The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Wednesday, October 28, 2026, in the Fremont County Courthouse Boardroom, with Clint Blackburn, Jeff Shearer, and Dustin Sheldon were 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, Assessor Vicki Kirkpatrick, Recorder Tarah Berry, Treasurer Alise Snyder, Justin Shirley, John Martin, Andy Hansen and County Attorney Peter Johnson were present in the boardroom for this meeting. Sheriff Kevin Aistrope came into the meeting at 9:13a.m.

Supervisor Shearer said that equal representation of the county needs to be done and would like to see the Supervisors be put into districts to represent the citizens from those districts. Shearer mentioned that the board has the right to make districts without having a special election. Blackburn said the state would have to get involved and the GIS would have to be done for the districts. Sheldon mentioned that it would be costly and the state can do the districts how they want. Shearer said it is split up by population; Sheldon came back with yes its by population, but the state can still divide the county up how they want to base on population, it won't be split how we would like it. Treasurer Alsie Snyder stated as a taxpayer I want to be a voice in how/who I can vote to be on the board. Shearer stated there are 3 plans that can be looked at for the voters. Blackburn said with him being a taxpayer he leans towards letting the people vote on the redistricting. Blackburn stated it should go to a special election but hate to see the expense for it but the people need to speak about what they want. Blackburn says he respects Shearer's reasoning on why he wants the districts. But the supervisors should not be able to vote on this, just the three of them. Sheldon raised the question of having land in other districts, but they can't vote for that person in that district because they don't live in that district. Assessor Vicki Kirkpatrick raised the question about not even having candidates for the district and what would happen there. Shearer said I do not believe that would happen there are over 6000 residents in this county. Sheldon mentioned when it comes down to it, I am against having the districts. Blackburn said that Shearer and Sheldon both made valid points on the pros and cons. Shearer said that he has talked to over 100 residents that are wanting the redistricting, only people that he have been against are the people in this room.
Shearer made a motion to select alternative supervisor district plan under Iowa Code Sec 331.206. Shearer aye, Blackburn nay, Sheldon nay. Motion did not pass.
Shearer will bring information to the board for special election requirements and redistricting.

Engineer Dan Davis met with the board for the following:
Motion by Sheldon to allow Chairman Blackburn sign application for approval of underground construction in county ROW for MidAmerican Energy Co for installation of 1-phase poles and 1-phase cable to extend facilities to a new home on 330th Avenue 3.5 miles from Randolph. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Shearer to allow Chairman Blackburn sign IDOT payment voucher with HGM Associates for engineering services for FM-CO36(83) - - 55-36 per agreement through October 15, 2026. For the cost of $24,906. Motion carried unanimously.

John Martin met with the board to discuss a request to change his Level B Road to Level A. As a Level B road the residents and the County would share the cost for putting rock on the road. Martin mentioned that there were two other families on the road also. Sheldon said if it is Level B and Davis wants to move it to a Level A he has no problem with it. Shearer wants to know what we exactly need to do gravel the whole road or gravel part of the road. Davis said it has been a level B road for the whole time. Sheldon would like to know what the cost is per year to maintain a mile of gravel. Davis said we wouldn't have to rock it every year but just maintain it and the cost wouldn't be that much. Blackburn said what happens if we do it this time how many other residents would be coming in to change their road to get rock on it. Davis mentioned it isn't our county reasonability to rock a dirt road that residents decided to build on. Blackburn mentioned that if they go half on the rock does the county still have to do the upkeep on the gravel. Davis mentioned no it still stays a level B road only way to get it to change is to update the road to Level A for the county to have upkeep on the gravel. Sheldon said that we talk about people leaving and coming back and building homes and if they want to build it on a dirt road and they are requesting to update the road. This is how we have residents come to our county to build houses. Shearer said that if there is over 457 miles of gravel road maybe they should have built the house on a gravel road not a dirt road. Blackburn said that there needs to be a site visit on this to see what the road looks like and if it needs to be rock. Martin says Southwest IA REC says they use that road all the time to fix the box that is at the end of the road. Blackburn says everyone has made valid points, but we need to go look at the road to make sure that everything will go as says. Shearer asked who decides this, does the engineer decide or the supervisors. Davis says he does not have a problem with it but there does need to be a policy change when they are able to change the level of a road.

