

EIGHTEENTH MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Fremont, State of Colorado, met in Regular Session on August 25th, 2026, at 615 Macon Avenue, Room LL3, Fremont County Administration Building, Cañon City, Colorado. Chairman 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
Dan Victoria	Planning & Zoning Director	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 Grantham moved to approve the agenda. 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 / August 11, 2026
2. Approval of Bills for \$4,001,117.19
3. Ratification of Chairman's Signature on IGA for Weed Control Services
4. Schedule Public Hearings: 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 8/25/2026 2:53

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 McFall shared the discussion from the previous Colorado Counties Incorporated meeting, at which he is the Mountain District President. It entailed the Lower Basin states (California, Nevada, and Arizona) of the Colorado River attempting to negotiate more water rights, but the main problem was that there isn't enough. The 1922 Colorado River Compact was created when the Upper Basin (Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, and Utah) had ample snowpack, and the Lower Basin had a low population. Since an agreement could not be reached, the federal government, through the Bureau of Reclamation, decided that the Lower Basin must reduce its water use by 1.25 million acre-feet over 2027 and 2028. Commissioner McFall commented that Arizona will likely struggle the most because it has the youngest water shares, meaning it must cut back the most. The settlement included a reevaluation every two years to see the impact of the reduction.

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 8/25/2026 16:42

1. 2026 National Association of Counties Achievement Award presentation.

Commissioner McFall said that every year the National Association of Counties hosts a recognition ceremony for programs that enhance and raise awareness in their communities. Commissioner McFall decided to nominate Michelle Boscia, a program coordinator at Fremont County Public Health and Environment, for her work on the community-based impaired-driving prevention initiative. The award honors innovative, effective community government programs that strengthen services for residents. Each year the achievement awards recognize outstanding programs in 18 categories aligned with the vast comprehensive services counties provide.

Ms. Boscia approached the podium to thank the commissioners for their support, which she believed was essential to her accomplishments. She explained that the grant began in 2023 for Impaired Driving, and she conducted an Impaired Driving Data Walk to gather community input on how best to improve it. One of the initiatives was to create a DUI Task Force; it is still getting off the ground, and they meet every second Wednesday at 1:00 p.m., offered in person or online.

Public Health Director Rick Gutierrez said that during his year as Director, Michelle consistently worked hard and delivered strong results. On his first day in office, the only thing on his desk was a copy of Michelle's Fremont County Impaired Driving Data Walk report. Since then, she has created the Traffic Crash dashboard, the well-attended DUI Task Force, and the Youth Action Board. He thanked Michelle for bringing so much honor to Fremont County and said the award is well deserved.

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2. Child Support Awareness Proclamation

Representatives: Carie Rutherford and Wanda Embrey, Fremont County Department of Human Services

Ms. Embrey explained this proclamation is honored by the state continually, and she thought it would be a good time to bring it to Fremont County. They not only do amazing work on their collections but also have appropriate and productive relationships with non-custodial parents and really work to set payment plans and take steps that make it feasible, because the intent is to support those children and to recognize that it is both parents' responsibility.

Ms. Rutherford recited the proclamation, which can be found at the bottom of these minutes.

Commissioner McFall moved to approve the proclamation, proclaiming August 2026 as Child Support Awareness Month. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 8/25/2026 29:20

3. National Suicide Prevention Month, Proclaiming September 2026 as Suicide Prevention Month in Fremont County

Representative: Mandy Kaisner, Solvista Health Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Kaisner introduced herself as the Solvista CEO for the past two years but has spent the past 21 years serving Fremont County as a Crisis Clinician. She explained that this subject is more than a passion project; it has been her life's work. She said that, to raise awareness this month, they will be hosting an 8-hour course designed to train people to recognize the signs and symptoms of those who might be experiencing a mental health crisis. They will also offer a 90-minute class called QPR, standing for questions, persuading, and referring, which is a deep dive into suicide prevention. She then recited the proclamation, which is viewable at the bottom of these minutes.

Commissioner Grantham moved to approve the proclamation for National Suicide Prevention Month in Fremont County. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED 9:30 a.m.

1. **ZC 26-002 Carr**

Requesting a Zone Change from Business to Residential One (R1). The property is located at 7637 US Highway 50, in Howard. The applicant would like to build a garage/shop for personal use.

Representative: Tyler Allen

Mr. Allen explained that he intends to build a 50-foot-by-70-foot shop for the owner. The shop is intended for personal use, and they plan to add a full bathroom to the unit. Since this will be for personal use only, the owner is requesting that the lot be rezoned from commercial to residential.

