

STATE OF WYOMING )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF FREMONT )

LANDER, WYOMING  
OFFICE OF THE FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
NOVEMBER 14, 2023

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

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

Jennifer McCarty moved, Mike Jones seconded, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer McCarty moved, Mike Jones seconded, to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer McCarty moved, Mike Jones seconded, to accept the bills for payment. Motion carried unanimously.

Bills are listed in the following format: Vendor – Department – Description - Amount: 307 Shredding LLC -Youth Services-Services-\$229.50; A & I Distributors-Vehicle Maintenance-Oil/Fluids-\$1,790.00; Ace Hardware-Lander-Segregated-Materials & Supplies-\$290.37; Alexander Excavation-Road Construction-Riverview Road-\$59,221.51; Amerigas-County Buildings-Propane Supply-\$933.31; Bailey Enterprises, Inc-Inventory-Bulk Fuel -\$39,824.78; Big Horn Tire Inc-Vehicle Maintenance-Vehicle Tires-\$4,716.08; Big Horn Water-Youth Services-Bottled Water-\$47.50; Bloedorn Lumber-Lander-County Buildings-Materials Supplies-\$194.48; BMO Financial Group-Segregated-Credit Card Charges-\$77,105.80; Brock, Kristine-Search & Rescue-Expense Reimburse-\$131.92; Centurylink-Computer Services-Telephone Service-\$683.50; Desert Mountain Corporation-Road Construction-Materials/Supplies-\$2,851.80; Drug Testing Services LLC-Transportation-Service-\$60.00; Dubois Frontier, The-Support Services-Advertising -\$17.80; Eagle Uniform & Supply Co-Vehicle Maintenance-Laundry-\$52.82; Edwards Communications-Prevention Program-Advertising-\$1,375.00; Fremont Counseling-Lander-Health & Welfare-Title 25-\$5,100.00; Fremont Motor Riverton Inc-Vehicle Maintenance-Parts/Supplies-\$55.91; Fremont Motors - Lander-Vehicle Maintenance-Parts/Supplies-\$180.85; Grainger-County Buildings-Materials/Supplies-\$99.72; Graphic Computer Solutions Inc-County Attorney-Maintenance & Support-\$10,159.27; Hehr, Jo-Covid 19 Grant-Expense Reimburse-\$624.30; High Plains Power, Inc-County Buildings-Utility Services-\$1,091.42; Holiday Inn-Riverton-Search & Rescue-Lodging-\$441.00; Kauffman, David B-Search & Rescue-Expense Reimburse-\$416.98; Maurisak, Amy-Transportation-Expense Reimburse-\$131.75; Mr D's Food Center Inc-Segregated-Supplies-\$398.08; Napa Auto Parts Of Dubois-Vehicle Maintenance-Parts / Supplies -\$4.39; Napa Auto Parts-Riverton-Vehicle Maintenance-Parts & Supplies -\$3,083.91; Newman Traffic Signs-Transportation-Supplies-\$1,727.28; NMS Laboratories-County Coroner-Services-\$1,749.00; Norco Inc-Transportation-Supplies-\$11.16; O'Reilly Automotive Inc-Vehicle Maintenance-Parts & Supplies -\$132.59; Palace Pharmacy-Detention Center-Inmate Rx's -\$8,721.29; Pavillion, Town of-County Buildings-Water Utilities-\$112.50; Peterbilt of Wyoming-Vehicle Maintenance-Parts -\$177.18; Plainsman Printing & Supply-Clerk of District Court-Office Supplies-\$734.95; Premier Vehicle Install Inc-Capital Asset Acquisitions-Vehicle Set-Up-\$16,525.79; R C Lock & Key-County Buildings Detention-Supplies & Services-\$25.50; Riverton Ranger, The-Support Services-Advertising-\$216.00; Rocky Mountain Power-County Buildings-Utility Services-\$1,219.46; Shoshoni, Town Of-County Buildings-Water Utilities-\$75.00; Terrance R. Martin PC-Cast-Services-\$1,665.00; Teton Pathology PC-County Coroner-Services-\$50.00; T-Y Excavation Inc-Road Construction- Road Maintenance-\$7,880.00; Verizon Wireless-Segregated-Cellphone Service-\$516.10; Wild Iris Mountain Sports Inc-Search & Rescue-Supplies-\$19.20; Wyoming Behavioral Institute-Health & Welfare-Title 25-\$12,064.00; Wyoming Dept of Transportation-Segregated-Fuel-\$4,758.10.

Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to accept a voucher from Cloud Peak Counseling Center in the amount of \$325.00 for one Title 25 patient and from Wyoming Behavioral Institute in the amount of \$9,802.00 for nine Title 25 patients. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items in the Signature File were reviewed: 1) Abatement Summary cover page; and 2) Record of Proceedings. Jennifer McCarty moved, Mike Jones seconded, to approve a Wyoming Association of Risk Management Final Proof of Loss for a 2022 Chevrolet Silverado Pickup issued to the Sheriff Department for damages in the amount of \$9,961.96, less the County's deductible of \$5,000, for a final amount to be received of \$4,961.96. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items in the Priority Mail were reviewed: 1) Department of Justice – FBI notice “Election Officials Update Suspicious Letters”. County Clerk Julie Freese stated the FBI is investigating multiple letters, containing suspicious substances, mailed in other states, and in at least four instances, the substance indicated the presence of fentanyl. The letter urged that all suspicious substances be treated as potentially hazardous and must be handled in accordance with established safety protocols. Clerk Freese stated only herself and Deputy Irvine would be opening all mail coming into their offices. She

