

The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in special session to reorganize for 2026 on Friday, January 2, 2026, in the Fremont County Courthouse Boardroom, with Clint Blackburn and Dustin Sheldon present. Let the record show that Jeff Shearer was not present for this meeting. A quorum was declared, and the meeting officially called to order at 9:06 a.m. Minutes of the previous board session were read and approved. The agenda was approved as posted.

Let the records show that Assistant Engineer Robbie Kromminga was present for this meeting.

The board approved the following resolutions to reorganize the board for 2026:

Motion by Sheldon to approve Resolution No. 2026-1 setting board chairman and vice-chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-1

WHEREAS, motion was made by Sheldon to appoint Clint Blackburn as Board Chairman and Dustin Sheldon as Board Vice-Chairman.

WHEREAS, the Board Chairman may make motions and vote as any other member of the Board.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Fremont County Board of Supervisors this 2nd day of January 2026, that Supervisor Blackburn is appointed Board Chairman and Supervisor Sheldon is appointed to the position of Vice-Chairman.

ATTEST:

/s/ Dee Owen
Fremont County Auditor

/s/ Clint Blackburn, Chairman aye
/s/ Dustin Sheldon aye

Motion by Sheldon to approve Resolution No. 2026-2 for board committees. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-2

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Fremont County Board of Supervisors this 2nd day of January, 2026, that the 2026 committee appointments are as follows:

Supervisor Sheldon – Welcome Center Board, West Central Development, Landfill Commission, Local Emergency Response, Southwest Iowa Juvenile Emergency Services Board, Loess Hills Alliance, and Safety Committee.

Supervisor Blackburn – DECAT Board, DHS Service Advisory Board, Emergency Management Commission, Zion Recovery Board, Fourth Judicial District 28E Board, Board of Health, Corner Counties Early Childhood, Workforce Development, East & West Nishnabotna WMA, and REAP Commission.

Supervisor Shearer – Waubonsie Mental Health, Tourism Board, Loess Hills Authority, Hungry Canyons Authority, Hungry Canyons Alliance, Southwest Iowa Transit, Southwest Iowa Planning Council, SCIA, Regional Planning Affiliate Board, and Local Emergency Response.

Balckburn, Sheldon, and Shearer appointed to E911 Board with one vote.

Motion was made by Sheldon to keep appointments the same.

ATTEST:

/s/ Dee Owen
Fremont County Auditor

/s/ Clint Blackburn, Chairman aye
/s/ Dustin Sheldon aye

Motion by Sheldon to approve Resolution No. 2026-3 setting meeting dates and times. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-3

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Fremont County Board of Supervisors this 2nd day of January 2026, that the Board will hold its regular meetings on Wednesday of each week in the office of the Fremont County Courthouse, Sidney, Iowa, commencing at 9:00 a.m. until business is concluded. Meetings for 2026 will begin on January 8, 2026.

Motion made by Sheldon.

ATTEST:

/s/ Dee Owen
Fremont County Auditor

/s/ Clint Blackburn, Chairman aye
/s/ Dustin Sheldon aye

Motion by Blackburn to approve Resolution No. 2026-4 for official newspapers. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-4

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Fremont County Board of Supervisors this 2nd day of January 2026, that the Fremont-Mills Leader-Beacon and The Hamburg Reporter be designated as the County's official newspapers for 2026.

Motion to approve made by Blackburn.

ATTEST:

/s/ Dee Owen
Fremont County Auditor

/s/ Clint Blackburn, Chairman aye
/s/ Dustin Sheldon aye

Motion by Blackburn to approve Resolution No. 2026-5 for eminent domain commission. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-5

RESOLUTION APPOINTING EMINENT DOMAIN COMPENSATION COMMISSION

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Fremont County Board of Supervisors this 2nd day of January 2026, that the following persons are appointed as members of the Eminent Domain Compensation Commission for the year 2026.

