

The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Wednesday, September 23, 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 Recorder Tarah Berry, Sheriff Kevin Aistrope, Engineer Dan Davis, Assistant Engineer Robbie Kromminga, and Andy Hansen were present in the boardroom for this meeting.

Motion made by Sheldon to approve the renewal of the Class B Retail Alcohol License for Cubby's. Motion carried unanimously.

Regarding the chief deputy stipend, Auditor Owen said that, last she heard from the county attorney, he was working on the MOU but was contacting HR counsel regarding a resolution for the stipend. Motion by Shearer to table action on the stipend for the chief deputy. Motion carried unanimously.

The board discussed a resolution directing the acceptance of a proposal to purchase \$1,240,000.00 (amount subject to change) General Obligation Capital Loan Notes, Series 2026. Motion by Sheldon to allow Chairman Blackburn to sign Resolution No. 2026-38 directing the acceptance of a proposal to purchase \$1,240,000.00 (amount subject to change) General Obligation Capital Loan Notes, Series 2026. Motion carried unanimously. The full text of the resolution is available in the auditor's office.

Motion by Shearer to approve Resolution No. 2026-39 declaring an official intent under Treasury Regulation 1.150-2 to issue debt to reimburse the County for certain original expenditures paid in connection with specified projects for the Fremont County Landfill. Motion carried unanimously. The full text of the resolution is available in the auditor's office.

Dominique Sherrod with Diversified Capital Benefits Group Insurance (DCBG) met with the board to discuss numbers for new benefits and savings plan called Amaze Health. He presented initial numbers if every person enrolled in the program. He said 80 employees qualified for the plan. He said if the board went with this program, the employees could choose what they want to opt for, not costing the employee anything. He said it doesn't affect take-home pay, but the tax savings are there. He said you will see the deduction from Manhattan Life. He said some employees barely qualify, but he wouldn't sell them anything else. Sherrod said the savings feed directly back into their paycheck. He said this program qualifies for 213D savings to promote a healthier workforce. He said the government doesn't mind giving you a tax break if you are taking care of yourself. Chairman Blackburn asked him to check back. Sherrod said, although he has worked with the county before, he would come back closer to March. Then he will have more business under his belt. Blackburn said he would like to see it live, and Sherrod said he will bring examples and Chad (who had previously presented the program) when he comes back.

Sheriff Kevin Aistrope met with the board regarding policies and procedures. He said for a couple of years now, Lt. Owen and Sgt. Wake have been working on a policy and procedure manual for the office. He said they have taken snapshots from various counties to get the best policies to fit their group. Sheriff Aistrope said he doesn't want to implement something unless an attorney looks at it. He said he found an ICAP attorney that works on these. He is working on one from Eastern Iowa now. He presented the board with a contract to look over that he got from the attorney. He said it is a long contract, but there is no retainer. He said the attorney charges \$175 per hour, but again, he wants to make sure they do the policies right. He said they will send what they worked on so far and get his blessing but reiterated they need up-to-date policies. Aistrope guessed that it may cost around \$5,000 or less and stated there was another company that wanted \$27,000. He said that having those two (Owen and Wake) get a rough draft, they won't have to pay that much here. He stated the attorney does a lot of other stuff but said we don't need that. He said if we ever change HR, they do that. Chairman Blackburn asked if there was a manual that we can get from another department. Aistrope said they did use other departments to make one because it must fit our small department. Sheldon questioned if ICAP needs to be part of the contract. He questioned if ICAP does get a case and they pay legal fees, is ICAP going to cover it if they aren't involved? He said ICAP there for our protection. Sheldon said that whether something happened civilly or criminally, ICAP would still be involved. Sheriff Aistrope said the attorney is not representing us; they are just revising our policies. Blackburn said he does believe the policies and procedures need to be refined. Aistrope said when they did jail policies, the Sheriff's Association helped. The board asked Aistrope to contact ICAP and get their approval.

Auditor Dee Owen asked the board if she could hire part-time help in her office during election time, if needed. Her election deputy is out of the office until December, and this is an extremely busy time. She also has another special election in December to prepare for. She has part-time wages built into her budget and would not need additional funds. Motion by Sheldon to approve part-time help for her office, if needed. Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Engineer Robbie Kromminga met with the board regarding increased roles and responsibilities for his position as assistant. He said with Dan leaving in a little over a month, his duties are increasing significantly. Davis said if no one shows up, Robbie will take care of zoning information. He said maybe they could get someone like Mills County Engineer Jacob Ferro to sign important things that come up, for instance, payroll and other stuff. Davis said Kromminga could send items up and get them back without him even coming down. Davis said that (zoning) and the floodplain are the biggest things they get requests on. Davis said he got an increase when he started doing zoning. He said business has picked up, and they still have 2-3 times a week with someone needing more than just a phone call; they have to do some other things. He said zoning has to be done, and most engineers aren't doing it anymore. He told the board that is something they will have to look at if they want the new engineer doing it when they come in. He said he has a little over 30 days to see. Kromminga said the ad is on Indeed. Vice Chairman Sheldon discussed sharing with Mills County with one of their supervisors in passing. Davis said the easiest is reciprocity, and it used to be the assistant who took care of legwork, and it was the engineer signing, then submitting to DOT. Sheldon said changing roles and responsibilities may be counterproductive if the new hire has those skills. The board said they would like to get with Mills County and see what it would look like. No action was taken on this item.

The board discussed bids received at yesterday's auction for 809 Ohio Street. Chris Johnson was the only bidder. He started the bid at \$3000. Chairman Blackburn said that was what other lots around town have gone for. He told Johnson he thought in good faith the board would accept that bid. Blackburn said Attorney Johnson will prepare a contract with a 30-day close. Motion by Shearer to accept the bid for \$3,000 from Chris Johnson for 809 Ohio Street. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Claims were approved for September 25, 2026.

At 9:58 a.m., with no further business, Sheldon motioned to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:


Dee Owen, Auditor


Clint Blackburn, Chairman