further stated the difficulty of running a successful election and that it is getting harder all the time, hence the difficulty in obtaining and keeping election judges. 2) USDA Forest Service, Shoshone National Forest, Wind River Ranger District Public Notice regarding the Green Union Project. The Forest is proposing to conduct vegetation management activities in the western portion of the District to increase the resistance of forest landscapes and communities to wildfire, decrease the impacts of wildfires within the wildland urban interface, and provide an opportunity for an effective and safe response to wildfires should they occur. Vice-Chairman Jones met the new Forest Supervisor last week and stated that due to efforts from Senator Barrasso, funding has been allocated to the SNF for fire mitigation. Chairman Allen had discussion with Ron Wempen, Fremont County Firewise, who also acknowledged that Wyoming was initially awarded zero funding until Senator Barrasso stepped in. Vice-Chairman Jones further stated that a Union Pass resident participated in the Firewise Program; and his share totaled \$40,000 to prepare his property in the event of a wildfire event. 3) MOVE Final Project report from Wind River Startup Challenge winners: Fire and Ice; White Eagle Tire Service; Concrete Kingz; Red Wolf Designs; 2 Indigenous Hands; Indigi-Meals Pro; Warm Valley Smoke Wagon and RezLaw.

Sheriff Ryan Lee provided a monthly update.

Chairman Larry Allen, speaking as a member of the Search and Rescue Council, asked Sheriff Lee what a drone would cost for use in the Search and Rescue department. Sheriff Lee reported that one with proper equipment would cost between \$8,000-\$10,000 each. He stated that the family of a "missing, presumed deceased" individual recently hired a private drone to assist in the search. Commissioner Allen stated the Council's concern that 98% of missions this calendar year in Fremont County were hikers, bikers, rock climbers, etc. (who do not purchase a license nor contribute to the Search and Rescue Council), with only 2% being sportsman (hunting and fishing) who contribute via licensing requirements. The Council needs a constant revenue stream as reimbursement requests from agencies average between \$200,000 and \$300,000, with total funding available of \$1.7 million which will not be sustainable. Sheriff Lee stated many of the missions involve individuals taking extreme risks, which proves to be dangerous not only to that individual but to first responders. County Clerk Julie Freese stated the Secure Rural Schools Forest Reserve Fund has limited funding for Search and Rescue and that funding could perhaps be used for training, public service announcements, etc.

Juvenile Treatment Courts and Youth Services Executive Director Cassie Murray presented a monthly update.

Civil Deputy Attorney Nathan Maxon reviewed the two proposals for review to establish a fee schedule for public records requests made pursuant to the Wyoming Public Records Act. One version will provide a waiver for Fremont County residents stating that the production and generation costs will be charged only if they exceed \$50.00. If they exceed \$50.00, the initial \$50.00 will be a credit and not charged to the applicant. The other version does not give any exemption. The Commissioners had requested comments from departments and elected officials on which version they preferred. A 45-day comment period will also be required pursuant to the Wyoming Public Records Act. Following discussion on comments received internally, a final version of the preferred proposal to grant a fee waiver to Fremont County residents will be finalized at the following meeting at which time the 45-day comment period will commence.

Jennifer McCarty moved, Mike Jones seconded, to adjourn into Executive Session with County Attorney Patrick LeBrun regarding personnel. Motion carried unanimously. Deputy County Clerk Margy Irvine was present in the audience. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to return to Regular Session. Motion carried unanimously. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve a SOC level increase to \$51,800 for a Lead Secretary position, effective January 1, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

A Public Hearing was held at 10:20 a.m. (advertised for 10:15 a.m.) regarding Unanticipated Revenues and Budget Transfers. County Clerk Julie Freese was present and stated no changes had been made to the information presented the previous meeting or the advertised information. There was no public comment. Jennifer McCarty moved, Mike Jones seconded, to approve Resolution No. 2023-22 "FY 2023-2024 Budget Amendment No. 2." Motion carried unanimously.

Sallye Kessler requested time to discuss Fremont County growth, and specifically government. The discussion included her previous concerns presented last year regarding Air B & B's and short term rentals (STR) taxing issues. Present in the audience was Assessor Tara Berg, Treasurer Jim Anderson and

Planning Department Supervisor Steve Baumann. Kessler introduced herself as both a property owner in rural Riverton and Porcupine Subdivision outside of Dubois.

Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to adjourn into Executive Session for personnel. Motion carried unanimously. Present in separate sessions were IT Supervisor Kevin Shultz and Planning Department Director Steve Baumann. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to return to Regular Session. Motion carried unanimously.

The draft Fremont County Legal Holiday and Courthouse closure calendar was reviewed for 2024: New Year's Day (January 1); President's Day (February 19); Memorial day (May 27); Independence Day (July 4); Labor Day (September 2); Veterans Day (November 11); Thanksgiving Holiday (November 28-29) and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (December 24-25); with Courthouse closures set for Primary Election Day (August 20); Columbus Day (October 14); and General Election Day (November 5). The County Commissioner Meeting Schedule was also reviewed. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve both 2024 calendars as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

County Clerk Julie Freese gave a report under the Elected Officials Concerns. County Clerk Julie Freese stated that J.R. Oakley, JR Project Management LLC, has been assisting in getting bids for the LATC funded Election Warehouse and the second bid came in considerably less than the first one. She has not heard back yet from the Museum Director on whether the County's proposal offered last week (requesting that the County obtain the land between the two Museum buildings on Garfield Street in exchange for the County removing any remaining grass, replacing it with gravel, and providing sidewalk snow removal) was accepted. She gave a presentation at the Elected Officials/Department Heads meeting the previous day on both the Doculivery and HR Law programs that she can share with interested departments.

There being no further business, Jennifer McCarty moved, Mike Jones seconded, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 11:55 a.m. and reconvene for a Regular Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on November 21, 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