

STATE OF WYOMING )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF FREMONT )

LANDER, WYOMING  
OFFICE OF THE FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OCTOBER 10, 2023

### **FULL DETAILED REPORT**

The Board of Fremont County Commissioners met in Regular Session at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present. Chairman Larry Allen, Jennifer McCarty, Clarence Thomas and Ron Fabrizius. Vice-Chairman Mike Jones was present via phone and telephone for portions of the meeting. County Clerk Julie A. Freese and Civil Deputy Attorney Nathan Maxon were present.

Clarence Thomas moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer McCarty moved, Ron Fabrizius seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 3, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to accept the bills for payment. Motion carried unanimously.

| <u>Vendor Name</u>                | <u>Department</u>                | <u>Description</u>   | <u>Amount</u> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 71 Construction                   | Road Material Inventory          | Materials            | \$60,978.50   |
| Ace Hardware-Lander               | County Buildings                 | Materials / Supplies | \$17.50       |
| Ace Hardware-Riverton             | Vehicle Maintenance              | Materials / Supplies | \$15.67       |
| Airgas USA LLC                    | Vehicle Maintenance              | Supplies             | \$14.50       |
| Alexander Excavation              | 1% Infrastructure Projects       | Contract Services    | \$1,667.50    |
| Alldata                           | Vehicle Maintenance              | Subscription         | \$1,500.00    |
| AlSCO Inc.                        | County Buildings                 | Laundry              | \$301.00      |
| Amerigas                          | County Buildings                 | Propane              | \$331.51      |
| Anderson, Kyle L                  | County Health Officer Supplement | Services             | \$2,500.00    |
| Apple Valley Tree & Lawn Care LLC | Road Construction                | Services             | \$6,500.00    |
| Aranow, Elizabeth                 | Search & Rescue                  | Expense Reimburse    | \$399.00      |
| Bailey Enterprises, Inc.          | Inventory                        | Bulk Fuel            | \$39,051.80   |
| Benessere Clinic                  | Special Tax                      | Move Award           | \$36,000.00   |
| Big Brothers Big Sisters Of NW WY | TANF Grant                       | Reimburse            | \$1,033.59    |
| Big Horn Water                    | Youth Services                   | Water                | \$50.50       |
| Bill Jones Plumbing & Heating     | County Buildings                 | Services / Repairs   | \$920.60      |
| Billings, Kirk                    | Search & Rescue                  | Expense Reimburse    | \$154.06      |
| BMO Bank N.A.                     | Investment Pool                  | Interest             | \$283.37      |
| BMO Financial Group               | Segregated                       | Credit Cards         | \$99,368.44   |
| Bob's Truck Repair, Inc.          | Vehicle Maintenance              | Parts                | \$99.40       |
| Bowdel Steven P.                  | Detention Center                 | Medical Services     | \$2,375.00    |
| BS&R Equipment Co Inc.            | ARPA Program Grant               | Equipment Supplies   | \$25,021.50   |
| Carroll Septic Service            | Transportation                   | Services             | \$150.00      |
| Charter Communications            | Computer Services                | Internet Service     | \$129.98      |
| Child Development Services        | Special Tax                      | Move Award           | \$85,000.00   |
| Cloud Peak Counseling Center      | Health & Welfare                 | Title 25             | \$325.00      |
| Dowl LLC                          | Road Construction                | Services             | \$11,522.50   |
| Dubois Frontier, The              | Support Services                 | Advertising          | \$53.40       |
| Dubois Telephone Exchange         | County Sheriff                   | Telephone Service    | \$720.96      |
| Fabrizius, Ron                    | County Commission                | Expense Reimburse    | \$96.00       |
| Floyd's Truck Center WY           | Vehicle Maintenance              | Parts                | \$211.13      |
| Fremont Chevrolet GMC             | Vehicle Maintenance              | Parts                | \$532.74      |
| Fremont Counseling-Lander         | Health & Welfare                 | Title 25             | \$2,700.00    |
| Fremont County Fire               | Forest Reserve                   | Reimburse            | \$17,967.60   |
| Fremont Motor Riverton Inc.       | Vehicle Maintenance              | Parts / Supplies     | \$11.70       |
| Fremont Motors - Lander           | Vehicle Maintenance              | Parts / Supplies     | \$2,521.59    |