Sheldon said this is Davis's last meeting we just want to Thank you for being with the county and doing this thankless job.

Sheriff Kevin Aistrope met with the board to discuss a policies and procedures manual again. Aistrope has the updates that the County Attorney and the outside council talked about. Johnson spoke with the outside council about the policies and procedures and wanted to make sure we weren't overlapping legal coverage with the county and with the Sheriff's office. This policy will protect things that are not under the policies that we have in place right now. Johnson encourages the board to engage with the private lawyer that is retained by ISAC. Blackburn said that this is something that needs to be done since the world is ever changing and we need more protection. Blackburn asked if Aistrope had it in his budget if we were in need to use the outside council. The amount is by the hour for paying Shearer asked if we approve it can we put in a cap for how much they spend. Aistrope mentioned if they could put the cap in $10,000.
Motion by Shearer to approve the policies and procedures for a cap of $10,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Before approving this part-time hire. Blackburn asked if this was the previous employee that went through the academy and the county paid for it for him to quit 6 months later. Blackburn asked if there was any way that we can update the contract for new deputies that the county puts through the academy where the new employee has to be employed by the Fremont County Sheriff's office for a set amount of time. Sheldon stated why should we hire him back when he has left already he has doubts on if he wanted to be a deputy. Shearer said this could be a solution for the 28E agreement for the cities. Blackburn said no because he is just as needed, he won't have set hours. Blackburn and Shearer both agree that the employment retention for when an employee goes through the academy needs to be on the agenda later on and get that in part of the discussion. Shearer states if this will save on overtime and then he doesn't have a problem with it.

Motion by Shearer to approve Resolution No. 2026-44 for a new part-time deputy hiring for the sheriff's office. Motion carried unanimously.
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-44
BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Fremont County Board of Supervisors this 28th day of October, 2026, that the following individual shall be approved as a Part-Time Deputy for the Fremont County Sheriff's Department, as requested by Fremont County Sheriff Kevin Aistrope. The effective date of employment shall be October 30, 2026:
Dalian Melgoza Part-Time Deputy
Motion was made by Shearer
Attest:

/s/ Cassie Gilbert	/s/ Clint Blackburn, Chairman	aye
Fremont County Assistant Auditor	/s/ Dustin Sheldon	aye
	/s/ Jeff Shearer	aye

The board discussed the claim for Meier Repair again. Blackburn said that has been brought to his attention the green 2002 dodge with a bill pay of July 1. Blackburn mentioned that work was for some June/July work and the complaint from the citizen was that is has been down at Tradesmen since March or April. With that confirmation the dates don't match up with the invoices that was sent to the Auditor's office. Aistrope said that Randy isn't good at dates and it was at Meier's before it went to Tradesman. Blackburn asked Aistrope if Batemans and Meiers were both working on vehicles during March-July. Aistrope confirmed that he had both mechanic shops working on vehicles. Aistrope said they changed the mechanic up because he thought Tradesmen could get it done and had more expertise. Blackburn said that he needs clarification made on the dates. You can't have a date he was working on it and then be at a different mechanic shop. Aistrope mentioned that he will reach out to Meier and get the specific date. Aistrope mentioned Meier probably just put the date on when he was working on the invoices. Aistrope wanted to know if he had to come back for this matter on the agenda. Sheldon mentioned that he should have an invoice for the shaft that he ordered to prove the date was back in March/April like Aistrope said. Aistrope said we can't be discriminating against just one shop owner. Aistrope said we need to ask for invoices for the parts used on the equipment for every job done to prove the date. Blackburn said that we had multiple complaints from the public on this one with the dates not matching up with what is on the company's invoice so we need them to confirm the dates so we are able to pay this invoice.