Planning and Zoning Director Victoria introduced the application as ZC 26-002, and the purpose of the rezone is to change the zoning district from business to residential. The applicant would like to build a garage or shop for personal use. The North, East, and South lots adjacent to this property are zoned residential one, and they currently have residential use. The West lot on the opposite side of Highway 50 is owned by a business and is vacant. The property is in the Upper Arkansas Planning District, which discourages commercial development along highway corridors when the highway is not essential to the development's success. There is one access point to and from Highway 50, and the property is in a flood zone. The Planning and Zoning Department did not receive any public comments or concerns. The Planning Commission recommended approval at the July 7th meeting. The Fremont County Planning and Zoning Department has found the application to be in complete compliance with the requirements of the Fremont County Zoning Resolution; staff recommended approval of the zone change from business to residential.

Commissioner McFall asked Director Victoria if the lot he pointed out across the street is the only one in the area zoned commercial.

Planning and Zoning Director Victoria responded that there are lots zoned for business scattered throughout the area on the other side of the highway, but the majority in the immediate surrounding area is residential. What triggered this request is that, if it remains business-zoned and he were to build a shop, it would require the owner to prepare a commercial development plan. This would require several public hearings and would be a substantial process. The department advised that the easiest way to get him there is to instead request a zone change.

Commissioner Bell opened the public hearing at **9:42 am**.

Commissioner Bell closed the public hearing at 9:42 am with no public comment.

Commissioner McFall moved to approve Zone Change 26-002 CAR from business to residential one. The property is located at 7637 US HWY 50 in Howard. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED AT 9:45 am

4. **Resolution No. 19**, Series of 2026 Imposing an Emergency Temporary Moratorium on the Construction of Data Centers

County Attorney Bellas explained that the board has the authority to manage land use within Fremont County and, within that authority, the board is able to establish a temporary moratorium not to exceed six months on any particular type of development in the event that the board believes that the moratorium is necessary in order to properly regulate that type of development. Mr. Bellas wanted to clarify that they have not received any interest from anyone in building a data center in our area, but this debate is in the public eye. The public is very aware of data centers and their challenges, so, out of an abundance of caution, this moratorium will allow our planning and zoning department to develop and propose regulations governing the location of data centers within Fremont County.

Commissioner Grantham noted that no one has even inquired about a data center, but it is their job as commissioners to evaluate the real risk it would pose to Fremont County citizens and any potential benefits. They do not intend to ban data centers but to evaluate the pros and cons of land use.

Commissioner Bell commented that, year after year, at the National Association of Counties meeting, they have included discussions on data centers. Most of the time, it is negative, but there is a positive in the tax revenue it brings to the community.

Commissioner McFall moved to approve **Resolution No. 19** series of 2026, imposing an emergency temporary moratorium on the construction of data centers, which will apply in all zone districts within Fremont County. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 8/25/2026 52:52

5. **Resolution No.20**, Series of 2026 Appointing the Veterans Service Officer for a Term from August 30, 2026, to August 30, 2028

John Grooms, Veterans Service Officer, said they have been working to modernize the office for the past year. Their office is mobile, so they can travel to assist veterans at various locations, including their homes. They have extended the hours to nearly match the rest of the administration building. The Veterans Service Office is now open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Thursday. Mr. Grooms has done a lot of outreaches, attending festivals and nursing homes.

Commissioner McFall expressed gratitude for Mr. Grooms' dedication to training for over a year to become a fully certified Veteran's Service Officer.

Commissioner Grantham relayed an experience a couple had with an issue that spanned 38 years, and Mr. Grooms corrected it in only 3 months. Commissioner Grantham recited, "They devoted their full attention and skills toward the issues at hand, were extremely knowledgeable about which resources to use, and were so personable throughout the process that it is no wonder they can efficiently help the veterans they serve. Fremont County is blessed to have such exemplary and dedicated VSO officers working for all the Veterans needing assistance in this county."

