

The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Wednesday, September 2, 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 Engineer Dan Davis, Attorney Peter Johnson, Assessor Vicki Kirkpatrick, Recorder Tarah Berry, Treasurer Alise Snyder, Sheriff Kevin Aistrope, Chief Deputy Tim Bothwell, and EMC Clayton Long were present in the boardroom for this meeting.

At 9:02 a.m., Sheldon made a motion to go into public hearing regarding the authorization of a loan agreement and the issuance of notes to evidence the obligation of the county thereunder. Blackburn, aye; Sheldon, aye; Shearer, aye. Present for this hearing were Engineer Dan Davis, Attorney Peter Johnson, Assessor Vicki Kirkpatrick, Recorder Tarah Berry, Treasurer Alise Snyder, Sheriff Kevin Aistrope, Chief Deputy Tim Bothwell, and EMC Clayton Long. Chairman Blackburn discussed the terms and went over the resolution. He said today's resolution is not approving a loan. It is just giving the board permission to negotiate a loan if they choose. At 9:08 a.m., there being no public comments, Sheldon made a motion to go out of public hearing. Blackburn, aye; Sheldon, aye; Shearer, aye.

Motion made by Shearer to pass Resolution No. 2026-36 instituting proceedings to take additional action for the issuance of not to exceed \$1,240,000 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes. Blackburn, aye; Sheldon, aye; Shearer, aye. Motion carried unanimously. The full text of the resolution is available at the Fremont County Auditor's Office.

Motion by Shearer to approve the payment for the tiger dams for Hwy 2/I-29 Drainage District once the approved IDOT funds are received. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sheldon to change the meeting date from September 16th to September 15th to canvass the Shenandoah School Special Election. Motion carried unanimously.

Engineer Dan Davis met with the board for the signing of the following:

Motion by Sheldon to sign application for approval of underground construction in county ROW for Windstream Iowa Communications for placement of 1700' of aerial fiber optic cable and 4,697' of buried fiber optic cable to a customer at 2810 105th Street, Tabor. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Shearer to rescind Resolution No. 2026-30 declaring 809 Ohio Street, Sidney, IA, as a surplus property and be disposed of by public auction due to a missed publication and to pass a new resolution with new dates. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sheldon to declare the real estate locally known as 809 Ohio Street also known as the West Half (W½) of Lots 1 & 2 in Block N, City of Sidney, Iowa, a surplus property and authorize the chairman to sign a resolution to that effect and set an auction date. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-37

A RESOLUTION DECLARING SURPLUS PROPERTY AND PROPOSING DISPOSITION BY PUBLIC AUCTION

WHEREAS, Fremont County, Iowa, is a municipal corporation existing under the laws of the State of Iowa; and,

WHEREAS, Fremont County, Iowa, owns certain real property locally known as the West Half (W½) of Lots 1 & 2 in Block N, City of Sidney, Iowa, as shown in the attached Plat of Survey and legally described as follows:

West Half (W½) of Lots 1 & 2 in Block N, City of Sidney, Iowa, Fremont County, Iowa, according to the recorded plat thereof.

WHEREAS, Fremont County, Iowa, no longer has use for the land and it should be declared surplus and sold by public auction with all proceeds from the sale deposited in the general fund of Fremont County, Iowa; and

WHEREAS, Fremont County, Iowa, reserves the right to reject all submitted bids if it is determined that it is in the best interest of the County to do so; and THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the above-described real estate is declared surplus property and shall be disposed of by auction to be held September 22nd, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. with a proposed purchase price and detailed proposed use with demonstrated ability to achieve its proposed use.

Passed and approved by the Fremont County Board of Supervisors on September 2, 2026.

ATTEST:

/s/ Dee Owen

/s/ Clint Blackburn, Chairman

aye

Fremont County Auditor

/s/ Dustin Sheldon

aye

/s/ Jeff Shearer

aye

Chief Deputy Tim Bothwell met with the board to discuss the resignation of a deputy from the sheriff's office and to discuss whether they can replace them during the hiring freeze. Bothwell said they are already down one deputy due to deployment. Bothwell said he could at least start the lengthy hiring process and not make an offer until the board approves it. Motion by Sheldon to allow them to only start the application process. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Shearer to approve the secondary employment application for Jacob Degase. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Aistrope met with the board regarding stipends. He thinks they are on the right path but said he had concerns with the unresponsiveness of the HR attorney's office. Chairman Blackburn said they will reach out to HR and get a meeting date set to meet with the union.

Sheriff Aistrope said there is still no movement on the law enforcement 28E contracts. He has not been included by the cities in their talks. Vice-Chairman Sheldon said he spoke to a council member that presented the alternative solution for funding at the meeting on August 12th and none of the examples he had were from Iowa.

