

STATE OF WYOMING)
) ss.
COUNTY OF FREMONT)

LANDER, WYOMING
OFFICE OF THE FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 11, 2023

FULL DETAILED REPORT

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

Mike Jones moved, Ron Fabrizius seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mike Jones moved, Ron Fabrizius seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held April 6, 2023. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was postponed from April 4, 2023 due to a winter storm causing the Courthouse closure.

Mike Jones moved, Ron Fabrizius seconded, to accept the bills for payment. Motion carried unanimously.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ace Hardware-Riverton	Vehicle Maintenance	Materials/Supplies	\$9.17
Alco Inc.	County Buildings	Laundry	\$343.35
Apple Valley Tree & Lawn Care LLC	Road Construction	Tree Trimming	\$11,270.00
Artery Construction Inc.	Transportation	Contract Services	\$6,915.00
Bank of the West	Segregated	Credit Card Charges	\$73,692.12
Bill Jones Plumbing & Heating	County Buildings	Services/Repairs	\$297.42
Bowdel Steven P.	Detention Center	Medical Services	\$2,250.00
Boyle Electric Inc.	County Buildings Detention	Services	\$443.16
Carquest Auto Parts	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts/Supplies	\$20.90
Carroll Septic Service	Transportation	Services	\$150.00
Charter Communications	Computer Services	Internet Service	\$129.98
CMI TECO	Transportation	Parts/Supplies	\$2,077.63
DOWL LLC	Road Construction	Road Surface Management	\$15,017.88
Drug Testing Services LLC	Transportation	Drug Testing Service	\$60.00
Dubois Frontier, The	Support Services	Advertising	\$53.40
Fremont Chevrolet GMC	Capital Asset Acquisitions	Vehicle	\$51,348.00
Fremont Chevrolet GMC	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts/Repairs	\$57.16
Fremont Counseling-Lander	Health & Welfare	Title 25	\$2,850.00
Fremont County Solid Waste	County Buildings Detention	Dump Fees	\$8.00
Fremont Motors - Lander	Capital Asset Acquisitions	Vehicle	\$47,978.76
Fremont Motors - Lander	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts/Supplies	\$4,517.91
Frontier Ambulance LLC	Health & Welfare	Title 25	\$609.23
Gee, Brian	Detention Center	Medical Services	\$5,580.00
Grainger	County Buildings Detention	Materials/Supplies	\$243.81
Hancock, Timothy	County Attorney	Reimburse Expenses	\$28.00
High Plains Power, Inc.	County Buildings	Utility Services	\$1,953.85
Kairos Broadcasting LLC	Transportation	Advertising	\$250.00
Lander, City of	County Buildings	Water/Sewer	\$2,887.24
McAuley, Lindsay	Detention Center	Medical Services	\$1,625.00
Norco Inc.	County Buildings	Supplies	\$2,755.39
Office Shop Inc., The	Computer Services	Maintenance	\$7,530.10
Peterbilt of Wyoming	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts	\$1,129.16
Quadient Inc.	County Attorney	Machine Rental	\$266.52
Reed's Moghaun Office Supply	County Attorney	Office Supplies	\$26.50
RELX, Inc.	County Attorney	Research Subscription	\$694.00
Riverton Physician Practices LLC	Detention Center	Drug Testing	\$430.00
Solterra Engineering Inc.	ARPA Program Grant	Engineering Service	\$1,642.50
State of Wyoming	Transportation	Permit Fee	\$50.00
State of Wyoming - ETS	Segregated	Archives Storage	\$4.90
Superior Industrial Supply & Equip.	Transportation	Supplies/Equipment	\$38,144.98
Sweetwater Aire LLC	County Buildings Detention	Supplies/Parts	\$262.50
Symbol Arts LLC	County Coroner	Badges	\$372.50
Tumbleweed Propane Inc.	County Buildings	Utility Services	\$838.88
T-Y Excavation Inc.	Road Construction	Road Maintenance	\$12,376.34
USPS - Hasler	County Attorney	Postage	\$1,000.00
Verizon Wireless	Computer Services	Cellphone Service	\$166.32
Wolf, Nancy J	Detention Center	Medical Services	\$1,468.75
WY Dept of Transportation	Transportation	Bridge Project	\$45.17

Wyoming Behavioral Institute	Health & Welfare	Title 25	\$3,770.00
Wyoming Dept of Transportation	Segregated	Fuel	\$2,573.58
Wyoming Machinery Co.	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts	\$2,624.62

