

STATE OF WYOMING)
) ss.
COUNTY OF FREMONT)

LANDER, WYOMING
OFFICE OF THE FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 12, 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 Michael Jones, Jennifer McCarty, Clarence Thomas and Ron Fabrizius. County Clerk Julie A. Freese and Deputy Civil Attorney Nathan Maxon were present.

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

Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Ron Fabrizius distributed a written letter titled "Free Speech" from Ron Warpness, who had attended the previous meeting but had not been in time for the discussion on public comment due to agenda changes.

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

Bills are listed in the following format: Vendor - Department - Description - Amount: A & I Distributors-Vehicle Maintenance-Oil / Fluids-\$3,625.12; Ace Hardware-Lander-County Buildings-Materials / Supplies -\$150.95; American Board of Medicolegal-County Coroner-Member Dues-\$100.00; Bailey Enterprises, Inc.-Inventory-Bulk Fuel -\$22,656.99; Bath, Rick J.-Vehicle Maintenance-Expense Reimburse-\$152.96; Big Horn Tire Inc-Vehicle Maintenance-Vehicle Tires -\$5,413.04; Big Horn Water-Youth Services-Water -\$45.50; Bill Jones Plumbing & Heating-County Buildings-Services / Repairs-\$947.19; BMO Financial Group-Segregated-Credit Card Charges-\$77,567.02; Bowdel Steven P.-Detention Center-Medical Services-\$2,625.00; Danyne Cooper Counseling, LLC-Cast- Services-\$250.00; Dubois Frontier, The-Support Services-Advertising -\$48.95; Eagle Uniform & Supply Co-Vehicle Maintenance-Laundry-\$427.04; Electrical Dynamics, Inc-County Buildings-Services / Repairs-\$92.00; Floyd's Truck Center WY-Vehicle Maintenance-Parts / Service-\$51,476.62; Fremont Counseling-Lander-Health & Welfare-Title 25-\$3,600.00; Fremont Motors - Lander-Vehicle Maintenance-Parts / Supplies-\$1,092.10; Gee, Brian-Detention Center-Medical Supervisor-\$5,830.00; Grainger-Segregated-Materials / Supplies -\$1,471.93; Hancock, Timothy-County Attorney-Reimburse Expense-\$20.80; High Plains Power, Inc-County Buildings-Utility Service-\$1,295.01; Kairos Broadcasting LLC-Transportation-Advertising-\$250.00; Lyles, Jesse-County Sheriff-Contract Service-\$2,550.00; Mahlum, Zachary Hamilton-District Court-Court Appointment-\$799.56; Mountain West Towing LLC-Abandoned Vehicles-Vehicle Towing-\$1,682.40; Napa Auto Parts-Riverton-Segregated-Parts & Supplies -\$3,752.74; National Business Furniture LLC-Covid 19 Grant-Office Furniture-\$4,097.08; Norco Inc-County Buildings-Supplies -\$521.86; Office Shop Inc, The-Computer Services-Repair / Lease-\$988.94; Palazzolo, Alicia-Detention Center-Medical Service-\$2,750.00; Pavillion, Town Of-County Buildings-Utility Service-\$112.50; Pioneer Pharmacy LLC-Covid 19 Grant-Supplies-\$1,064.00; Print Shop, The-Detention Center-Supplies-\$42.00; RELX, Inc.-County Attorney-Research Subscription-\$819.00; Riverton Ranger, The-Support Services-Advertising-\$2,485.75; Rocky Mountain Power-Segregated-Utility Service-\$10,516.14; Rodney's Collision & Custom-Planning-Repairs-\$1,331.12; Smith Psychological Services-County Sheriff-Services -\$2,000.00; Soule, Sierra-District Court-Court Appointment-\$1,192.50; Sutherland Lumber Co.-Vehicle Maintenance-Supplies / Materials-\$24.88; Sweetwater Aire LLC-County Buildings-Supplies / Parts -\$230.00; Tilton, Kathleen-Juvenile Treatment Court-Services-\$1,875.00; Top Priority Drain Cleaning LLC-County Buildings-Services-\$687.71; Traveling Computers-Computer Services-Supplies / Materials-\$5,788.44; Utah Medical Insurance Assoc.-Detention Center-Medical Insurance-\$7,812.00; Verizon Wireless-Computer Services-Internet Service-\$183.72; Wolf, Nancy J-Detention Center-Medical Service-\$2,406.25; Workpartners-Health Benefit Plan-Insurance Service-\$160.00; WY Public Health Laboratory-Public Health-Fees / Supplies-\$188.00; Wyoming Behavioral Institute-Health & Welfare-Title 25-\$9,802.00; Wyoming Dept Of Transportation-Segregated-Wydot Fuel-\$3,002.30; Wyoming Machinery Co-Vehicle Maintenance-Parts -\$684.61; Wyoming Office Attorney General-24/7 Program-Program Fees-\$3,332.00.