|                                   |                                 |                       |             |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Fyler, John                       | County Sheriff                  | Expense Reimburse     | \$75.00     |
| Gee, Brian                        | Detention Center                | Contract Supervisor   | \$5,580.00  |
| Great Divide Towing & Recovery    | County Sheriff                  | Vehicle Towing        | \$450.00    |
| Heard, Terry                      | Search & Rescue                 | Expense Reimburse     | \$84.76     |
| High Plains Power, Inc.           | County Buildings                | Utility Services      | \$10,572.26 |
| HUB International Mtn. States Ltd | Clerk Of District Court         | Bond                  | \$100.00    |
| Hutson, Jeff                      | Detention Center                | Expense Reimburse     | \$150.00    |
| Kairos Broadcasting LLC           | Vehicle Maintenance             | Advertising           | \$250.00    |
| Laboratory Corporation Of America | Detention Center                | Inmate Medical        | \$39.00     |
| Lander Search & Rescue            | Search & Rescue                 | Expense Reimburse     | \$230.64    |
| Lander, City Of                   | County Buildings                | Utility Services      | \$4,133.84  |
| Lee, William C.                   | Search & Rescue                 | Expense Reimburse     | \$75.47     |
| Mahlum, Zachary Hamilton          | District Court                  | Court Appointment     | \$1,369.69  |
| McCarty, Jennifer                 | County Commission               | Expense Reimburse     | \$120.00    |
| Midwest Connect                   | Support Services                | Supplies              | \$595.00    |
| Napa Auto Parts-Riverton          | Vehicle Maintenance             | Parts & Supplies      | \$3,127.48  |
| Nelson Engineering                | Horse Creek Road Reconstruction | Services              | \$1,120.00  |
| Norco Inc.                        | County Buildings                | Supplies              | \$792.53    |
| Office Shop Inc., The             | Computer Services               | Maintenance           | \$8,475.42  |
| One Stop Market                   | Search & Rescue                 | Vehicle Fuel          | \$239.85    |
| Osborne Trucking Co. Inc.         | 1% Infrastructure Projects      | Contract Services     | \$1,667.50  |
| Peterbilt Of Wyoming              | Vehicle Maintenance             | Service / Parts       | \$3,897.38  |
| R T Communications                | Dispatch Center                 | Telephone Service     | \$444.11    |
| Rodriguez, Jessica                | Detention Center                | Contract Services     | \$2,312.50  |
| Schumacher Law Firm, P.C.         | County Commission               | Hearings              | \$4,707.13  |
| Shoshoni, Town Of                 | County Buildings                | Utility Services      | \$75.00     |
| State Of Wyoming - ETS            | County Clerk                    | Storage               | \$5.73      |
| Tarvin, Liam                      | Detention Center                | Expense Reimburse     | \$63.35     |
| Traveling Computers               | Segregated                      | Services              | \$3,704.00  |
| Valley Lumber & Supply Co Inc.    | ARPA Program Grant              | Materials / Supplies  | \$45,504.95 |
| Verizon Wireless                  | Segregated                      | Cellphone Service     | \$515.60    |
| Western Printing, Inc.            | County Sheriff                  | Printed Supplies      | \$164.70    |
| Wind River Towing                 | Abandoned Vehicles              | Vehicle Towing        | \$200.00    |
| Wolf, Nancy J                     | Detention Center                | Medical Services      | \$1,875.00  |
| WY Dept. Of Transportation        | Bridge Repair                   | Haymaker Draw         | \$67.61     |
| Wyoming Dept. Of Transportation   | Segregated                      | WYDOT Fuel            | \$1,993.62  |
| Wyoming Machinery Co              | Segregated                      | Parts / Supplies      | \$5,980.79  |
| Wyoming Office Attorney General   | 24/7 Program                    | Program Fees          | \$3,602.00  |
| Wyoming Waste Systems             | County Buildings                | Trash Removal         | \$3,171.24  |
| Xybix Systems Inc.                | Capital Asset Acquisitions      | Communication Upgrade | \$57,473.96 |

