

STATE OF WYOMING)
) ss.
 COUNTY OF FREMONT)

LANDER, WYOMING
 OFFICE OF THE FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
 JULY 13, 2021

FULL DETAILED REPORT

The Board of Fremont County Commissioners met in Regular Session at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: Chairman Travis Becker, Vice-Chairman Larry Allen, Jennifer McCarty and Clarence Thomas. Commissioner Mike Jones was absent. County Clerk Julie A. Freese was present.

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

Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 5, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

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

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A & I Distributors	Vehicle Maintenance	Oil/Fluids	\$253.45
American Medical Response	Fremont County Ambulance	Settlement Agreement	\$246,000.00
ANDA Inc	Public Health	Vaccine	\$4,533.31
Artery Construction Inc	1% Gravel Projects	Contract Services	\$550.00
Bank of the West	Inventory	Bulk Fuel	\$31,113.53
Bank of the West Account Analysis	Segregated	Credit Card Purchases	\$77,543.18
Big Horn Water	Investment Pool	Analyzed Charges	\$279.36
Bill Jones Plumbing & Heating	Youth Services	Water Cooler Rental	\$13.00
Charter Communications	Vehicle Maintenance	Supplies/Parts	\$28.56
CMI TECO	Computer Services	Internet Service	\$124.98
Communication Technologies Inc	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts & Supplies	\$7.68
Dave's Asphalt, Inc	Support Services	Maintenance Agreement, Repairs	\$2,961.87
Desert Mountain Corporation	1% Gravel Projects	Contract Service	\$2,200.00
DOWL LLC	Road Construction	Mag Chloride	\$21,448.92
Dubois Telephone Exchange	Road Construction	Engineering	\$1,552.67
Floyd's Truck Center WY	Segregated	Telephone	\$715.73
Freese, Julie	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts	\$404.13
Fremont Broadcasting	County Clerk	Reimbursement	\$5.50
Fremont County Library Riverton	Prevention Program	Radio Advertising	\$800.00
Fremont County Treasurer	Prevention Program	Meeting Room	\$175.00
Fremont Motor Riverton Inc	County Treasurer	Penalty	\$3,761.49
Fremont Motors - Lander	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts/Supplies	\$154.78
Inberg-Miller Engineers	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts/Supplies	\$344.73
Kairos Communications	Road Construction	Engineering	\$1,551.50
Lander Valley Auto Parts	Segregated	County 10 Advertising	\$1,500.00
Lander, City of	Fuel Facility	Parts/Supplies	\$74.05
Martinsen, Jacob	County Buildings	Water & Sewer	\$3,162.57
MHL Systems	Transportation	Reimbursement	\$232.09
Miller, Margaret	Transportation	Parts & Supplies	\$7,738.00
Mountain Dental PC	District Court	Court Appointments	\$487.50
Napa Auto Parts-Riverton	Detention Center	Inmate Medical	\$1,294.00
N-Compliance Safety Services, Inc	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts & Supplies	\$3,375.13
Norco Inc	Transportation	Training	\$5,000.00
Office Shop Inc, The	Segregated	Supplies	\$4,986.51
Palace Pharmacy	Agriculture Department	Repair/Service	\$52.39
Premier Vehicle Installation, Inc.	Detention Center	Inmate Rx's	\$4,177.92
Quadiant Inc	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts/Supplies	\$819.93
R T Communications	Planning	Parcel Shipments	\$12.17
Redwood Toxicology Laboratory	Segregated	Telephone Service	\$542.03
Relentless LLC	Cast	Drug Testing Supplies	\$3,438.50
RELX, Inc.	Prevention Program	Criminal Workshop	\$599.00
Riverton Ranger, Inc	County Attorney	Research Subscription	\$625.00
Rocky Mountain Power	Transportation	Advertising	\$187.20
Rodriguez, Jessica	Segregated	Utilities	\$12,926.87
Secretary of State	Detention Center	Contract Services	\$781.25
Six Robbles', Inc	County Attorney	Notary Fee	\$60.00
Skaggs Companies, Inc	Transportation	Parts	\$30.12
Stoudt, Sally A.	County Sheriff	Uniforms/Supplies	\$6,285.00
Sylvestri Customization	Youth Services	Expense Reimbursement	\$45.85
	Prevention Program	Graphic Design/Social Media	\$6,650.00