PROPERTY VALUE OCCUPATION: Chris Johnson, Sidney, IA 51652, Karen Berry, Sidney, IA 51652, Phil Worcester, Sidney, IA 51652, Nicholas Clark, Tabor, IA 51653, Cindy Gregg, Hamburg, IA 51640, Kendra Johnson, Farragut, IA 51639,

Jay Longinaker, Randolph, IA 51649. REAL ESTATE: Denise Hammer, Tabor, IA 51653, Cory Gordon, Randolph, IA 51649, Dan Holliman, Hamburg, IA 51640, Nancy Vanatta, Sidney, IA 51652, Jenna Gregory, Sidney, IA 51652, Janell McIntyre, Farragut, IA 51639, Doug Shirley, Sidney, IA 51652. CITY PROPERTY OWNERS: Staci Shearer, Farragut, IA 51639, Rita Lorimor, Sidney, IA 51652, Alan Dovel, Hamburg, IA 51640, Tina Apperson, Hamburg, IA 51640, Kristin Blackburn, Tabor, IA, 51653 Brendon Hardy, Sidney, IA 51652, Paul Hutt, Sidney, IA 51652. FARMERS: John Askew, Thurman, IA 51654, Bob Benton, Tabor, IA 51653, H. Frances Lorimor, Sidney, IA 51652, Dave Roberts, Sidney, IA 51652, Pat Sheldon, Percival, IA 51648, Steve Lorimor, Farragut, IA 51639, Justin Ewalt, Sidney, IA 51652.

Motion to approve made by Blackburn.

ATTEST:

/s/ Dee Owen
Fremont County Auditor

/s/ Clint Blackburn, Chairman aye
/s/ Dustin Sheldon aye

Motion by Sheldon to approve Resolution No. 2026-6 authorizing the auditor to issue warrants for payment. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-6

Authorization of County Auditor to Issue Warrants

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Fremont County, Iowa, hereby authorize the Fremont County Auditor, Dee Owen, to issue warrants for fixed charges including, but not limited to freight, postage, utilities, telephone service, contractual services, insurance premiums, and invoices allowing discounts. Any prepayment of civil service fees submitted by the County Attorney's Office or County Sheriff's Office and emergency general assistance claims. These claims shall be audited and allowed at the next regular claim date. The County Auditor is further authorized to issue warrants for salaries and payrolls as approved by the Board of Supervisors, all according to Section 331.506 of the Code of Iowa.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fremont County Board of Supervisors adopt the Resolution - Authorization of County Auditor to Issue Warrants for 2026.

ATTEST:

/s/ Dee Owen
Fremont County Auditor

/s/ Clint Blackburn, Chairman aye
/s/ Dustin Sheldon aye

Motion by Sheldon to reappoint Randy Moyer as weed commissioner for 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sheldon to reappoint Kelli Woltemath, D.O., as medical examiner for 2026 and David Owen and John Travis as medical investigators for 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Sheldon to set the mileage rate at \$.70 per mile, effective January 1, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sheldon to approve Resolution No. 2026-7 to reappoint staff of the Fremont County Auditor. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-7

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Fremont County Board of Supervisors this 2nd day of January 2026, that the following individuals shall be approved as staff for the Office of the Fremont County Auditor, as requested by Fremont County Auditor Dee Owen. The effective date of appointment shall be January 2nd, 2026: Cassie Gilbert – Assistant Auditor; Jessica Richardson – Assistant Auditor; Paige Stoaks – Assistant Auditor.

Motion made by Blackburn.

ATTEST:

/s/ Dee Owen
Fremont County Auditor

/s/ Clint Blackburn, Chairman aye
/s/ Dustin Sheldon aye

Motion by Sheldon to approve Resolution No. 2026-8 to reappoint staff of the Fremont County Sheriff. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-8

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Fremont County Board of Supervisors this 2nd day of January, 2026, that the following individuals shall be approved as Deputies for the Fremont County Sheriff's Department, as requested by Fremont County Sheriff Kevin Aistrop. The effective date of employment shall be January 1, 2025: Timothy Bothwell - Chief Deputy, Steven Owen – Lieutenant, Andrew Wake – Sergeant, Ashton Luke -- Sergeant, Mitchell Bowden – Deputy, Logan Roberts – Deputy/SRO, Jake Degase – Deputy, Dennis Paulson – Deputy, Dalian Melgoza – Deputy. Motion was made by Sheldon.