Ron Fabrizius moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to accept the Title 25 payment in the amount of \$6,032.00 to Wyoming Behavioral Institute for two patients. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items in the Signature File were reviewed; 1) Ron Fabrizius moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve the Fremont County Bank of the West Credit Card Application in the amount of \$2,500 for Deputy Treasurer Brian Green. Motion carried unanimously. 2) Ron Fabrizius moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to accept the Approach/Access Application 2021-054A, 235 from Chad Strandlien for Lost Wells Circle. Motion carried unanimously. 3) Ron Fabrizius moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to accept the Approach/Access Application 2021-052A, from Ernie Fischer for 355 8 Mile Road. Motion carried unanimously. 4) Ron Fabrizius moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve the Notice to Proceed between Fremont County and S & L Industrial for the Fremont County 2023 Striping Project that commenced on October 4, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items in the Priority Mail were reviewed; 1) Clarence Thomas moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to appoint Tara Berg, Fremont County Assessor, to the Fremont County Executive Health Insurance Committee. Motion carried unanimously. 2) Acknowledgement of Final Decision of Bureau of Indian Affairs Notice of Decision of application filed by Northern Arapaho Tribe for trust acquisition of fee lands Case NO. 16683. It is a 23-acre piece of property that is surrounded by tribal land and the Commissioners will not appeal the decision. 3) Grant Writing Workshop in partnership with Casper Police Department. Training to be held in Casper, WY – November 6-7, 2023. 4) Weston County Commissioners Draft letter to the Bureau of Land Management requesting that the BLM withdraw the referenced Draft Environmental Impact Statement and work with the state and local cooperating agencies to develop a balanced alternative that more appropriately aligns with the custom and culture of the resource area. Chairman Allen and Commissioner Jones will work on drafting a similar letter.

Chairman Allen stated that there would be no Public Comment period due to time constraints.

Steve Bauman, Planning Department Supervisor, discussed the Carlson No. 1 Subdivision which is near the intersection of Two Valley Road and Hutchinson Road, located two miles north of the City Limits of Riverton. The purpose of the subdivision is to divide off a 7.56-acre lot with an existing home from the current 81.15-acre agricultural parcel. The Fremont County Planning Department reviewed and found all necessary easements along the boundary and on the Lot-line are in place. Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve the Carlson No. 1 Subdivision as recommended by the Fremont County Planning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Erin Ivie, Fremont County Coroner, presented a monthly update. There have been 228 recorded deaths for Fremont County for the first three quarters of 2023. The Coroner's Office was contacted 131 times for investigations/referrals. This number is tracked for the purpose of becoming accredited. They track how many investigative calls they receive, how many times they respond and how many times they decline. One type of call includes clandestine bone cases, where they see if the bones found are human remains. Another type of call would be if a family, hospital or funeral home calls with suspicions of abuse and neglect in decedents. Out of 131 contacts, 112 were determined to be Coroner Cases. 35% of coroner cases in 2023 are "non-natural" in manner, (accident, homicide, suicide, or undetermined) of these, 28 were accidental, 6 were suicide, and 3 were homicide. There have been 10 vehicular deaths so far in 2023. Six of these were drug and/or alcohol related. Two were pedestrian deaths, and one ATV death. It was determined that 8 of the deaths were accidental in manner and 2 were undetermined (the manner of death cannot be determined with greater than 50% validity). The two undetermined deaths were pedestrian, there were no witnesses, and the vehicle didn't stop. Of the Accidental deaths 3 were falls, 9 were direct drug/alcohol toxicity, 1 choking asphyxia, 2 hypothermia, 3 freshwater drownings and 2 carbon monoxide poisonings. Of the Natural deaths, 3 are COVID 19 related/caused, and two cases are pending autopsy/toxicology. Drugs and/or alcohol were involved in all homicides, 2 of the 6 suicides, and 17 of the 28 accidental deaths. There were no budget concerns for the first quarter. The cooler in the morgue was replaced with a new unit and it is still non-functioning. There is no solution currently to have the cooler up and running. Heating for the winter months will be by continuous space heater usage and there will be no storage capacity at this facility. Appreciation to the Commissioners was given for the x-ray machine, all components have been received and all the staff have had the opportunity to train and utilize the machine. It is very user friendly, training only takes an hour, and it can be used in the field. Regarding WACO, the Coroner's Association discussed working with the WCCA to establish potential regional forensic science centers in the state that would employ a forensic pathologist as an independent contractor or as a staff member of that county. Fremont County is being looked at as the "flagship" for this as, at the current time, there is a forensic pathologist on staff, all deputies are dually trained as autopsy technicians, x-ray services are provided, and are generating revenue from out-of-county cases. Fremont County Coroner staff are fully accredited (IACME/NAME) however the facilities are not eligible for accreditation at this time, this causes a loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue for Fremont County.