The following items in the Signature File were reviewed: 1) letters of appreciation to Richard Klapproth (Fremont County Solid Waste Disposal District) and Albert Herbst (Predatory Animal Board) for their service on said boards; and 2) Record of Proceeding. MOVE Denial letters for ½% economic development funding were listed as follows: Arcadia Minerals, Inc. (\$35,529.00); Arkenstone LLC (\$200,000.00); Auto Medic LLC (\$234,000); Ernie Fischer (\$500,000); Hill Land & Cattle Company (\$164,690); Legacy Foam Solutions (\$91,350); Lifekey (\$170,000); Little Red Hen LLC (\$25,000); Miikana Properties (\$150,000); Northland LLC (\$125,000); Pertech Industries, Inc. (\$466,630); Rickie George et al. (\$200,000); Woodland Conservation Fund (\$272,694); Trail Co., Inc. (\$200,000); and Wind River Community Alliance (\$200,000). Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to accept the MOVE Committee's recommendations to deny funding to the applicants as indicated. Motion carried unanimously. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to authorize a letter to the Bureau of Justice Assistance concurring with the Fremont County Sheriff to recognize the Riverton Police Department as the sole

applicant applying for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. Motion carried unanimously. Later in the meeting, Transportation Superintendent Billy Meeks joined the meeting to discuss the Inberg-Miller Engineers Price Proposal for Engineering Services for the Sinks Canyon Road Pavement Rehabilitation project. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve the Inberg-Miller Price Proposal as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve a renewal Temporary Use Permit with BLM for construction of the South Pass snow fence project. Motion carried unanimously.

Civil Attorney Nathan Maxon reviewed draft Resolution No. 2023-26 "Resolution to Establish an Interim Fee Schedule for Public Records Requests made Pursuant to the Wyoming Public Records Act." This topic had come before the Commission previously, and they had agreed to go out for a 45-day public comment period, which he said had not been necessary; however, recommend they keep to that schedule but put in place the Interim Fee Schedule before them today. As the County is currently without the authority to establish a fee until that hearing in February, he has been receiving overly-burdensome requests for documents from various office, all of which he has to review before releasing the information. This again is taking department time as well as his time for each request. Several departments (County Clerk, County Assessor) have developed a copy schedule but others have not. The rates he has suggested in the proposed Fee Schedule are in line with other county charges. County Clerk Julie Freese reminded the Board that people can come look at records with no charge associated with it, it is only when copies are involved that a fee is charged. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to adopt Resolution No. 2023-26 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2023-25 was reviewed as received from the Fremont County Republican Party "Resolution Asking for the Removal of Offensive Books." Commissioner Thomas reiterated that the Library Board is the Governing body for the Library and Director and it is up to them to enact the proper procedures for removal of offensive books. He asked that the Resolution be changed to reflect that. Vice-Chairman Mike Jones, liaison to the Library Board, stated the Library Board is looking at the Book Challenge Policy and Internet Policy. He stated that one of the requirements of the challenge policy is that the person asking for its removal have read the book in its entirety first. He stated that we must trust the policies and procedures that the Library Board has put into place. Commissioner McCarty agreed that the wording is not correct in the Resolution as the Library Board is the governing board and that the procedures put in place by that Board need to be followed. She cannot support the Resolution as written at this time. Commissioner Ron Fabrizius stated the public is frustrated with the Library Board system and asking that things move a little faster. It has taken four months since members of the public started expressing concern with books, he understands that Board is working on it but encouraged them to keep moving along. Vice-Chairman Jones has also expressed his impatience with the Library Board on how long getting their policies and procedures in place is taking, he has stated there are things they can do immediately by looking at the different children's sections and what's currently there. He agreed the concerns stated are legitimate concerns, he's not being complacent but also is not ready to sign the Resolution before them today. Chairman Allen stated he is against pornography being available to children, and agreed the Library Board as governing board need to address the concerns and knows that Commissioner Jones is strongly addressing these concerns with that Board.