Vicki Kirkpatrick, Assessor, wanted to discuss the updating of the zoning regulations for the county. Kirkpatrick spoke with Dan Davis about updating or zone regulations and mentioned about reaching out to SWIFT Co or another company. Johnson said that his office is working on trying to get the zoning regulations in a readable format. Kirkpatrick has problem right now with a split that came through it doesn't meet the 2 net acres for the county's policy right now. Kirkpatrick would like to keep that 2 net acres as a split requirement. And see it more enforced than just a verbale confirmation from the engineer. Kirkpatrick wishes to

see a form filled out stating that it was approved for her office and the Auditor's office as well. Kirkpatrick is asking about the tiny homes and how they do zoning/ordinances on those. Kirkpatrick wishes to see the tiny homes updated into the zoning procedures. Kirkpatrick said they had a landowner put in a tiny home on their property without any permits issued.

Assistant Auditor Cassie Gilbert presented the board with tax statements to be abated for property owned by the United States Corps. The United States Corp will be responsible for paying 15 days on the tax statements. Parcels are 020020271000000, 020020027090000, 020020704000000,020020027010000, 020020027000000, 020020024030000, 020020024040000, 020020024110000, 020020024020000, 020020024010000, 020020024000000, 240240617000000, 24024017010000, 240240615000000, 240240614000000, 240240616000000, 240240619010000, 020020026020000, and 020020024070000. Motion by Shearer to approve the abatement of taxes for the properties listed and United States Corp to pay 15days of taxes. Treasurer shall enter such change orders required to abate these taxes. Sheldon abstain. Shearer Aye Blackburn Aye

The board discussed a potential 28E Sharing Agreement with Mills County for a county engineer. Blackburn and Johnson attended the Mills County board meeting. Blackburn spoke with them about keeping the county's legal obligation going as normal. Mills County said they would help with sharing the engineer. Johnson and DeShawn, Mills County Attorney, are working through all the details. Johnson said the terms for sharing Mills County Engineer would be a 90-day term. Johnson said that special meeting will need to be called by Friday since that is Davis's last day and we need the agreement place. The 28E agreement in short states the hours required and the tracking of hours for each county. Blackburn said that Mills County wanted to know if this is long term or short term. Blackburn hopes that it is just a 90-day term and there could be longer issues if we needed them for a longer period. Sheldon says if we do look into a long-term relationship with Mills County, we could then look into a Zoning Administrator job as long as an Assistant Engineer job also. No Action can be taken on this matter due to not having the 28E agreement in person or even done. Johnson recommends setting a meeting for Friday October 30th to approve the 28E agreement. Blackburn set a time for Friday October 30th at 9a.m to look over the 28E agreement from Mills County. Motion by Shearer to table the 28E Agreement for sharing of County Engineer. Motion carried unanimously.
Motion by Shearer to schedule a special meeting on October 30th, 2026, for the 28E agreement for sharing County Engineer with Mills County. Motion carried unanimously.

Andy Hansen Fremont County resident spoke in public comment. Hansen looked over the October 4th board minutes that were published in the paper. And was concerned about what was said about Tabor paying $10,000 dollars a month for services from Mills County and that the board got misinformation for that amount. Hansen just wanted to clarify that Tabor's temporary 28E agreement with Mills County Sheriff's Office is $1498.21 per month for coverage and the total $17978.50 annual. Shirley also spoke about what Tabor is paying Mills County, and it was way lower than what Sidney was paying to Fremont County Sheriff's Office. The information Shirley gave was Sidney is at $108.66 per capita, and Hamburg is at $130 per capita, and Malvern is at $19 per capita for their new agreement. Tabor is at $20.50 per capita in their new agreement. Shirley says point stands its not even close to be what other counties are paying around us. Aistrope said there are other counties paying around or more than the cities are now. Shirley said that he hasn't been able to find anything closer, closest that he has found is $66. Aistrope said the amount charged per city came from years ago when the cities wanted a deputy that was kind of a full-time person on duty. Aistrope agrees that the 28E agreement needs more work, and it needs to be clarified. Hansen says there is nothing wrong with questioning things like the claim that was questioned either and there should be nothing wrong with asking for more information. Aistrope stated that he got his information of $10,000 that was stated in the Oct 4th mins from Bri O'Hearn, attorney working on the 28E agreements for the cities. Shirley said he got the Tabor 28E agreement from her as well and he didn't see those numbers in the agreement anywhere. Sheldon mentioned that something needs to be done because nothing has been done since he went to Shenandoah to meet with her over this matter. Aistrope mentioned that Bri O'Hearn sent him a draft of an agreement to get them through the end of the year. And he forwarded it to Johnson. Johnson mentioned that he has never received that email from Aistrope. Blackburn says that no action can be done about any of these topics since it is just public comment. Shirley says is just disheartening to see that Tabor had to go out of county since they are a carbon copy of Sidney, Tabor is paying under $18,000 annual and Sidney is over $112,000 annual for police coverage.