ATTEST:

/s/ Dee Owen
Fremont County Auditor

/s/ Clint Blackburn, Chairman aye
/s/ Dustin Sheldon aye

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

Motion by Sheldon to sign IDOT payment vouchers for HGM Associates for Engineering services for FM-CO36(83) -- 55-36 per agreement through 12/15/2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sheldon to sign IDOT payment voucher for HGM Associates for engineering services for BROS-CO36(95) -- 8J-36 per agreement through 12/15/2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sheldon to appoint Chairman Blackburn as an alternate for SWIPCO Policy Council. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sheldon to reappoint Susan Shepherd as the economic and business development representative for SWIPCO Policy Council. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Blackburn to table action on signing application for Payment No. #4 for the HWY 2/I-29 Drainage District. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Blackburn to table action to approve payment for Woods Tucker, PLLC, for legal services for the HWY 2/I-29 Drainage District. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Blackburn to table action to approve payment for Houston Engineering for professional services for the HWY 2/I-29 Drainage District. Motion carried unanimously.

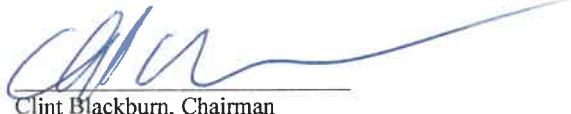
Claims were approved for January 2, 2026.

At 9:30 a.m., with no further business, Sheldon motioned to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:



Dee Owen, Auditor



Clint Blackburn, Chairman

The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Wednesday, January 7, 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 records show that Treasurer Alise Snyder, Jim Olmsted, and Attorney Peter Johnson were present for this meeting.

Motion by Shearer to sign the application for Payment No. #4 for the HWY 2/I-29 Drainage District. Blackburn, aye; Shearer, aye; Sheldon, abstain.

Motion by Shearer to approve payment for Woods Tucker, PLLC for legal services for the HWY 2/I-29 Drainage District. Blackburn, aye; Shearer, aye; Sheldon, aye.

Motion by Shearer to approve payment for Houston Engineering for professional services for the HWY 2/I-29 Drainage District. Blackburn, aye; Shearer, aye; Sheldon, aye.

Treasurer Alise Snyder met with the board for the approval of the semi-annual report. Motion by Sheldon to approve the semi-annual report. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Sheldon to allow Chairman Blackburn to sign the following Resolution 2026-9. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-9

CONSTRUCTION EVALUATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Iowa Code section 459.304(3) sets out the procedure if a board of supervisors wishes to adopt a "construction evaluation resolution" relating to the construction of a confinement feeding operation structure; and

WHEREAS, only counties that have adopted a construction evaluation resolution can submit to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) an adopted recommendation to approve or disapprove a construction permit application regarding a proposed confinement feeding operation structure; and

WHEREAS, only counties that have adopted a construction evaluation resolution and submitted an adopted recommendation may contest the DNR's decision regarding a specific application; and

WHEREAS, by adopting a construction evaluation resolution the board of supervisors agrees to evaluate every construction permit application for a proposed confinement feeding operation structure received by the board of supervisors between February 1, 2026, and January 31, 2027, and submit an adopted recommendation regarding that application to the DNR; and

WHEREAS, the board of supervisors must conduct an evaluation of every construction permit application using the master matrix created in Iowa Code section 459.305, but the board's recommendation to the DNR may be based on the final score on the master matrix or may be based on reasons other than the final score on the master matrix;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF FREMONT COUNTY that the Board of Supervisors hereby adopts this construction evaluation resolution pursuant to Iowa Code section 459.304(3).

/s/ Clint Blackburn

Chair, Board of Supervisors

January 7, 2026

ATTEST:

/s/ Cassie Gilbert

County Assistant Auditor

January 7, 2026

Jim Olmsted with Olmsted & Perry Engineering met with the board to update them on the Hwy 2/I-29 Drainage District Project. Jim talked to the contractor and the inspector and they said that the sand core portion is about 75% complete. They did have a little problem with the geotechnical people, but they did get that all figured out. The construction hasn't started east of the interstate yet but that should not be a problem since it is a small bit of the project. Olmsted mentioned they will have to wait till late spring to do the seeding for the levee. Olmsted said they were having a problem with REA, Atchison Holt electrical, stating that the company will not move any wires without getting paid. Olmsted said they have a solution they will be sharing the underground wiring fees with the Western Electric Company. Olmsted said they got started a month late, but they are making up for it as much as they can. The key factor is to get it done so the construction company is not in the way of the farmers this spring. Blackburn asked about the local contractors and the payment aspect. Blackburn has received calls and complaints about the local contractors working on the project that they are not getting paid. Blackburn asked Olmsted to see what was going on with the payments to the local contractors.