County Commissioner Minutes
July 13, 2021

Terrance R. Martin PC	Segregated	Services	\$5,175.00
Tilton, Kathleen	District Court	Court Appointment	\$1,417.50
Traveling Computers	Computer Services	Subscription	\$110.00
Trihydro Corporation	Transportation	Road ELE Replacement	\$10,970.25
US Foods Inc	Detention Center	Inmate Board	\$7,218.30
Verizon Wireless	Segregated	Cell Service	\$1,029.41
Whiting Law, P.C.	District Court	Services	\$2,550.00
Wyoming Waste Systems	County Buildings	Trash Removal	\$2,610.76
Wyonet Inc.	Computer Services	Telephone/Internet	\$7,397.40

Clarence Thomas moved, Larry Allen seconded, to accept a voucher to Wyoming Behavioral Institute in the amount of \$1,508.00 for one Title 25 patient. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items in the Signature File were reviewed: 1) Fremont County Simple Subdivision Regulations (previously approved); 2) Fremont County Quarterly Payroll Verification; and 3) Record of Proceedings. Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded to approve an Agreement among Wyoming Department of Health, Public Health Division, Fremont County WIC Program and Fremont County. Motion carried unanimously. Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve a 2021-2022 Sub Award Agreement between Volunteers of America Northern Rockies and Fremont County for Fremont County Juvenile Justice programs. Motion carried unanimously. Jennifer McCarty moved, Larry Allen seconded, to accept the bid from CMI-TECO for two sanders in the amount of \$26,990.65 each for the Transportation Department with funding through the Capital Revolving Fund. Motion carried unanimously. Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve Resolution No. 2021-20 "Establishing Fire Restrictions in Fremont County." Motion carried unanimously. Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve Resolution No. 2021-19 "Appropriation Resolution". Motion carried unanimously.

The following item in the Priority Mail was reviewed: High Plains Power 22nd Annual Meeting Notice and Proxy vote. No action was taken.

The public comment period was held.

Mr. Fann encouraged the County Commission to appoint Coroner Deputy Erin Ivie to fill the vacancy of Mark Stratmoen upon his retirement. Mr. Fann spoke of his personal tragedy of June 25th and the compassionate and professional care provided by Ivie, and ended with the statement that their family could not have gotten through it without her.

Dr. Frost, Forensic Pathologist for Fremont County, stated that last night he was informed that Erin was not selected as one of the three finalists, and he basically went through five stages of death (disbelief, anger, denial, etc.) Although the Office is an elected position with political connection, it is primarily a professional office. A great deal of responsibility is held in managing the office while supervising death investigations, interpreting law, working with families, etc. and it takes time to pick up these skills which are not received in coroner basic, it takes years of experience. When he came here he was really pleased to find the level of professionalism existing in the office, they are all certified, all experienced, and the office ran smoothly and as a result, he was happy to come and lend assistance. Ivie is one of the most experienced death investigators he has come across in his experience, she is absolutely qualified, possesses years of experience in all dimensions of death investigations, she helps families deal with death with compassion, understanding and professionalism. Needs to be allowed to compete for the position and by not submitting her name as one of the three applicants is a great disservice to Fremont County.

Mark Stratmoen, former Coroner, stated that he wanted to stay out of process of his replacement and let Erin stand on her own merit, but couldn't after all the calls he received from upset people regarding the travesty of the selection process. He expressed several comments: The statutes indicate who is qualified to hold the office and the Commissioners should be presented with names of those to best serve that office. During his terms, he worked hard to make sure the office works within the law, regardless of his or others personal agendas, and some were not pleased by that. He was sworn to uphold the constitution and law and not personal agenda and hoped the next person would do the same. But three men with no experience in Fremont County were the names submitted and not the women with 18 years in the department. The interview process with the Central Committee did not allow her to submit endorsements from agencies in the county. The entire process was disrespected and did not allow the County Commissioners the right to choose the most qualified candidate, it was a personal agenda rather than what is best for the county. The key is who is qualified for the office, if party does not present three who fit your designation of qualified, they did not do their duty and I would think you would not appoint

any of them. If no coroner is selected, state statute says you can assign the duties to the sheriff who would have the authority to appoint deputy coroners until the public can make their own choice in the next election. He strongly urged the Board to reject this attempt and don't feel locked in to selecting one of the three names presented.

Tony Simmers, Coroner Operations Deputy, stated the Central Committee did not submit the most experienced person as one of the three names for consideration and did not have the public's best interest. This is not just an administrative position but is also a commitment to serve the people. He felt the party is only interested in serving their political agenda and he implored the County Commission to not allow politics to enter into their decision to select the most qualified applicant.

Fremont County Museum Central Director Scott Goetz informed the Board of an impending resignation in the Dubois Museum for the Collection Manager position. Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve refilling the position not to exceed the current salary. Motion carried unanimously.