The following items were in the Priority Mail: 1) MOVE grant six-month extension request from CWC for the "Development Food Economy Resiliency through Strengthening Regional Food Enterprises" award made December 6, 2022 of \$68,685. CWC requested an extension to spend the remaining \$22,244.85 for cold storage, as the original request for a refrigerated van has been completed. Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve the six-month extension and to expend the remaining \$22,244.85 for cold storage. Motion carried unanimously. 2) MOVE grant six-month extension request from Eagle Bronze, Inc. for their Building Addition" award of \$75,000 made on December 6, 2022. The request stated the concrete work was just completed in November and they finally received the building steel on December 4th. Jennifer McCarty moved, Ron Fabrizius seconded, to approve the six-month extension for Eagle Bronze, Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

The Public Comment period was held.

Wayne Dick read a prepared statement that referenced W.S. 16-4-403 (Wyoming Public Meetings Act) that states public meetings must be conducted so that the public can present. He reminded the Commission they represent 39,000 citizens in the county and stated that the government should not put roadblocks in the way of the public to present their comments.

Joseph Martinez addressed the same issue as Mr. Dick and his concern that the Commission had considered doing away with the public comment period and stated the Commission should encourage it rather than limit it. The people in the audience applauded his speech.

Sheriff Ryan Lee was present for his monthly report.

Coroner Erin Ivie presented a monthly report.

Treatment Courts Director Cassie Murray stated the Court Assisted Supervised Treatment (CAST) program is fully staffed.

Fremont County Fire Warden Craig Haslam informed the Board that he will be retiring as Fremont County Fire Chief effective January 1st. He has held the Fire Warden position for the last 21 years and became the Fire Chief in 1995 and stated that his predecessor also held both positions. He would like to retain his position as Fremont County Fire Warden even though there will be a new Fire Chief named to that position. The Commission took the information under advisement and will set up a meeting with the new Fire Chief to discuss the situation.

Interviews for County-appointed boards were held. Rob Dolcater re-applied for a three-year term on the Fremont County Solid Waste Disposal District Board. Mike Jones moved, Ron Fabrizius seconded, to re-appoint Rob Dolcater to the Solid Waste Disposal District. Motion carried unanimously. Kevin Maynard applied for a three-year term on the Predatory Animal Board. Jennifer McCarty moved, Ron Fabrizius seconded, to appoint Kevin Maynard to the Predatory Animal Board. Motion carried unanimously. Maralyne Middour applied to fill a 2 ½ year vacancy on the Fremont County Historic Preservation Commission. Jennifer McCarty moved, Mike Jones seconded, to appoint Maralyne Middour to the vacancy on the Fremont County Historic Preservation Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer McCarty moved, Ron Fabrizius seconded, to adjourn into Executive Session for personnel. Motion carried unanimously. Mike Jones moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to return to Regular Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Clarence Thomas was absent from the remainder of the meeting.

The following were present to interview for two five-year vacancies on the Fremont County Fair Board: Alexandria Eckhardt, Megan Sims, Tracy Martin, Kourtney Hanger and Trevor Bekken. Following a weighted vote, Mike Jones moved, Ron Fabrizius seconded, to appoint Trevor Bekken and Alexandria Eckhardt to the two positions. Motion carried unanimously.

Civil Attorney Nathan Maxon review two drafts for Public Comment guidelines and will condense the information into one document for review at the next meeting for finalization. An Agenda Request and Meeting Procedure document was also reviewed and will be ready for review at the next meeting also.

There being no further business, Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 4:00 p.m. and reconvene for a Regular Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on December 19, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

A full detailed report (informational only) and the official minutes are posted on Fremont County's website (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