staff time, or flyers.

Commissioner Grantham said an obstacle during this process is going to be the required language for the ballot measure considering the question will have to be along the lines or just numbers asking to be raised and not specifying who would pay for the increase.

Commissioner Grantham moved that the board of county commissioners give in written intent to the county clerk that there will be a ballot measure regarding the increase of the lodging tax. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED 9:30 a.m.

None.

Commissioner Grantham adjourned the meeting at 10:27am.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DU4P8a0-pMs>

Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners



Fremont County Board of Commissioners

Canon City Elks 125th Anniversary Day of Celebration Proclamation

Whereas: The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE), is an American fraternal order and charitable organization founded in 1868 in New York City; and

Whereas: The Elks Lodge #610, which has a storied history, was founded in 1900 and still thrives at 404 Macon Avenue in Cañon City, CO; and

Whereas: Elks Lodge #610 invests in its community through programs that help entertain, encourage and inspire children and young people to grow up healthy and drug-free and honors, assists local veterans and much more; and


Whereas: Elks Lodge #610 is so much more than just a building or other physical amenities but a place where neighbors come together, families share meals, and members gather for fellowship and good-natured camaraderie; and

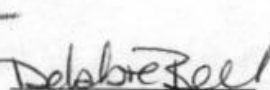
Whereas: On Saturday, July 26, 2025 in celebration of this historic milestone, Elks Lodge #610 will open its doors for this celebratory occasion for a festive day filled with games, music and general frivolity free of charge to the public.

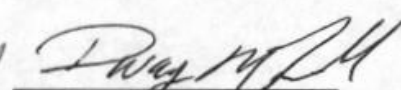
NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED by the County Commissioners of Fremont County that Saturday, July 26, 2025, is Cañon City Elks 125th Anniversary Day of Celebration in honor of Elks members and Lodge leadership over the past 125 years

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Commissioners urge all people of Fremont County to recognize and celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Canon City Elks #610 on July 26, 2025.

Signed this 22nd Day of July 2025.


Kevin Grantham, Chairman
District 1


Debbie Bell
District 2


Dwayne McFall
District 3