Transportation Department Administrative Secretary Jill Johnson and DOWL Engineer Kasey Jones presented a 71 Construction Change Order No.2. The contractor is requesting an extension until the end of July due to scheduling conflicts on the 8 Mile Road Transverse Ruble Strips project. Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve Changer Order No. 2 extending substantial completion to July 30th. Motion carried unanimously.

Jill Johnson updated the Board on a recent Lander Truck Driver position vacancy. Larry Allen moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve refilling the positon at a salary not to exceed \$33,472. Motion carried unanimously.

W.S. § 18-3-315 "Preparation and publication of annual statements" was reviewed as related to the County Commissioners duty to request a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the county during the preceding twelve months setting forth the source and amount of all receipts and the purpose and the amount of expenditures to be prepared upon reconciliation of all accounts by the county clerk and county treasurer, not later than September 30th. Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to request said statement from the county clerk and county treasurer by the deadline of September 30, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Ryan Lee provided a monthly report by stating bookings in June totaled 140, up from 18 the previous month. Detention: Current inmate population is 185 in house and 189 in custody. Sentencing demographics total 38 sentenced and 147 pre-adjudicated. Currently underway as part of the facility door upgrade is communication systems, door relays, cameras and control mainframe. There are conditional offers for one Cook, one Controller and 4 Deputy Sheriffs. The additional bedding project is proceeding with the reclassification of inmate holding areas with the installation of 14 additional beds. Emergency Dispatch Center June statistics totaled 2,193 calls and 1,554 Emergency 911 calls. Frontier Ambulance continues to assist their agency with radio upgrades and the deployment of MDT/GPS technology for all ambulances with integrated mapping and their agency has cemented an outstanding working relationship with Frontier Ambulance administration and crews. Dispatch: Currently down four positions. Patrol/Enforcement: Fully staffed, there have been 3,900 calls for service this calendar year. Seeing an increase in Opioid abuse and overdose countywide and deputies have been required to administer NARCAN in some instances. Search and Rescue: there have been two missions this fiscal year (compared to 0 this time last year). Out of these missions, air resources were utilized one time, neither mission resulted in any fatality. They are gearing up for a busy summer. Vice-Chairman Allen asked about a Wyolink issue the previous week, and Sheriff Lee noted the analog systems are still in place for instances such as occurred last week, the towers continue to be maintained as a backup system.

Commissioner meeting reports were given.

Commissioner Clarence Thomas stated a meeting has been set with the Wind River Intertribal Council and WRITC Transportation Department on August 3, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. at the Frank B. Wise office in Fort Washakie, at their invitation.

Vice-Chairman Larry Allen attended a monthly Fair Board meeting last week.

Chairman Travis Becker has had one on one discussions with individuals in the upper country and they are happy with the new ambulance provider in the Dubois area, Frontier Ambulance. Priority Ambulance Director of EMS Matthew Behl was present in the audience.

Chief Deputy and Acting County Coroner Erin Ivie provided a monthly report. The number of cases so far in 2021 are 74 (2020 = 67). Case numbers remain ahead of last year with accidental deaths at 21 (2020 = 13) for the same time period. There have been five suicides (2020 = 8). There have been two homicides (2020 = 2). The spike in accidental deaths is still mainly attributed to an increase in vehicular accidents, with 10 so far this year (2020 = 2). Drugs and/or alcohol use continues to be a common factor in a majority of the incidents. The budget total expenditures are estimated at 5% below expectations for fiscal end and will result in approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000 being returned to the General Fund. Their office has completed one unclaimed burial at the Wyoming Life Resource Center (Fremont County Cemetery) in June. Costs were absorbed by the agencies involved. The process took approximately one hour (opening/closing/markings) and is only the second unclaimed burial since the agreement was made with the State of Wyoming in 2019. There have been no indigent burials this year which is attributed to families choosing to do direct burials at their respective cemeteries.

