

The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, in the Fremont County Courthouse Boardroom, with Clint Blackburn and Dustin Sheldon present. Let the record show Jeff Shearer was present by telephone. A quorum was declared, and the meeting was officially called to order at 9:00 a.m. The agenda was approved as posted. Minutes of the previous board session were read and approved.

Let the record show that Assistant Engineer Robbie Kromminga, Treasurer Alise Snyder, Recorder Tarah Berry, Katelyn Murtfeld, and Sheriff Kevin Aistrope were present at this meeting.

Engineer Robbie Kromminga met with the board for the following:

Motion by Sheldon to allow Chairman Blackburn to sign IDOT payment voucher for HGM Associates for engineering/surveying services for FEMA projects L-40 and L-31 per agreement through November 30, 2025, for \$8260.22. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Shearer to allow Chairman Blackburn to sign IDOT payment voucher for HGM Associates for engineering services for preliminary design for 310th Street/J-64 per agreement through November 30, 2025, for \$11,317.50. Motion carried unanimously.

The board discussed closing early on Christmas Eve. Shearer mentioned having the elected officials stay and keep their offices open instead of their employees staying. Treasurer Alise Snyder mentioned she wouldn't be able to do that due to prior engagements. Blackburn decided to leave it up to the elected officials. Snyder said the DOT is closed on the 24th, 25th, and 26th, so they will have no support. Recorder Tarah Berry also agreed she would not have any help from the DNR on those days. Blackburn stated that if the courthouse closes early, then other departments, like the sheriff and roads, will want compensation. Sheldon agreed to leave it up to the elected officials. Blackburn doesn't believe we should officially close; we should still offer some services. Snyder stated that the treasurer's office is closing at 3 pm on Christmas Eve. Motion by Sheldon to leave the closing early on Christmas Eve up to the department heads in their own office. Motion carried unanimously.

Katelyn Murtfeld with Fremont/Mills County Public Health met with the board for the signing of two documents. This is to provide help with substance abuse in Fremont County. Resilient Recovery Counseling is out of Villisca; Richard Mullen has a vast area he can help the county with, with the use of Opioid money. The goal would be to start this program on January 1st. The billing would be month-to-month. So, if you need to terminate the contract, you wouldn't be out the full amount of the contract of \$18,000. Katelyn also mentioned that she and her staff could learn from Richard and then carry on his services when he is not in Fremont County. Katelyn also mentioned that other grants could also pay for this contract. Aistrope asked if he could come to the sheriff's office and help the inmates for a couple of hours when he is visiting Fremont County.

Motion by Sheldon to approve Resolution No. 2025-44 for the Fremont County Opioid Settlement Assignment Memorandum of Understanding with Resilient Recovery Counseling. This is to provide help with substance abuse in Fremont County. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Shearer to approve the collaboration agreement with Resilient Recovery Coaching to allocate Opioid Settlement Dollars. Motion carried unanimously.

At 9:12 a.m., Wendy Mueller with West Central Community Action met with the board by telephone regarding the funding for FY26. She started by thanking the board for its support. They are requesting \$3,500.00 for FY26, the same as last year. Mueller went over the client's demographic information. They helped 229 households made up of 502 individuals in 2025. They helped with Head Start, childcare resources and referrals, child and adult food care program, Embrace Iowa, I Care – Black Hills Cares Assistance, Family Development and Self-Sufficiency Program, and the food pantry. The food pantry served 123 households in 2025. They provided \$513,376.00 total dollars for services in Fremont County in FY25. Mueller said their outreach office is now located at 705 Indiana Street in Sidney. Sheldon thanked Wendi and her staff for doing an amazing job with everything they are doing with the program. After thanks from the board, motion by Shearer to approve the budget allocation of \$3,500.00 for FY26. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Kevin Aistrope met with the board regarding his Jail Administrator Position and a Lieutenant Position at his office. Aistrope would like to revamp the Sheriff's office staff. Aistrope mentioned Carol Rands is retiring. He wants the board to be aware that he isn't asking for more money rather wants to reallocate his funds. He wants to put most of the jail administrator's

duties to Chief Deputy Bothwell and move part of the Chief Deputy's duties to a Lieutenant position. Then, some of the jail administrator jobs will be put on some of the other employees. Aistrophe said he talked to Jack Reed with INCS about this, and he was okay with him doing this. Aistrophe mentioned he can't eliminate the position because of union reasons, but just wants to unfund the position. Sheldon's only concern is that we are adding another leadership position. Sheldon stated this, in turn, makes the Lieutenant's salary come from a percentage of the Sheriff's salary. He said that when the board increases the Sheriff's salary, the Lieutenant's salary will essentially go up by a percentage. The funds left over from the jail administrator position will be shifted over to the Lieutenant position. Aistrophe mentioned that the Chief Deputy job is more of a jail administrator position most of the time. Sheldon asked how the jail administrator's salary would be disbursed. Aistrophe said it would be a stipend to the other employees' salaries who are taking over some of their duties. Sheldon would like to know what employees are taking over, what jobs and what stipends they are getting if this is passed. Blackburn stated that by doing this, it will save the county \$12,000 for insurance and other amounts for IPERS. Aistrophe informed the board that the Chief Deputy would not be receiving a raise due to some of his duties being split between the Lieutenant and then him taking over as jail administrator. Motion by Sheldon to disperse the jail administrator duties and distribute the jail administration duties to qualified staff through a stipend. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Sheldon to add a Lieutenant position in the chain of command in the Sheriff's Office. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Shearer to approve the following Resolution 2025-45 naming holidays for 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-45

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Fremont County Board of Supervisors this 17th day of December, 2025, that the following holidays shall be observed by the Fremont County Courthouse Offices for the year 2026.

New Year's Day	Thursday	January 1, 2026
President's Day	Monday	February 16, 2026
Good Friday	Friday	April 3, 2026
Memorial Day	Monday	May 25, 2026
Independence Day	Friday	July 3, 2026
Labor Day	Monday	September 7, 2026
Veteran's Day	Wednesday	November 11, 2026
Thanksgiving	(Thurs. & Fri.)	November 26 & 27, 2026
Christmas	(Thurs. & Fri.)	December 24 & 25, 2026

Motion by Shearer and carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

/s/ Cassie Gilbert

Fremont County Assistant Auditor

/s/ Clint Blackburn

aye

/s/ Dustin Sheldon

aye

/s/ Jeff Shearer

aye

Claims were approved for December 19, 2025.

At 9:45 a.m., with no further business, Shearer motioned to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:



Cassie Gilbert, Assistant Auditor



Clint Blackburn, Chairman