Commissioner Grantham moved to approve **Resolution No. 20** series of 2026, appointing the Veteran Service Officer, John Grooms, for a term from August 30, 2026, to August 30, 2028. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 8/25/2026 1:00:40

6. **Resolution No.21**, Series of 2026 Adding Centennial State Liquid Investment Pool as a Designated and Approved Official Depository for Fremont County

County Attorney Bellas explained that the county may use only depositories approved by this board. Every year, the board adopts the resolution officially designating these depositories, which also contains the budget and appropriating monies. Last year, as the board was preparing to adopt the regular four depositories, Fremont County Treasurer Elliott approached them and said she was considering adding another depository, called the Centennial State Liquid Investment Pool. After thorough research, she has now determined and recommended to the board that the board authorize the use of the Centennial State Liquid Investment Pool (CSLIP) as an official depository for Fremont County funds. A couple of weeks ago, they met with a representative from CSLIP to get more information. The investment is funded solely with public funds, and, given its liquidity, the county can deposit and withdraw at will. Another key difference is that the majority of the investments are not in commercial paper; most of these pools have most of their investments in commercial paper, whereas CSLIP has less than 50%.

Commissioner Grantham further stated that taxpayer dollars are invested and depositories are approved by the commission or the legislature into safe, beneficial, and liquid investments, and that this investment pool meets these requirements.

Commissioner McFall moved to approve **Resolution No. 21**, series of 2026, adding the Centennial State Liquid Investment Pool as a designated and approved official depository for Fremont County. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 8/25/2026 1:06:05

7. Secure Transportation Vehicle Permit for AIR Ride Colorado LLC

Commissioner Grantham moved to approve the Type One secure transportation vehicle permit for Air Ride Colorado LLC for a 2017 Ford Explorer beginning August 25th, 2026, and ending on the 24th day of August 2027. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 8/25/2026 1:08:04

8. Secure Transportation Vehicle Permit for Super Transit LLC

Commissioner McFall moved to approve the license for Super Transport LLC, with a Type One secure transport vehicle, a 2015 Ford Explorer, beginning August 25th, 2026, and ending on August 24th, 2027. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 8/25/2026 1:09:04

9. Reappointment of Ed Norden to the Fremont County Board of Zoning Adjustment with term expiring February 28, 2029.

Commissioner Grantham moved to approve the reappointment of Ed Norden to the Fremont County Board of Zoning Adjustment with a term expiring February 28th, 2029. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Commissioner Bell adjourned the meeting at **10:09 am**

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSdiV1lpqv4>

Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners



Fremont County Board of Commissioners
Proclamation



Fremont County Child Support Awareness Month

August 2026

WHEREAS, Every child deserves the financial support of both parents whenever possible, and child support plays an important role in helping children have the resources they need to grow, learn, and thrive; and

WHEREAS, Child Support Awareness Month is observed each August to recognize the important role child support services play in strengthening families, promoting responsible parenting, and improving the well-being of children throughout Colorado and the nation; and

WHEREAS, The Colorado Child Support Services Program, in partnership with all 64 county child support offices, works to establish parentage, establish and modify child support orders, collect and distribute support, and provide services that promote family stability; and

WHEREAS, The Fremont County Department of Human Services Child Support Services Unit is committed to serving families with professionalism, compassion, and respect while helping ensure children receive the financial support they deserve; and

WHEREAS, Strong families and healthy children contribute to a stronger Fremont County, and recognizing the work of child support professionals helps raise awareness of the valuable services available to parents and caregivers throughout our community.

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Fremont County Commissioners, by virtue of the authority vested in this Board, do hereby proclaim **August 2026 as Child Support Awareness Month** in Fremont County and encourage all citizens to recognize the importance of child support in strengthening families, promoting responsible parenting, and ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive.

Signed this 25th Day of August 2026.

Kevin Grantham
District 1 Commissioner

Debbie Bell
District 2 Commissioner

Dwayne McFall
District 3 Commissioner



Fremont County Board of Commissioners

Proclamation

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH SEPTEMBER 2026

WHEREAS, Fremont County is home to more than 48,000 people, a destination for thousands of visitors annually, and the site of about a dozen state and federal correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, In 2025, the Fremont County Coroner's Office investigated 24 suicides; one of which occurred within a correctional facility; and

WHEREAS, Suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth and young adults ages 15-34; and

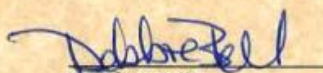
WHEREAS, Suicide typically ranks as the 7th leading cause of death across the general population in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, 54% of Americans have been affected by suicide in some way.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED by the County Commissioners of Fremont County that September 2026 is hereby designated as National Suicide Prevention Month in Fremont County. The County Commissioners do urge all people of Fremont County to become educated on suicide prevention and support those affected by suicide during this month and throughout the year.

Signed this 25th Day of August, 2026.


Kevin Grantham
District 1 Commissioner


Debbie Bell
District 2 Commissioner


Dwayne McFall
District 3 Commissioner