Mike Jones moved, Ron Fabrizius seconded, to approve a voucher from Natrona County Legal Department in the amount of \$7,785.00 for Title 25 patients. Motion carried unanimously. Mike Jones moved, Ron Fabrizius seconded, to approve a voucher from SageWest Health Care in the amount of \$17,850.00 for Title 25 patients. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items in the Signature File were reviewed: 1) Memorandum of Agreement between Air Force Special Operations Command, 1st Special Operations Wing and Fremont County for Aircraft Landing Zone (taken under advisement pending review by all Commissioners); and 2) Record of Proceedings.

The following items in the Priority Mail were reviewed: 1) Sublette County Commission request for matching contributions from Lincoln, Teton, Park and Fremont in order to apply for a Federal Natural Resource Policy Account grant of \$50,000 to engage in a statistically valid, independent social survey regarding the Bridger-Teton National Forest Plan Revision. Mike Jones moved, Ron Fabrizius seconded, to approve Fremont County's matching contribution of \$2,500. Motion carried unanimously.

The Public Comment period was held. Karen Wetzel expressed appreciation for allowing public comment during each meeting. She reiterated she is not against a new Coroner facility but does not support an autopsy suite. Coroner Ivie is not a forensic pathologist and once Dr. Frost is no longer working for Fremont County, it may set unused until another pathologist can be hired. She stressed she does her own research and has worked in the medical field and felt there are four full time pathologists in the state who can perform autopsies for Fremont County after Dr. Frost is no longer employed.

Sheriff Ryan Lee presented a monthly report. Detention: March bookings totaled 246 (up from 40 in February), with Riverton Police Department booking 138, Fremont County Sheriff's Office 53; Lander Police Department 44, Wyoming Highway Patrol 7, US Marshals Office 3 and Shoshone Police Department 1. Current inmate population is 160 in house and 164 in custody consisting of 116 males, 44 females and 4 juveniles. Fifty-nine inmates are sentenced (40 males, 19 females). Pre-adjudicated inmates total 104 with the highest number from District Court (54%), Riverton Circuit Court (31%); Lander Circuit Court (14%) and Municipal Courts (less than 1%). Staffing vacancies include one nurse and one civilian control position vacancy, and he happily reported all detention deputy positions are filled. Budget considerations at 75% of the fiscal year being elapsed indicate the medical budget is 92% spent, Prisoner Board is 69% spent; however, the overall budget is at 66%. Revenue is at 127% with \$37,000 additional unanticipated revenue being received (holding state and federal prisoners). Emergency Dispatch Center: Staffing is currently down seven positions and temporary, part-time employees total three. The Dispatch Committee has contracts completed with finalization coming soon. There are no budget considerations. Patrol/Enforcement: All positions are fully staffed. Total calls for service this calendar year are 1,570. The Dubois Police Department is operational. New vehicles are coming in from the Capital Revolving Fund purchases over a year ago (six patrol vehicles) and they are still waiting for a jail transport van and a detective vehicle. There are no budget considerations at this time. They are monitoring low elevation flood concerns and have had meetings with the weather service, irrigation districts, etc. to date to keep apprised of the situation. Search and Rescue: Mission count this fiscal year total 28, compared to 2 this time last year (includes one fatality).

Sheriff Lee thanked the Commission for touring their Search and Rescue sites in Lander, Dubois and Riverton as all three sites were requested for LATC funding for new facilities. The Commissioners stated the tour proved very beneficial to them. He joined Coroner Ivie in looking at a potential property and buildings in Riverton that they felt may suit both their needs; however, reported it was not suitable to pursue. He was asked to provide a list of square footage required for each Search and Rescue building location for the Commissioners' information moving forward.

4-H Youth Development Educator Jennifer Matosky presented an update to the Commissioners. Current 4-H Enrollment totals 417 members, 66 volunteers, and 22 clubs in Riverton, Lander, Kinnear, Pavillion, Shoshoni and Dubois. She distributed a list of the current projects and members participating. As of this time, the Cloverbuds (5-7 year olds) number 26 members. She further reviewed a list of upcoming events, with April and May events detailed as follows: Junior Leader sponsored countywide food drive during the months of April and May, Meats Judging Contest in Laramie on April 28-29; 4-H Council Golf

Tournament on May 6 in Lander; Fairgrounds Cleanup on May 13; Beef Clinic on May 20 in Riverton and Camp Smorgasbord on May 30 in Riverton. In closing, she stated they will be submitting a LATC application for funding to purchase a storage trailer.

