

STATE OF WYOMING)
) ss.
COUNTY OF FREMONT)

LANDER, WYOMING
OFFICE OF THE FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 9, 2022

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, Clarence Thomas and Michael Jones. County Clerk Julie A. Freese was present.

Larry Allen moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer McCarty moved, Mike Jones seconded, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on August 1, 2022 and the Regular Meeting held on August 2, 2022. Chairman Becker abstained due to his absence at said meetings. Motion carried.

Jennifer McCarty moved, Larry Allen seconded, to accept the bills for payment. Motion carried unanimously.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
71 Construction	Road Material Inventory	Materials	\$85,587.84
A & I Distributors	Vehicle Maintenance	Oil/Fluids	\$3,361.12
Ace Hardware-Riverton	Segregated	Materials/Supplies	\$108.97
Alamia Inc	County Buildings	Mower	\$13,615.40
AlSCO Inc	County Buildings	Laundry	\$339.72
Anda Inc	Public Health	Vaccine	\$2,851.28
Big Horn Water	Youth Services	Water Bottles	\$40.47
Bloedorn Lumber-Lander	County Buildings	Materials, Supplies	\$522.42
Burden, Dan	County Buildings	Service	\$729.50
Carroll Septic Service	Transportation	Services	\$170.00
Charter Communications	Computer Services	Internet Service	\$129.98
Clear Creek Construction LLC	Road Material Inventory	Contract Service	\$2,340.00
Communication Technologies Inc	Support Services	Maintenance Agreement	\$2,961.87
Coombs, Jefferson B	CAST	Expense Reimbursement	\$445.40
Danyne Cooper Counseling, LLC	CAST	Contractual Services	\$1,000.00
Dealers Electrical Supply	County Buildings	Materials/Supplies	\$103.43
Desert Mountain Corporation	Road Construction	Mag Chloride	\$41,672.16
DOWL LLC	Road Construction	Road Construction	\$25,859.45
Drug Testing Services LLC	Segregated	Drug Testing Service	\$370.00
Dubois Frontier, The	County Commission	Subscription	\$26.00
Dubois Telephone Exchange	County Sheriff	Telephone	\$717.30
Election Systems & Software, Inc	County Elections	Supplies	\$497.87
Electrical Dynamics, Inc	County Buildings	Services/Repairs	\$82.00
Fremont Chevrolet GMC	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts/Repairs	\$47.17
Fremont County Solid Waste	County Buildings	Dump Fees	\$5.00
Fremont Electric Inc	County Buildings	Services	\$708.00
Fremont Motor Riverton Inc	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts/Supplies	\$347.44
Fremont Motors - Lander	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts/Supplies	\$137.60
Grainger	County Buildings	Materials/Supplies	\$312.36
Hasco Industrial Supply	Vehicle Maintenance	Materials/Supplies	\$1,070.03
HDR Engineering Inc	Transportation	Engineering	\$6,101.46
High Plains Power, Inc	County Buildings	Utility Services	\$1,197.01
I. Miller Precision Optical Instruments	County Coroner	Pathology Microscope	\$2,795.00
Inberg-Miller Engineers	Road Construction	Delineator Project	\$643.10
John Deere Financial	Transportation	Materials/Supplies	\$106.21
Kairos Broadcasting LLC	Segregated	Advertising	\$2,600.00
Kessler, Douglas E	Planning	Expense Reimbursement	\$53.10
Lander Senior Citizens Center Inc	Health & Welfare	Allocation	\$10,000.00
Lander Valley Auto Parts	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts/Supplies	\$76.20
Lander, City of	County Buildings	Water & Sewer	\$3,970.69
Larimer County Coroner	County Coroner	Medical Imaging	\$250.00
Mahlum, Zachary Hamilton	District Court	Court Appointment	\$827.81
McKesson Medical Surgical Inc	Segregated	Medical Supplies	\$1,827.39
Medow, Aubrey	Planning	Expense Reimbursement	\$67.50
Napa Auto Parts-Riverton	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts & Supplies	\$4,641.86
Natrona County Sheriff	Detention Center	Conference	\$250.00
NMS Laboratories	County Coroner	Toxicology Services	\$669.00

Norco Inc	County Buildings	Supplies	\$5,963.27
Office Shop Inc, The	Computer Services	Printer Lease	\$155.00
R T Communications	Dispatch Center	Telephone Service	\$444.11
Reed's Moghaun Office Supply	Clerk of District Court	Office Supplies	\$752.02
RELX, Inc.	County Attorney	Research Subscription	\$694.00
Rocky Mountain Power	County Buildings	Utilities	\$11,629.88
Rocky Mountain Window Distributors	County Buildings	Windows	\$147,064.00
Shoshoni, Town of	County Buildings	Water/Sewer	\$70.00
Soule, Sierra	District Court	Court Appointment	\$292.50
Spriggs, Brenda	Youth Services	Expense Reimbursement	\$211.60
Traveling Computers	Computer Services	Computer Supplies/Service	\$1,165.50
T-Y Excavation Inc	Transportation	Road Maintenance	\$3,210.00
Valley Lumber & Supply Co Inc	Transportation	Materials/Supplies	\$117.60
Verizon Wireless	Segregated	Cell Phone Service	\$1,113.15
WY Dept of Health	Health Nurse	4th Qtr Payroll	\$34,841.71
WY Dept of Transportation	Vehicle Maintenance	Tranfer County Plate	\$2.00
Wyoming Behavioral Institute	Health & Welfare	Title 25	\$5,278.00
Wyoming Dept of Transportation	County Commission	Lease-1838 Rendezvous	\$5.00
Wyoming Machinery Co	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts	\$5,321.91
Wyoming Waste Systems	County Buildings	Trash Removal	\$2,921.84
Wyonet Inc.	Computer Services	Telephone/Internet	\$5,075.85

The following items in the Signature File were reviewed: 1) Record of Proceedings. Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve an Approach/Access Application from Dudley Cole for 24 Hall Road and from Andres Arredondo for Willow Creek Road. Motion carried unanimously. Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to accept a bid from Communication Technology, Inc. in the amount of \$58,041.00 for Paging Expansion for Hudson and Lysite through ARPA funding. Motion carried unanimously. Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to accept the low bid from Olson's Auto Body & Towing in the amount of \$1,762.70 for damages to the Emergency Management Coordinator's vehicle due to a hit and run accident. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items in the Priority Mail were reviewed: MOVE Committee recommendation to forward the one applicant applying for ½ percent Economic Development funding to the next quarter for consideration as most of their funding is pending at this time and they will have a better picture several months out. The Board concurred with the recommendation and the applicant will be notified their request will be forwarded to October. The Board acknowledged receipt of \$1,033.44 from Schumacher Law Office on behalf of clients Michael and Stephanie Harris for expenses incurred by Fremont County (advertising, Viewer's Report, etc.) prior to their withdrawal of the Petition to Vacate a Spur of Deer Valley Drive. The Board acknowledged receipt of the LeClair Irrigation District Certificate of Assessment Roll for the Year 2022. A second offer for the North 8th West property in Riverton was acknowledged; however, Chairman Becker stated that the property is under contract and he expects the closing to be held within the next couple of weeks. In the event that does occur, the second offer can be considered.

There was nobody present for the Public Comment period.

Fremont County Library Manager Anita Marple was present. She updated the Board on a retirement of a full-time/benefitted Youth Services Lead Librarian at the Riverton Branch Library and a plan to standardize the 33-hour part-time Library Assistant position at the Riverton Branch to 34-hours, making it the same as the Lander part-time position. Jennifer McCarty moved, Mike Jones seconded, to approve the rehire of the full time Youth Services Lead Librarian at a starting wage of \$16.00/hour. Motion carried unanimously. Jennifer McCarty moved, Larry Allen seconded, to rehire and increase by one hour per week the part-time Library Assistant position at an hourly wage not to exceed \$13.55. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Ryan Lee presented a monthly update. Detention: May bookings totaled 253. Current inmate population as of today is 196 in house and 194 in custody (males – 133; females – 59; juveniles – 2). Sentencing demographics indicate 82 sentenced (52 males; 30 females). Pre-adjudicated inmates total 114). Vacancies include one Cook, two Nurses and four Deputy Sheriffs. Dr. Gee is the new Medical Director. Emergency Dispatch Center: Currently down five positions. Temporary part-time employees total 5. A Statewide Survey indicates Fremont County is ranked as the fourth busiest center in the State of Wyoming with 14,385 Emergency 911 calls received in 2021. Fremont County ranks right behind Sweetwater County, with Natrona County second and Laramie County first out of a total of 33 dispatch centers across Wyoming. For comparison purposes, Laramie County has 28 staff; City of Casper has 21 and Fremont County staffing totals 12. Current starting wage ranks Fremont County 15 out of 30 and

they are working on updating the Standard Occupational Classifications and recommended salary adjustments for discussion in the near future. Patrol/Enforcement: All positions are currently filled, 4,300 calls for service this calendar year. The last vehicle purchased through the Capital Revolving Fund from last year is being picked up today, nine new vehicles are on order through the current fiscal year Capital Revolving Fund authorizations. Search and Rescue: Mission count total for fiscal year 2021-2022 is 24 compared to 36 the previous fiscal year. So far this fiscal year there have been a total of 12 missions.

Discussion continued regarding the Dispatch salaries, and Vice-Chairman who is a member of the State EMS Task Force noted there may be some funding available for Emergency Medical dispatch training and salary adjustments. Sheriff Lee stated all staff are trained to give the emergency medical dispatch information but it is just a very busy place. Commissioner Thomas stated the issues on the Wind River Indian Reservation include non-Indians purchasing property, creating jurisdictional issues. Dual recognition would be helpful as there are 12 officers currently stationed there; however, the WRIR should have 32 officers based on its size and population. Commissioner Jones expressed appreciation to Sheriff Lee and the Dispatch Staff, stating 12 employees to handle the large call volume is impressive, and expressed kudos to all.

County Coroner Larry DeGraw and Deputy Erin Ivie were present for a monthly update. Ivie gave a 2022 Mid-Year Summary (as of 7/1/22): There have been 168 recorded deaths of which 44% were Coroner cases (75). The case load has increased by one for this time period (75 compared to 74 in 2021). So far, for the first half of 2021, the total of cases "non-natural" in manner is 28% of the total Coroner cases (a significant decrease from 39% in 2021 at this time). Of those, the number of Accidental deaths is 15 (six less than this time in 2021); Suicide is 5 (same as this time in 2021); Homicide is 1 (one less than this time in 2021); and Motor-vehicle/Traffic deaths total six so far this year (compared to 10 in 2021). Five of the six deaths are drug/alcohol related; all incidents are single vehicle. There was one pedestrian death. Coroner numbers/percentages are trending more closely in line with pre-COVID (before 2020) numbers. Three of the five Suicides are aged 21 and younger, a disturbing trend so far this year. Drugs and alcohol related deaths for this time frame account for 29% of all Coroner cases (slightly lower than 2021), and 52% of the non-natural deaths (the same in 2021). Drugs and/or alcohol were confirmed in one Homicide, one of the five Suicides (one case pending toxicology), and confirmed in nine of 15 Accidental deaths. Alcohol remains the number one drug in related deaths (14); Methamphetamine is #2 (6); and Cannabis is #3 (3). There are seven total pending cases for the first half of 2022 so the outcomes of those may change these totals.

Commissioner Thomas asked for clarification on several topics he had been hearing about lately. There are currently three employees in the Coroner's Office, all on call 24/7. The office cannot be run with only one person. A physician cannot perform forensic autopsies. Salary levels were discussed for the elected Coroner position, and Coroner DeGraw stated Fremont County is about in the middle salary range. County Clerk Julie Freese distributed a spreadsheet listing all elected officials throughout the state and their salary range for comparison purposes. Deputy Ivie stated that Dr. Fross, Forensic Pathologist, is performing autopsies and that both she and the third employee, Tony Summers, are qualified as autopsy technicians, the only ones in the State. In the future, Dr. Fross may be able to take outside County cases as a revenue opportunity for Fremont County.

Commissioner meeting reports and concerns were given.

Commissioner Jennifer McCarty attended the monthly Weed and Pest Control District meeting, she stated their internship training worked well for them. They have selected a new auditing firm.

Commissioner Thomas asked that a meeting with Wind River Intertribal Council be finalized. He referenced the sirens that inform the public of an emergency (fire, ambulance) but was concerned with contacting the public for another type of emergency. It was discussed that ARPA funding was approved for mass notification system for real time events (medical, threats, weather, closures, etc.) that will hopefully be in place next year to assist in these instances.

Commissioner Mike Jones met with some of the Lyons Valley residents concerning the increased traffic and speed which create safety concerns. The Fremont County Transportation Department is collecting road data at this time as a result. Apparently Google Maps directs traffic that way as a bypass road and a WYDOT representative is assisting the County in getting Google Maps to delist Lyons Valley Road as a bypass road. Commissioner Jones will encourage the Sheriff's Department to increase patrol in the area if possible. The County Transportation Department is also working on additional signage and

Representative Larsen is working with WYDOT for possible signing on the Highway before people turn off onto Lyons Valley Road, indicating it is not a bypass road. Chairman Becker stated the same concerns exist on Missouri Valley Road.

Vice-Chairman Larry Allen stated he checked in occasionally at the Fremont County Fair last week. They had a great turnout at their nightly events, final figures are not available yet but Fair Manager Pat Hart will be making a presentation in the near future. In another matter, he reviewed the Intent to Retire letter from Emergency Management Coordinator Vonda Huish. He will work with her and determine if the current Position Description is up to date. Huish is agreeable to stay until a replacement is hired and trained. Larry Allen moved, Mike Jones seconded, to begin advertising for the vacancy. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Travis Becker has been participating in interviews for a Public Health Nurse Manager and they are close to making an announcement. Christine Kraus continues to serve as the interim Manager. He reiterated the fact that they are close to selling the North 8th West property in Riverton and put the property back into the public sector.

Chief Civil Deputy Jodi Darrough relayed a message she received from Judge Conder who had just been made aware that the Commissioners had voted to close the Courthouse on Primary and General Election days. He wanted to inform the Board that a jury trial is scheduled on Primary Election Day (August 16th) and they would not be able to close the court area of the Courthouse as a result.

Lander Assistant Mayor Rajean Fossen and Chair of the Lander Housing Authority Board Jim Corbett were joined by board members Robert Spengler, Cora Lee Reynolds and Carol Chidsey, to discuss the proposed Table Mountain Living Community. Corbett stated the Housing Authority currently provides management oversight for Pushroot Village, a 47unit complex. Several years ago, a survey was conducted which identified the need for an assisted living facility and the City of Lander dedicated four acres at the end of Bishop Randall Drive for the facility, which will be adjacent to the hospital. The City appointed the Housing Authority Board to oversee the construction and management of the facility. The \$15 million facility has received some funding already thru grants and private fundraising endeavors, and they requested a letter of support from the Commission to assist in seeking additional funding through the USDA Grant/Loan program. The facility will provide 22 assisted living and 18 memory care units. Larry Allen moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve a letter of support to help the Committee move forward with seeking additional funding for the construction of the Table Mountain Living Community. Motion carried unanimously.

County Clerk Julie Freese reviewed a recent News Release she published informing the public that the Fremont County testing and sealing of machines has been completed. The purpose of the exercise is to ensure voting equipment is performing correctly and that the results of the testing machines matches the expected outcomes of the test. The testing was conducted by the County Clerk and two staff members as well as various Democratic and Republican party representatives who assisted with the testing and sealing of all voting equipment to be used at the upcoming Primary Election. In other news, the final training for election judges will be held for the rest of the week on E-Poll Books. Early voting is occurring and absentee ballots are being received. Discussion was held on absentee ballot request forms being mailed to citizens by candidates and she stated their system is in place to catch anybody that has already sent in an absentee ballot or voted early to not be eligible for another ballot. She expressed appreciation for the Commissioner's approval for an additional position in the Election Department on a full time basis. She reviewed the chain of custody log implemented and the secure area for storing the voting equipment. She further thanked the Board for the security cameras that are in place and reminded everybody that anybody can vote at any one of the eight Vote Center locations.

Planning Department Supervisor Steve Baumann presented five subdivision plats for review:

Wilkinson Subdivision is a proposed two lot Simple Subdivision located just off North Hidden Valley Road. It will break a 5.17-acre parcel off their current 380.68 acres of land. This division is the result of probate of the land position owned by the estate of Marvin Thompson. A concern was expressed from an adjacent landowner regarding an easement for a buried irrigation pipeline leading to their property as well as that the location of the lot lines for the subdivision will interrupt the ability to irrigate the field(s) without new piping. The Planning Commission listened to the concerns and noted that a 30' wide irrigation easement had been added to the plat across the Subdivision to the location of the buried pipeline. The Planning Commission also indicated that the lot lines were proposed by the Estate and that

the Planning Commission did not have authority to move them. Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve Wilkinson Subdivision as approved by the Fremont County Planning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Darnall Second Subdivision Lots 10 & 11 Replat was presented. The purpose of the Replat is to follow up on the Partial Vacation of Darnall Road which was approved by the County Commissioners with the condition that Lots 11 and 12 be Replatted to show ownership of the 3,264 square feet of Darnall Road that was vacated. Jennifer McCarty moved, Mike Jones seconded, to approve Darnall Second Subdivision Lots 10 & 11 Replat as recommended by the Fremont County Planning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Wind Drift Estates Subdivision Lots 4 and 5 Replat was presented which is located just south of the Riverton Country Club on the edge of the Wind River. This Replat changes the eastern line between the lots to address the driveway and landscape work that has previously been done, both with and without prior approval, between the lot owners. In order to facilitate the boundary line change, a Variance to the Simple Subdivision Regulations (Chapter III Section 3 (XVI)(a) must take place because the result to Lot 4A will be 0.97 acres, less than the 1.00-acre minimum. Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve the Variance Application to allow Lot 4A to be less than the minimum 1.00-acre size. Voting against the motion: Mike Jones. Motion carried. Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve Wind Drift Estates Subdivision Lots 4 and 5 Replat as recommended by the Fremont County Planning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Orchard Hills Subdivision was presented, a proposed five lot Simple Subdivision located approximately 1.5 miles northwest of Lander off Highway 287 and Longview Lane. Jennifer McCarty moved, Mike Jones seconded, to approve Orchard Hills Subdivision as recommended by the Fremont County Planning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Lander Ranchettes West Subdivision Vacation of Tract 2C was presented. This is a recent division done in 2021 to allow an adjacent landowner to purchase, then vacate the Tract and merge it with other agricultural lands they have in the vicinity. Jennifer McCarty moved, Mike Jones seconded, to approve the Vacation of Tract 2C of the Lander Ranchettes West Subdivision as recommended by the Fremont County Planning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Interim Public Health Nurse Manager Christine Kraus requested authorization to request approval from a State Immunization Grant to purchase a 2023 Chevrolet Traverse. Adequate funding is available in the grant for the vehicle which will transport personnel and vaccines funded by the grant. This will be an addition to the fleet; however, she states that once all positions are filled, the additional vehicle will be necessary. They currently have one vehicle in Lander and two in Riverton. Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to allow the request to the State for the purchase of a 2023 Chevrolet Traverse with funding through the Immunization Grant if approved by the State. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Clarence Thomas issued the following statement for the record: "As District 1 County Commissioner, I express my support of Fremont County Clerk Julie Freese because of her integrity which I have witnessed over the last six years and her knowledge in running elections in Fremont County. The reteric based upon national election fraud does not happen in Fremont County. I support her as she does a wonderful job, she is honest, is of high integrity and she does all she can do to make sure elections are run smoothly. Thank you."

There being no further business, Larry Allen moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to adjourn the Regular meeting at 11:10 a.m. and reconvene for a Regular Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on August 23, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

The Fremont County Board of Equalization convened at 1:30 p.m. with Hearing Examiner John Schumacher presiding.

The following Orders of Dismissal and Vacation of Hearing were reviewed:

Docket No. 2022-04	The Print Shop
Docket No. 2022-07	City of Lander
Docket No. 2022-09	Michael & Kathryn Patterson
Docket No. 2022-10	Ronald Cross
Docket No. 2022-08	Wyoming Catholic College

Docket No. 2022-12 CSI Compresso Leasing

Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve the Orders as presented. Travis Becker abstained from voting on Docket No. 2022-04 -The Print Shop. Motion carried.

Hearing Examiner Schumacher proceeded with Docket No. 2022-03 in the tax appeal of Sutherland Lumber Company of Kansas City LLC. Present via Zoom for the taxpayer was Bill Zornes, Tax Advisor. Joining him but not speaking was Barbara Courtney. Present at the hearing was Chief Civil Deputy Jodi Darrough, Assessor Tara Berg and Senior Appraiser Mike Klaassen.

Following testimony from both parties, the hearing concluded at 3:00 p.m. and the Board of Equalization entered into deliberations. The BOE unanimously voted to uphold the Assessor's valuation as they did not believe the Taxpayer met the burden of presenting sufficient evidence to overturn the assessment. Mr. Schumacher noted the appeal was denied and he would draft an Order for the BOE to sign.

The Board of Equalization adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

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