Claims were approved for October 30, 2026.

At 10:45 a.m., with no further business, Shearer moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.
ATTEST:

Cassie Gilbert, Assistant Auditor

Clint Blackburn, Chairman

The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in special session on Friday, October 30, 2026, in the Fremont County Courthouse Boardroom, with Jeff Shearer present in the boardroom. Clint Blackburn and Dustin Sheldon were present by telephone. A quorum was declared, and the meeting was officially called to order at 9:08 a.m. Minutes of the previous board session were read and approved. The agenda was approved as posted.

Let the record show that no one from the public was present in the boardroom for this meeting.

The board discussed a 28E agreement with Mills County for a shared engineer. This would be for 90 days until something could be worked out. Auditor Owen asked if there was enough money in the engineer's budget to withstand a payout, the 28E agreement, and hiring a new engineer. The board said they thought there was. Blackburn said Ferro told Dan he didn't want to be down here a lot. Blackburn said this is a moving target, and for now they just need to get legal obligations covered and keep operating within parameters. At 9:22 a.m., Engineer Dan Davis joined the meeting. He said the Mills County Engineer would be able to DocuSign a lot, and his days in the office would be limited. He said the office could get things for him to sign and take them to him. Davis thought as a guess maybe ½ day to one day a week, and that would not be all at one time. He said Assistant Engineer Kromminga can handle a lot of things and can go to Ferro or the board with questions. On a side note, Davis told the board they have decided to let J64. He said the three top bidders were all pretty close. He said there was about $800,000 for just 3 items of construction. He said that was not going to change because of prices of things right now. He said they would use more farm-to-market money to cover that. At 9:15 a.m., Chairman Blackburn called Deshawn Bird-Sell, the Mills County Attorney, to see if they could wait to act on this on Monday. He had no luck contacting her. At 9:37 a.m., Attorney Peter Johnson joined the meeting by telephone. He discussed that he had a shortened version of the 28E prepared for the initial approval. He said this could be amended later. At 9:43 a.m., Johnson joined the meeting in person. Blackburn said that the county can terminate within 30 days if they need to. Johnson read aloud the highlights of the shortened version of the agreement, including duties set out in Iowa Code Section 309 and IDOT requirements. He continued to read that there was no minimum number of hours and Mills County comes first unless there is an emergency. He read that Mills County is responsible for benefits, and the engineer is not an employee of Fremont County. He said that Fremont will pay Mills County a flat fee of $7500/month for services and that fee is the entire cost of mileage, benefits, etc. He read that Fremont County pays bond and consultant fees and keeps sole authority of the 5-year road budget and staff. He said this is a term of up to 90 days and can be terminated by either county with written notice 30 days in advance. He read that the agreement ends on the date they appoint an engineer. Blackburn stated that he believes they are meeting legal obligations and it is actually a discounted rate for now because it is less than Davis's salary. He reiterated there is a 30-day exit plan, if needed. After much discussion, motion by Blackburn to approve the 28E for interim engineer services with Mills County for $7500 per month for 90 days with no set hours. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Shearer to vest the power of the Mills County Engineer to satisfy the statutory requirements of the Fremont County Engineer at the close of business on October 30, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Johnson said he wanted to put the zoning administrator position on the board's radar. He said it doesn't automatically go to the engineer, and they don't necessarily go together. He said they need to be aware of it. Motion by Shearer to table any action on a zoning administrator appointment. Motion carried unanimously.

At 10:01 a.m., with no further business, Shearer moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.
ATTEST:

Dee Owen, Auditor

Clint Blackburn, Chairman