

The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in a regular session on Wednesday, July 15, 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 9:02 a.m. Minutes of the previous board session were read and approved. The agenda was approved as posted.

Let the record show that Attorney Peter Johnson, Attorney Matt Woods, Assistant Engineer Robbie Kromminga, Purchasing Agent Drew Bartholomew, Recorder Tarah Berry, EMC Clayton Long, and Jim Olmsted were present at this meeting.

Attorney Matt Woods met with the board to discuss final steps regarding the Hwy 2/I29 Drainage District Project. He spoke to Jim Olmsted with Olmsted & Perry and there is a payment to be sorted out between the contractor and the state. He prepared a memo and presented it to the board early to mid-august final payment from the state. Woods think they can start on some of it even though the final payment isn't here yet. Has petition prepared for required signatures. Need 11 landowners to present to auditors office then he will make a request to set an election to elect a board of trustees, 3 trustees summer or early fall once first election occurs control goes immediately to the trustees, then it will operate themselves. Brief outline approval of the outline and make sure there is no objections while he gets the petition sent out. When final payment is received he will make the board met with the board regarding the closeout of the Hwy 2/I29 Drainage District Project. Election can be held in 40 days once all paperwork is received, the interim will be the BOS but will not be long. Summer to mid-September. 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. Consent of bonding company for final payment from MCon west bend insurance co of west bend Wisconsin. No action was taken on this matter but Woods will disseminate the petition.

Jim Olmsted-Discuss/Action Closeout of Hwy2/I29 Drainage Construction portion of the project can't close due to the payment issue. Doesn't have everything and doesn't want to close out with a pending claim. May have to postpone it again but put it on for next week. Is also working on the O & M. No action was taken on this matter.

The board discussed the county-owned property at 809 Ohio Street in Sidney that was previously discussed last week. County Attorney Peter Johnson said he is working on a resolution declaring surplus property and proposing disposition by public auction by sealed bid for the board to review and take action on. Blackburn asked about having an auction or sealed bids. Attorney Johnson said it is the board's prerogative. Move to proceed with auction style of remediation of property at 809 Ohio.

At 9:19 a.m., Sheriff Kevin Aistrope joined the meeting. The board asked Sheriff Aistrope if he could conduct the auction at 809 Ohio Street. He said he would.

Vice Chairman Sheldon stated his only concern was if Roberts would take him away from SRO duties. Sheriff Aistrope said he has that worked out with the school and it would not. Motion by Shearer to approve the secondary employment applications for Logan Roberts and Dennis Paulson. Motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Peter Johnson met with the board to discuss changes in his employees' wages. One of his employees is getting their paralegal degree. He would like to raise her salary to \$65,000, which is the market rate. These funds are already in his budget after they had a part-time employee leave. It would just be reallocation. Johnson said he also has funds for out-of-county council that he can use. He would also like to keep his rates of pay at market rate. His other part-time employee will also be adjusted to a higher hourly rate. Motion by Sheldon to approve the raises in the county attorney's office. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Shearer to approve the renewal of the Class B Retail Alcohol License for Pilot Travel Center #238. Motion carried unanimously.

Secondary Roads Purchasing Agent Drew Bartholomew met with the board regarding truck purchases for the department. Bartholomew recommends the purchase of the two 2027 Ford F350's from Woodhouse because they will be able to reuse the utility boxes that are on the current 2012 Fords. They will sell those Fords on auction. The bids were as follows:

Woodhouse 2026 Chevy Silverado 3500HD Crew Cab \$51,988.00

Woodhouse 2027 Ford F350 Crew Cab \$57,545.00

Woodhouse 2027 Dodge Ram 3500 Crew Cab \$59,905.00

Wild Rose 2026 Chevy Silverado 3500HD Crew Cab \$57,595.00

Larson Motors 2026 Dodge Ram 3500 Crew Cab \$58,324.00

Larson Motors 2026 F350 Crew Cab \$62,856.00

He reiterated that the lower bids would require the purchase of new utility boxes. Motion by Sheldon to accept recommendations from purchasing agent to accept the bid from Woodhouse for two 2027 Ford F350's for \$57,545 each. Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Engineer Robbie Kromminga met with the board for the signing of the following:

Motion by Shearer to allow Chairman Blackburn to sign IDOT payment voucher with HGM Associates for engineering services for design for 310th Street/J-64 per agreement through 06/30/26 for \$19,560.00. Motion carried unanimously.

The board briefly discussed the item that will be on next week regarding the detour for the roundabout construction.

Sheriff Aistrope briefly spoke to the board and said had reached out to HR and hasn't heard back. Attorney Johnson said that was on him. Johnson talked to HR council and would like to schedule a meeting with a board member, the sheriff, HR counsel, and himself to make sure they are on the same page.

Claims were approved for July 17, 2026.

At 9:40 a.m., with no further business, Shearer motioned to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Dee Owen, Auditor



Clint Blackburn, Chairman