Commissioner meeting reports were given.

Vice-Chairman Mike Jones discussed several meetings he attended via Zoom with the Wyoming County Commissioners Association and the Bureau of Land Management related to the Greater Sage Grouse Plan Amendments. Former County Commissioner Doug Thompson has been hired by WCCA as a consultant who is also representing the Popo Agie Conservation District. He attended the Elected Officials/Department Heads meeting the previous day where IT Supervisor Kevin Shultz provided an overview of several proposals: Keyless Entry, Security Cameras and TextMyGov. He has concerns with the TextMyGov product which may take a lot of overhead to maintain and feels it bears more conversation. County Clerk Julie Freese stated Shultz is going to send out a survey to the Elected Officials and Department Heads to determine their level of support for each product. She felt a demo on the TextMyGov product would be beneficial and will schedule that for the next meeting.

Youth Services and Treatment Court Supervisor Cassie Murray provided a monthly update. They are seeing an increase in drug and alcohol citations in the youth as well as a lot of marijuana use. The BAC's report high readings in a lot of cases. She will be attending the Riverton City Council meeting that evening to request their annual allocation for youth attending the Day Reporting Center and supervision of juveniles. The Day Reporting Center roster is currently ten boys, all School District #25 students, and they are receiving programs on Suicide Prevention, touring the Job Corps Center, budgeting classes from Wind River Economic Development and Eastern Shoshone Recovery Program is presenting cultural programs and encouraging them to participate in their Youth Summer Programs. The Lander City Council meeting will be attended in the near future. Treatment Courts received \$340 in fees last month. She was able to hire a Therapist who begins April 17th. They will be providing an internship for a Master's Degree student to assist with juveniles. Juvenile Treatment Courts also are receiving similar programs as the Day Reporting Center.

J.R. Oakley, JR Project Management LLC, discussed the furniture for the Circuit Court Remodel Project. Based on the recommendation of the Civil Attorney and County Clerk Freese, who after reviewing state statutes indicating new furniture for capital construction projects must be bid out, the Commissioners requested Oakley bid the furniture project accordingly. Oakley will prepare the Invitation to Bid and get posted on the County Website.

In other business, J.R. Oakley presented a monthly update on the status of ARPA and LATCF projects to date. Replacement windows at the Courthouse is complete with the exception of seven windows (three to be remanufactured due to structural beams that require a different window configuration, four windows incorrectly measured by Anderson Renewal and one window in Circuit Court remodel area to be installed). He has scheduled the paving completion at the South Federal Complex for May 8th with 71 Construction. The Fremont County Youth Camp Solar Project was discussed and he stated license requirements have been completed with Rocky Mountain Power to provide credit for any power transferred to their distribution. The storage batteries, solar panels and switch gear are all ready for installation once weather permits. The Youth Camp Sewer Aeration and Lagoon Upgrade project will be getting bids for early summer work. He has tentatively scheduled June 26-July 7 with 71 Construction for the removal and replacement of the parking lot in front of the Fremont County Courthouse. Employees will be urged to park behind the Courthouse or at the Ambulance Station in order to reserve side streets for customers. A spreadsheet of all projects and their financial snapshot was presented for review.

Library Director Anita Marple was joined by Board member Carrie Johnson and via Zoom Sherry Shelly and John Angst, to provide a restructure proposal and a rehire request. Liaison Jennifer McCarty, absent from the meeting, had earlier expressed her support of the restructure plan being proposed today. Proposed changes to the administrative structure are being recommended after significant budget cuts due to declining revenues in FY 2020 and 2021 and, at that time, was defined as a short-term solution. The proposal is: 1) separate the Library Director and Lander Manager positions, providing the Library system with a full 80 hours of leadership each week. The Lander Library is not gaining an additional staff member, the Director will continue to assist covering Monday evening open hours, Saturday hours in the summer and cover in the event of staff illness or vacation; 2) eliminate the Assistant Director position and restore the Riverton Branch Manager position; and 3) Place the Dubois Branch under the supervision

of the Lander Director with an enhancement to the Dubois Lead Librarian position, supported within the current budget due to the restructure plan; however, the budget cannot accommodate a Dubois Manager position. Mike Jones moved, Ron Fabrizius seconded, to approve the Administrative Restructuring Proposal to separate the Library Director and Lander Manager positions effective June 12, 2023 and to remove the Assistant Director position and restore the Riverton Branch Manager position, effective December 2023. Motion carried unanimously. Mike Jones moved, Ron Fabrizius seconded, to approve the hire of a Lander Manager no earlier than June 1, 2023 at a base salary not to exceed \$41,600. Motion carried unanimously.