Erin Evie presented a 2021 Mid-Year Summary (as of 7/1/2021). Totals: There have been 176 recorded deaths for Fremont County of which 42% (74) were Coroner cases (2020 = 67). So far for the 1st half of 2021, the total cases “non-natural” in manner is 39% (2020 = 36%); of those: accidental deaths are 21 (2020 = 13); suicide is five (2020 = 8); homicide is two (2020 = 3). There have been 10 vehicular deaths so far in 2021 (2020 = 2), of which seven are drug/alcohol related. The first half of 2020 saw a very low number of traffic fatalities which could be COVID related due to concerns and/or restrictions and as our community returns to its pre-COVID order, it is expected that coroner cases/percentages will reflect numbers that are more in line with pre-COVID years. Drugs and Alcohol: related deaths account for 31% of all Coroner cases (2020 = 31%) and 51% of the non-natural deaths (2020 = 46%). Drugs and/or alcohol confirmed in one of two homicides (toxicology pending in the other case); two of five suicides (40%) and confirmed in 11 of 21 accidental deaths (52%, with three cases pending toxicology). Alcohol remains the number one drug in related deaths (15), Methamphetamine is No. 2 (6) and Cannabis is No. 3 (3). Please note that there are 10 total pending cases for the first half of 2021 and the outcomes may change these totals.

In closing, Erin Ivie read a written statement she had prepared as a result of the Republican Central Committee meeting held the previous evening to interview and select three qualified persons to forward to the Commissioners for their appointment to the office. She was not one of the three names sent to the Commissioners for an interview and selection later in the meeting. In part, her statement began by stating “I feel it necessary to reach out to this community to say how grateful and humbled I am for all the phone calls, social media posts, texts and e-mails I have received in the past few days. Please know to all those who offered love and support, that I will continue to fight for this appointment and, if not given a fair chance, will bring this decision to the voters at the next election.” She further provided eight letters of reference from various agencies in support of her appointment and noted she had not been allowed to distribute at the Committee meeting and further stated the three names submitted were in no way based on merit, experience or qualifications.

Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to adjourn into Executive Session with Chief Civil Deputy Jodi Darrough regarding confidential legal advice. Motion carried unanimously. Larry Allen moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to return to Regular Session. Motion carried unanimously.

County Clerk Julie Freese reviewed the status of the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) process that the Commission asked all departments to provide for all their employees. The Commission extended their deadline for receipt of the information until July 23rd, and formulated what they want to see: 1) A narrative on what you are trying to achieve by explaining your levels and why you are asking for the salaries you are; and 2) return the SOC sent out on each employee and add a column for the requested salary. She is working with staff on finishing up the budget finalization and still working on grant information. The audit FY 2020-2021 audit has been completed and an engagement letter for the current fiscal year will be finalized soon.

Fremont County Wellness Coordinator Penny Fahey gave an update on the program. She will begin participating in the monthly Executive Health Insurance Committee meetings and plan to provide a program update two times a year. She will have a formal report in January as the Premium Reduction Program was moved until the fall and those numbers are not available until then. At this time, 276 employees are participating (employees and some spouses) which is 81% for the program from everybody that is eligible. Disease Management has 79 participants, which is down due to retirements and resignations. The Premium Reduction Program, in its current format, is five years old. Since 2015, we have been submitting data for BMI, waist, cholesterol, blood pressure, and glucose. While the program is new for some, many participants have been participating since the beginning. If interested in receiving a personal report of BMI, weight, waist, blood pressure, cholesterol, and glucose through the years, she can provide that. The report would be interesting to participants, as well as very useful for personal physicians to see (especially if a new doctor is being seen). She is currently working on participant incentives and Wellness program data is currently

being inserted into the SpringBuk program. Beginning in September and through November, she will be visiting departments and individuals to get measurements for the Premium Reduction Program that will be effective in January 2022. Since she started on a contractual basis, she has implemented encrypted e-mail and fax machines for added security of employee data. The recent physical activity challenge had 22 participants.

Pursuant to W.S. 22-16-111(a)(iii), the Republican Central Committee met on July 12, 2021 and interviewed applicants for an appointment to fill the County Coroner vacancy. Following those interviews, the Chairwoman conveyed the results to the County Commissioners that evening and followed up with a formal letter via fax this date which Chairman Becker acknowledged receipt of. The three names submitted did not include the current Deputy Coroner, Erin Ivie. Interviews proceeded with the three applicants as follows:

Larry DeGraw: Current owner of Wind River Investigations and previous experience in law enforcement and as a coroner investigator.

Karl Falken: Two bachelor's degrees in science including basic laboratory and testing training and education.

Dr. Joseph Lucero: Retired Anesthesiologist and U.S. Navy experience.

Following interviews, Vice-Chairman Larry Allen stated his preference to ask the Republican Party to submit a list of three names of more qualified applicants for the appointment. Fellow commissioners agreed and Chairman Becker stated he would send a letter to the Republican Party immediately. He stated this is unchartered water and the Commission has five days to make an appointment, the decision does not need to be made today.

There being no further business, Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 a.m. and reconvene for a Regular Meeting on July 20, 2021. 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/ TRAVIS BECKER, CHAIRMAN
FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

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