Sheriff Aistrope met with the board questioning why a claim to Bateman Tire and Service has not been paid. The claim is \$420.00 for a tire patch and sensor, and for four tires mounted and four sensors. County Attorney Johnson said the question is whether Bateman as an employee can have a contract with the county to provide these services. Chief Deputy Bothwell stated he spoke to the state auditor's office years ago regarding another case. He was told as long as it was under \$6,000 per year it was ok. County Attorney Johnson cited Iowa Code 331.342 that prohibits county officers and employees from having direct or indirect interests in county contracts, with specific exceptions and conditions. He said subsection J allows the \$6,000.00 limit. Attorney Johnson then read aloud the section of the Fremont County Procurement Policy that deals with this issue. It doesn't contain the exception that is in the Iowa Code. Johnson stated that he reviewed claims from Bateman Tire & Auto and snow removal claims for one fiscal year and they were over \$6000 by about \$1,900. Aistrope said there is no one in Tabor that does tire repair anymore. Aistrope said that if he has to call Benefiel's out for a tire, the cost is significantly higher. Johnson said the issue is the contract with the employee should not be valid under procurement policy under the county. He said as far as he knows there was no approval of secondary employment and pointed out that if the board is not going to enforce the procurement policy, they should get rid of it and make one that they will follow. Sheriff Aistrope said that when it comes to snow removal, Bateman Tire and Services will do it as many times as necessary for a fixed amount which is not the case with other providers. Johnson said it has also been brought into question how they are delineating Bateman's time with workman's compensation and other matters. Sheriff Aistrope said he does the work on his off time. Aistrope said he can have jailers scoop sidewalk on duty, but they can't do the whole driveway. Chairman Blackburn said he has multiple complaints and said it needs to be a bid process to justify an employee doing the work. Auditor Owen pointed out to the board that Kris Henneman does snow removal on the parking lot at the courthouse so that will need to be put out for bid as well. Supervisor Shearer questioned costs differences between Farragut Oil and Bateman Tire and Service. He asked why Bateman Tire and Service seem to put new sensors on every time. Aistrope said sensors go bad frequently because of the way the vehicles are used. Attorney Johnson said the issue is whether or not the county can contract with Bateman Tire and Service to provide services. Johnson said it has nothing to do with Bateman but that we need to apply the policy to everyone. He said if you have the policy, it needs to be enforced. It cannot be selective enforcement. Johnson said there are caveats to that. He understands if a business is the closest to get a repair when needed it makes sense, but the tire sensors are not right. He said it is the duty of the board to go through claims, and they noticed the sensor repair and thought "what's the deal?" Supervisor Shearer said he went through old claims, and the excess sensors weren't always billed like they are now from Bateman Tire and Service. Johnson said in his research sensors have a 6-10-year life. Supervisor Sheldon said he talked to multiple mechanics, including certified mechanics, and the sensors should not be going bad at the rate they are. Sheriff Aistrope said he thinks that is correct. Johnson said there have been 29 claims for sensors since 2023. Aistrope said he wouldn't use him anymore. Blackburn said there are two things going on and (a.) is quality and charges and (b.) is policy. Blackburn said policy, whether they knew or not, now needs to be enforced. Sheldon said there is a gray area on whether they are an employee or someone being in business for themselves. He cited examples. Sheldon asked if they can legally pay for the services. Johnson said he believes the board must pay for the services and materials because they have been provided but it can't be ongoing. Johnson said it has to be in the best interest of county funds. Blackburn recapped the meeting saying from here we don't pay any more claims and that we are looking and seeing who is contracting with the county. He said now that it has been brought to light, the board can approve claim next week and the board will be enforcing the procurement policy from this date

forward. Aistrophe asked for clarification and if he should bid it and give it to one person or what he should do. Blackburn said they need documentation to show it is in the best interest of the county and to know there is extra scrutiny about timing making sure it is not on clock. He said he has had no less than 30 people voice concerns to him about it. Blackburn said if Aistrophe chooses to go down that route, he needs to be overly cautious. Aistrophe said he would look into the sensors. Aistrophe discussed calling someone out to change tires because the deputies can't do it themselves. Chief Deputy Bothwell said it is very hard to get the spare out because of all the equipment in the back of their cars. After much discussion, the invoice in question will be paid next week.

Rebecca Greenway with Northland Securities stopped in to visit with the board regarding the landfill funding. She said they are trying to finalize terms. She said there will be two separate hearings before they can issue so there is time. The issue now is trying to determine whether it will be 10 or 15 years. She said if the landfill can do it, 10 years would be best because there would be better interest. She said she has put out feelers for bids. She said 4.75% is reasonable but it could teeter up to 5%. Chairman Blackburn said the 28E doesn't have the language about the transfer station. The board discussed that they need to get it in writing that they are making a transfer station, so it doesn't seem so up in the air. Greenway said she would be in touch.

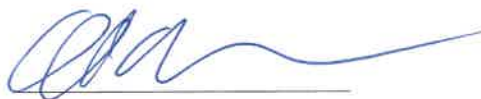
Sheriff Aistrophe added regarding the previous issue that he knows where the confusion about the talk about \$6,000 came from. He said he bets it is because he was using calendar year instead of fiscal year. Attorney Johnson cited that the Code states fiscal year.

Claims were approved for September 4, 2026.

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

At 10:25 a.m., with no further business, Shearer motioned to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:


Dee Owen, Auditor
Clint Blackburn, Chairman