Commissioners Reports and Concerns were given.

Commissioner Ron Fabrizius brought up concerns regarding the BLM "land grab" and how their changes will affect Fremont County and the short time frame to bring up concerns.

Vice-Chairman Mike Jones has been researching the BLM Draft Resource Management Plan and how it affects Fremont County and there are specific things they want to speak out about. He has an outline of how they will respond and has worked with several different groups, they have a good understanding of

what is happening and how to speak to the specifics around Fremont County. Commissioner Jones is also concerned about the Sage Grouse and what the BLM is doing with the range wide management plan. It is a multi-state plan that they are proposing that is not based on good science. Wyoming has the most thorough and best science on Sage grouse put together over the past 20 years. The Sage Grouse Committee has been able to put together new recommendations with new alternatives to take to the BLM.

Chairman Larry Allen received notice from the Forest Service for a prescribed burn in the Whiskey Mountain Area in Dubois, WY. There will be multiple burns over multiple days to clear 1,300 acres. This burn will improve big horn sheep winter grazing.

Cassie Murray, Executive Director of the Treatment Courts and Youth Services, gave a department update. No fees were collected in September, but fee collection is expected in October. Eagles Hope continues to take CAST clients and appreciation was given for support of the program. The Adult Case Manager position has been filled and the Case Manager for the Juveniles was offered and awaiting a response. They have a number of juveniles with over 30 days clean and sober. Youth services citations have held steady, with a lot of substance use citations. Fight and property destruction citations have been issued as well. The City of Lander awarded \$30,000 funding for the next year, these funds will go towards probation cost. Probation is busy, with a lot of time spent with kids and families trying to get services in place. Probation also spends time at the schools trying to help navigate issues that could potentially lead to expulsion. They currently have 2 students in their Day Reporting Center program and have room for 12. Most referrals they receive do not meet the criteria to be accepted into the program but expect as the school year continues they will see an increase of students into the program. She requested permission to refill a Direct Support Professional with an annual salary of \$48,725 - \$54,128. Clarence Thomas moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve the Direct Support Professional position at the referenced salary range. Motion carried unanimously.

Clarence Thomas moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to adjourn into Executive session for Personnel with Executive Director of Treatment Courts Cassie Murray. Motion carried unanimously. Ron Fabrizius moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to return to Regular Session. Motion carried unanimously.

A matter was addressed regarding a recording device that was found to be left in the Chambers and running during the Executive Session. Once the owner proved to the Sheriff and County Attorney that the recording was deleted, it was returned.

Pursuant to W.S. 22-16-111(a)(iii), the Republican Central Committee met on October 5, 2023 and interviewed applicants for an appointment to fill the Fremont County Clerk of District Court vacancy. Following those interviews, the Central Chairman conveyed the results of three Republican candidates to fill the office to the County Commissioners the following day. Interviews were subsequently scheduled and held with the following:

Shannon Hilyard – she has worked at the Fremont County and Prosecuting Attorney’s Office since 2006. She works on criminal and felony cases, giving her firsthand knowledge of the legal system and processes in the county. Prior to working in this position, she was employed in a private law offices and County Clerk’s Office.

Amanda Sanchez – she has worked in both the District Court and Circuit Court of Fremont County, giving her knowledge of both the criminal and civil worlds. She is currently the Chief Clerk of the Fremont County Circuit Court in Lander. She has worked in the legal field since 2006.

Susan Sprague – she has approximately 30 years of experience as a paralegal, giving her knowledge of the legal system and case filing. The majority of her paralegal work has been with Riverton law offices.

Following the interviews, Clarence Thomas moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to appoint Amanda Sanchez as the Clerk of District Court. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Fabrizius stated all three applicants were very qualified for the position. The Swearing-In ceremony was scheduled for Monday, October 23, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. with a reception to follow.

There being no further business, Clarence Thomas moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 12:20 p.m. and reconvene for a Regular Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on October 24, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

A full detailed report (informational only) and the official minutes are posted on Fremont County's website ([www.fremontcountywy.gov](http://www.fremontcountywy.gov)). The meeting can also be accessed via YouTube (Fremont County WY Government).

/s/ Larry Allen, Chairman  
Fremont County Commissioners

ATTEST:

/s/ Julie A Freese, Fremont County Clerk and Clerk of the Board