At 9:32 a.m., motion by Blackburn to recess until Jack Reed with INCS can call in. Motion carried unanimously.

At 9:41 a.m., motion by Sheldon to go back into regular session. Motion carried unanimously

Motion by Blackburn to table the discussion of New Law RE: Drug & Alcohol Training. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Blackburn to table Union Negotiations-Closed Session Under 20.17(3). Motion carried unanimously.

In other business, the Recorder's Monthly Report was approved for December 2025.

Claims were approved for January 9, 2026.

At 9:42 a.m., with no further business, Shearer motioned to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:



Cassie Gilbert, Assistant Auditor



Clint Blackburn, Chairman

At 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, a Department Head meeting was held in the Fremont County Courthouse Boardroom. Present were Dee Owen, Alise Snyder, Mark Stockstell, Scott Evans, Tarah Berry, Jeff Shearer, Clint Blackburn, and Zach Benedict. Topics discussed: update firewall security, revisiting software issues, upcoming budget meetings, upcoming ISAC Conference, and legislative proposals.

The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, in the Fremont County Courthouse Boardroom, with Clint Blackburn, Dustin Sheldon and Jeff Shearer present. A quorum was declared, and the meeting 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 records show that Evyn Perry, Treasurer Alise Snyder, Recorder Tarah Berry, and Attorney Peter Johnson were present for this meeting.

Jack Reed with INCS met with the board to discuss a new law regarding drug and alcohol training. Several law changes regarding drug and alcohol training have been passed, so Reed recommends updating the policy. These law changes primarily pertain to secondary roads and CDL requirements. Reed has sent the training to Secondary Roads for the supervisors to hand out to the right personnel. Reed had an attorney provide the required training for the updated law changes for drug and alcohol for Secondary Roads. This will require making changes in the County handbook. Reed mentioned that with these changes and the other changes we have added in the past, we need to do a new handbook, looking for an effective date on July 1, 2026.

At 9:09a.m., motion by Sheldon to go into closed session pursuant to Iowa Code 20.17(3) to discuss union negotiations. Vote: Blackburn, aye: Sheldon, aye; Shearer, aye. At 9:09 a.m., the board went into closed session. Roll call: Chairman Clint Blackburn, Vice Chairman Dustin Sheldon, Member Jeff Shearer, Jack Reed HR by telephone, Assistant Auditor Cassie Gilbert and Attorney Peter Johnson.

At 9:19 a.m., motion by Blackburn to go out of closed session. Vote: Blackburn, aye; Sheldon, aye: Shearer, aye.

Evyn Perry with Jackson Lewis, PC, met with the board to discuss HR services. Perry gave information about what his law firm handles and a general rundown about everything his firm has handled. Perry says his goal is to help Fremont County with everything they need to get things running smoothly and efficiently. Perry says the dynamic and the relationship with the Unions need to be changed, and he can help with that. Perry says our job and duty is to make Fremont County a safe place to live and affordable, and our job is to make needless spending come to a stop and to have a good relationship with the Union. As a national firm, we do work with counties on rates, and we want this to work well. The reasoning for this relationship not to work won't be due to the cost. Perry stated the whole point of having an effective handbook/rule in place is to make the supervisor accountable for all their employees and hold them to the handbook. Jackson Lewis, PC, is a nationally known name, and when the Union sees it or any other lawyer sees the name, they will recognize we mean business. Perry stated in the long run he wants Jackson Lewis PC to have a good relationship with the Unions, and then in turn the Unions have good relations with the County. Blackburn states we need to be all on the same page with handling the employees the same, handbook and with the Union. Shearer asked how the contract works and if it is month-to-month, year-to-year. Perry mentioned that he would like it to be a sit-down conversation because he doesn't want it to fail because of the cost. Blackburn states that the county needs to do something with our HR services. Sheldon agrees that something needs to be done and decided on, and cost needs to be a factor also. Sheldon mentioned that Jackson Lewis PC could offer a flat rate right at first. Recorder Tarah Berry mentioned she liked Jackson Lewis PC because it is a national firm and it has encountered so many situations. Attorney Peter Johnson said that the Union will get a very strong sense that we mean business and we are going to take this seriously if we go with Jackson Lewis PC. Johnson mentioned that Jackson Lewis PC will work efficiently and effectively because their name is at stake. Blackburn asked what the next step would be. Sheldon mentioned requesting a formal itemized cost breakdown from Jackson Lewis PC and then table the HR Services. Blackburn asked Johnson to check out the contract for our current HR representation. Motion by Sheldon to table the HR Services till next week. The motion carried unanimously.

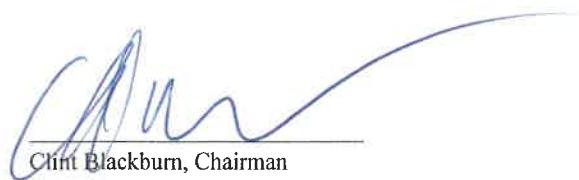
In other business, the Sheriff's Monthly Report for December was approved.

Claims were approved for January 16, 2026.

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

ATTEST:

Cassie Gilbert, Assistant Auditor



Clint Blackburn, Chairman

The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, in the Fremont County Courthouse Boardroom, with Clint Blackburn, Dustin Sheldon, and Jeff Shearer present. A quorum was declared, and the meeting 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 records show that Assistant Engineer Robbie Kromminga, Treasurer Alise Snyder, and Recorder Tarah Berry were present for this meeting.

Assistant Engineer Robbie Kromminga met with the board for the signing of 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 repairs per agreement dated November 9, 2020, for \$5,262.07. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Shearer to allow Chairman Blackburn to sign IDOT payment voucher for HGM Associates for engineering services for BRS-CO36(92) -- 60-36 per agreement through December 31, 2025, for \$1,736.67. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sheldon 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 December 31, 2025, for \$7,545. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sheldon to table payment to Atchison-Holt Electric Company for three-phase utility relocations on Hwy 2/I-29 Drainage District. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sheldon to table payment for Western Contracting for single-phase relocation on Hwy 2/I-29 Drainage District. Motion carried unanimously.

At 9:26 a.m., Attorney Peter Johnson joined the meeting.

The board discussed HR services. The board asked Attorney Johnson what he found out about the current contract with INCS. He said it is simple, but it does state we need to notify if we don't want to renew. There is nothing in the contract about early termination. Johnson said it is paid quarterly, and the board may be able to contact him to let him know that they are interested in early termination and possibly avoid paying the last quarter. Sheldon questioned whether we could pay him for the last part of the contract if we aren't using his services. He asked if there was any breach of contract liability. Johnson said if they decide to pay him, it is in some respect a settlement for the breach of contract. He said if they pay for it, it is not illegal, but the board would need to explain that they have to have the services they need. He said we have to comply with the contract or leave the contract early. Johnson said the contract is silent on how to terminate early. Sheldon said he believes they need to ethically terminate him to let him know they intend to him the last quarter payment and move on. Sheldon said he doesn't want a gap in services provided. Auditor Owen asked how it affects current active issues. Sheldon said it sounds like we are waiting for a decision on one. Johnson explained that though INCS represents us, the information is owned by the county. Sheldon said he has enough of a grasp on how he wants to move forward. Sheldon asked if it should be a closed session. Johnson said this was contract performance, not employee performance. Sheldon welcomes opinions on Ahlers & Cooney because he was not there when they were in the meeting. Blackburn said he liked Jackson Lewis because they are held to a higher standard, and we would not have to wait for days for a response. Blackburn would like to try to reduce the cost of \$28,000. Motion by Shearer to not renew the existing contract with Jack Reed INCS and to engage in services and union negotiations with Jackson Lewis, PC. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sheldon to enter into negotiations for the early termination of the contract with INCS/Jack Reed. Motion carried unanimously.

Claims were approved for January 23, 2026.

At 10:12 a.m., with no further business, Sheldon motioned to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:



Dee Owen

Dee Owen, Auditor



Clint Blackburn

Clint Blackburn, Chairman