

EIGHTEENTH MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Fremont, State of Colorado, met in Special Session on September 21, 2023, 615 Macon Avenue, Room LL3, Fremont County Administration Building, Cañon City, Colorado. Chair Grantham called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Kevin Grantham	Commissioner	Present
Dwayne McFall	Commissioner	Present
Debbie Bell	Commissioner	Present
Justin D Grantham	Clerk and Recorder	Present
Brenda Jackson	County Attorney	Present
Tony Carochi	County Manager	Present
Dan Victoria	Planning & Zoning Director	Absent

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution No. 28, Series of 2023 Urging Voter Opposition to The Question That Will Appear on the 2023 Ballot as State Proposition HH

Commissioner Grantham – explained that this special meeting was called so that an official position could be taken on Proposition HH, and discussion could occur prior to ballots going out. Once ballots are sent out, no electioneering is allowed in the building. He read Resolution No. 28, Series of 2023 Urging Voter Opposition to The Question That Will Appear on the 2023 Ballot as State Proposition HH.

Commissioner McFall – commented that there is nothing good in State Proposition HH for us as taxpayers. He hopes that citizens will pay attention and do research. He encouraged all citizens to vote NO on State Proposition HH.

Commissioner Bell – stated she believes this is an attempt to take a major end run around TABOR (the taxpayer bill of rights) that the citizens of Colorado voted into law as a constitutional amendment in 1992. She went on to indicate this completely removes our right to approve or deny an increase in taxes and it is on our shoulders as citizens to deny this attempt to raise our taxes without our approval. She urged citizens to vote NO on Proposition HH.

Fremont County Assessor Stacey Seifert –announced her support of the board’s opposition of Proposition HH and encouraged all citizens to read the entire bill, not just the summary. She stated that she had reviewed the proposition two or three times and highlighted the important information. Assessor Seifert suggested the person who wrote the proposition did a great job of hiding information that citizens aren’t going to find the first time around. She summarized that not only will the TABOR refund be taken away, but this proposition will also allow special districts to take additional money through taxes.

Commissioner Grantham – provided several terms to describe the proposition: scam, shell game, ruse, bait and switch. He also applauded the writers of Proposition HH for their creativity. He went on to explain the effect this proposition will have on local, rural governments and the fact that there will not be money left after the urban areas take their share. He also pointed out this proposition will force local governments and special districts to raise taxes to pay for Denver’s spending sprees.

Mayor Pro Tem John Hamrick – inquired if the board reached out to the chair of the Republican Party and the mayors within the county for additional support and potential additional recorded opposition. He also added his support in opposition of Proposition HH. He mentioned those who live in the Recreation District will have no hope of getting the funding for a new pool if this proposition passes.

Assessor Seifert – communicated that this is not a partisan issue. This affects every person in the state. She also pointed out that if Proposition HH passes, the Recreation District can raise its mill levy with only a meeting and not a vote of the citizens. This applies to all special districts.

Attorney Jackson – shared her philosophy is if you read through an entire packet on a ballot issue and you still do not understand, vote NO.

Commissioner McFall moved to approve Resolution No. 28, Series of 2023 Urging Voter Opposition to The Question That Will Appear on the 2023 Ballot as State Proposition HH Commissioner Bell seconded the motion.

Clerk Grantham – explained that all ballots for overseas military and citizens must be sent out 45 calendar days prior to an election. He confirmed these ballots will be sent out Saturday and this is the reason for the special meeting today.

Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Commissioner Grantham -- adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

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

www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4COCISf-mM

Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners