

At 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, a Department Head meeting was held in the Fremont County Courthouse Boardroom. Present were Vicki Kirkpatrick, Alise Snyder, Dee Owen, Scott Evans, Dustin Sheldon, Clint Blackburn, Jeff Shearer, Clayton Long and Zach Benedict. Topics discussed: Year end, IT, bidding process for concrete repair, tree damage, annual fire alarm testing, Hwy 2/I29 Drainage District, assessor's abstract, recon, and homestead & military, new legislation causing delays in year-end processes, and the hiring freeze still in effect.

The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in a regular session on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, in the Fremont County Courthouse Boardroom, with Clint Blackburn, Dustin Sheldon, and Jeff Shearer present. A quorum was declared, and the meeting was officially called to order at 9:00 a.m. Minutes of the previous board session were read and approved. The agenda was approved as posted.

Let the record show that Troy Gorham, Chris Johnson, Treasurer Alise Snyder, Sheriff Kevin Aistrope, EMC Clayton Long, and Jim Olmsted were present at this meeting.

Jim Olmsted with Olmsted & Perry met with the board regarding the closeout of the Hwy 2/I29 Drainage District Project. He gave the board details about the remaining steps on his end for closeout, this includes the O & M Manual, IDOT tiger dams, and the resolution they offered to a landowner who has issues with the road. The landowner refused the solution offered. The final payment must be held for 30 days. Vice Chairman Sheldon said the board wants the O & M manual completed before the closeout. Olmsted says he expects that within those 30 days that will be done. The board also agreed that they want trustees to be appointed before the closeout as was originally planned. They reminded Olmsted that the county is just a pass-through and isn't responsible for upkeep, levying, etc. The board requested that Attorney Matt Woods come to the next meeting to discuss turning the district over to trustees. After much discussion, Olmsted said he would arrange that.

Motion by Shearer to sign application for Payment No. 11 for the Hwy 2/I29 Drainage District to M-Con for \$148,872.90. Blackburn, aye; Shearer, aye; Sheldon, abstain.

Motion by Shearer to sign application for payment No. 12 with the understanding that it must be held for 30 days for Hwy2/I29 Drainage District to M-Con for \$220,202.77. Blackburn, aye; Shearer, aye; Sheldon, abstain.

Motion by Shearer to approve payment for Olmsted & Perry for Hwy2/I29 Drainage District for \$4,723.54. Blackburn, aye; Shearer, aye; Sheldon, abstain.

Motion by Sheldon to approve the secondary roads union agreement as negotiated. Motion carried unanimously.

Chris Johnson met with the board regarding the purchase of the lot at 809 Ohio Street that is owned by the county. He is in the process of building spec homes. He said the county and cities are losing revenue by tearing down houses and not replacing them. He is building spec homes to replace these homes. He would like to purchase 809 Ohio Street. He said a group tried this about 25 years ago and it fell apart. Johnson said he has taken the lead on this and is trying to get something going. He explained that prisoners at an Iowa Correctional Facility build these houses. He wants to put homes and garages on these lots around the cities. Johnson said it usually takes 4-6 months to get a house once you order and he would like to have a basement in the ground by October. Chairman Blackburn stated the board will put this on for action next week and would work with the county attorney to put this out for public bid.

Motion by Shearer to approve the award of the FY26 audit bid to the current auditing firm Gronewold, Bell, Khynn, & Co. PC. Motion carried unanimously.

Weed Commissioner Troy Gorham discussed progress on his certifications. Vice Chairman Sheldon let him know he has a year to complete his certifications, so there is still plenty of time. Gorham gave an update on what he has been doing around the county regarding noxious weeds.

The lone application for the Civil Service Commission was from Grant Schaaf who is currently on the commission. Motion by Sheldon to reappoint Grant Schaaf to the Civil Service Commission for a term of 4 years. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Alise Snyder met with the board for approval of the semi-annual report. Motion by Shearer to approve the semi-annual report. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Kevin Aistrope met with the board to discuss stipends for sheriff's office employees. He said he is trying to figure out where at, in the budget his former jail administrators' salary is. Auditor Owen told him he prepared his budget with those funds in the salary lines of the employees that had been given stipends. He asked how he would hire a jail administrator if he had to which he didn't anticipate, but what if. Owen said the money is in the budget. He just didn't put it in a lump sum in the jail administrator line. He put it in the other employees' salaries as a stipend. Owen said he would need to forego the stipends if he wanted that full amount in his budget. He said his deputies want their stipends in hourly rate. He questioned where the money was going to come from for the \$2.00/hour shift differential for the two deputy shifts. He discussed the proposal of 10.5-hour shifts and that he isn't sold on the idea. He said that would create more single coverage shifts and callback time than he has now. He pointed out the board's duties by Iowa Code and that they cannot set his schedules. The board advised him that it was put in the CBA open-ended so they could try it if he agreed to it but there was nothing saying it is a definite change. Vice Chairman Sheldon asked if they could use reserves. Sheriff Aistrope said he puts shifts out and many times there is no response to cover them. Chairman Blackburn said he doesn't know the inner workings and that we all must be mindful of the budget regarding the \$2.00/hour shift differential. Aistrope said he is trying his best to watch overtime. He said a lot of it comes from covering a shift, because if he covers it with a full-time, it's time and a half. He said he tries to get reserves first. He said he usually has 2 or 3 called to court and that is overtime. He said he wishes they could talk about cases ahead of time because usually when they show up it's been decided and they weren't needed. Vice Chairman Sheldon gave thoughts on using reserves for shifts and for taking prisoners to court. He wondered if you could make it a requirement to have them do 5 volunteer shifts a year excluding rodeo, maybe fill in some gaps. Aistrope said that is the way they used to come up the ladder. He said there is already a minimum hour requirement in place. He said the Lieutenant is keeping a closer eye on overtime. Chairman Blackburn reiterated that the budget is worse every year and that though money increases, so do expenses. He discussed that in all the meetings and trainings they go to everyone says more than likely counties will have to reduce jobs. Aistrope asked who to contact regarding talks about stipends. Auditor Owen told him it would Tim at Jackson Lewis. Aistrope said he really didn't get an answer on the \$2.00 but that he would move on. He said he meets tomorrow with city attorney Bri O'Hearn at 9:30 a.m. regarding the 28E agreements for law enforcement. He said he sent letters months ago regarding these agreements. She said she tried to get ahold of Attorney Johnson without any response. Aistrope said the board must decide if they are going to cut prices, charge some cities more, some less, or what they want to do. Chairman Blackburn told Aistrope that last week the parties agreed there would be a committee that was going to hash that out. Aistrope said he doesn't think the board can take less money for this. He said that is where he got two of the deputies and that's what they pay for. Sheldon said the issue is what is expected from the deputy, what constitutes their hourly time. The board reminded him this is not on the agenda so they could discuss it at a different time when it is on the agenda. Aistrope said time is of the essence since they are expired. The board said they knew the urgency. They will see what ideas come from the meeting tomorrow and the committee.

In other business, the Recorder's Monthly Report for June was approved.

Claims were approved for July 10, 2026.

At 10:36 a.m., with no further business, Sheldon motioned to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:



Dee Owen, Auditor



Clint Blackburn, Chairman

The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in a special session on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, in the Fremont County Courthouse Boardroom, with Clint Blackburn, Dustin Sheldon, and Jeff Shearer present. A quorum was declared, and the meeting was officially called to order at 9:00 a.m. The agenda was approved as posted.

Let the record show that Jessica Richardson was present at this meeting.

Assistant Auditor Jessica Richardson met with the board to canvass the City of Hamburg Special Election held on July 7, 2026, to fill a vacancy on city council. There were 47 votes cast. Lucas Barrett was the lone city council candidate on the ballot and received 25 votes. There were 22 write-in votes cast. Motion by Sheldon to approve the canvass results of the 2026 City of Hamburg Special Election held on July 7, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

At 9:03 a.m., with no further business, Shearer motioned to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:


Cassie Gilbert, Assistant Auditor


Clint Blackburn, Chairman