Transportation Superintendent Billy Meeks and Lander Supervisor Clyde Winchester gave an update on increased costs for winter maintenance this year, totaling \$111,886.95, not including overtime costs or bills not yet received. Included in the cost was hiring private contractors and equipment (dozer, snow blower) and other items (ice slicer, generator, etc.). The contractor hired for Jeffrey City will be done the end of this week and everything is opened up there with the exception of Ore Road non-winter portion. Atlantic City and South Pass City Roads are all open. Now they are dealing with mud and water, many pipes still frozen, and not sure when they can get a blade on them. They have flagged and put up signage on problem areas. Meeks noted that since December 29th, this past weekend was the first time (except twice) that employees did not have to work on weekends. They have between 800-900 comp time hours on the books, and employees have been given until June 1st to use it or else they will be paid for their time. Commissioner Fabrizius asked that all the road staff be made aware of the Commissioners' appreciation for all they have done this winter to keep our roads open and safe.

Billy Meeks received a request from residents along Pheasant Run to use some of the County's inventory of jersey barriers to place on the south side of the road where flooding has occurred in the past. The Homeowners Association is willing to pay set up costs involved with placing the barriers. Meeks was requested to have them contact local contractors first, and if nothing is available, come back to the County for assistance. Meeks stated the precaution will help save the County roadway.

In closing, Billy Meeks stated he still has one vacant position, Road Maintenance Level 1-3 depending on experience.

County Coroner Erin Ivie presented the 2023 1st Quarter Summary. There have been 78 recorded deaths (45 were Coroner cases or 57%). There were five more cases the 1st quarter of 2023 (45) than this time last year (40). The total number of cases "non-natural" in manner are up significantly at 15 (33%) versus 10 (25%) in 2022. Of those, Accidental deaths is 12, five more than that of 2022 (7); death by Suicide is 1, two less than that of 2022 (3); deaths by Homicide is 2, two more than that of 2022 (0); Motor-Vehicle/Traffic deaths total 3, two less than 2022 (5). There are currently six pending cases waiting on autopsy/toxicology results, so final figures for the 1st quarter may change. Drugs and Alcohol related deaths in the first quarter account for 18% of the Coroner cases, down significantly from the same period in 2022 (27%). Six of the 15 non-natural deaths involved drugs or alcohol (40%), but note that two cases are still pending autopsy or toxicology results. This is slightly less than the same period in 2022, when 4 of 10 non-natural deaths involved drugs or alcohol (44%). Trends: Total case numbers are higher than for the same period last year, and is the highest 1st quarter since 2017. Accidental deaths are up significantly and are not due to motor vehicle crashes. Drug and alcohol related deaths are also trending downward. There have been two fentanyl and two methamphetamine deaths and one Oxycodone death this quarter. There have been no unclaimed decedents this quarter compared to three cases in the first quarter of 2022. Eight autopsies have been completed for Fremont County cases and eight autopsies performed for neighboring counties (Sublette and Carbon 2 each and 4 for Natrona). One is scheduled later in the week for Big Horn County. Two Fremont County cases required outsourced x-ray services at approximately \$2,000/each.

Coroner Ivie was joined by Carbon County Coroner Brittany Nyman who presented a power point regarding her facility and its benefits and uses. Coroner Nyman stated Carbon County has about 85 Coroner cases annually of which 15-20 require autopsies. Her facility is approximately 5,000 square feet and she will provide the total cost of the renovation project to the Commissioners as requested.

Following the adjournment of the meeting, the Commissioners took a tour of the morgue facility in the Courthouse basement and then toured the Circuit Court Remodel project.

There being no further business, Mike Jones moved, Ron Fabrizius seconded, to adjourn the Regular meeting at 11:45 a.m. and reconvene for a Regular Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on April 18, 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 You Tube (Fremont County WY Government).

/s/ LARRY ALLEN, CHAIRMAN
FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

/s/ JULIE A. FREESE, FREMONT COUNTY CLERK AND CLERK OF THE BOARD