The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in a regular session on Wednesday, July 1, 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 Assistant Engineer Robbie Kromminga, Bri O'Hearn, Devin Juel, Ruth Connell, Justin Shirley, Zach Euler, Connor Shields, EMC Clayton Long, Jim Olmsted, and Andy and Darrin Hanson were present at this meeting. Wes Mayberry was present by telephone. Bri O'Hearn, Treasurer Alise Snyder, and Recorder Tarah Berry joined the meeting shortly after the start.

Assistant Engineer Robbie Kromminga met with the board for the following:
Wes Mayberry with the IDOT called to discuss the IDOT's detour route for next summer's roundabout construction. Mayberry explained the plan for the roundabout. He said it would be closed for roughly 60 days. It would be Highway 59 to 250th Street, then 370th Avenue to Highway 2. Shearer asked if Mayberry drove the route. Mayberry said his traffic tech drove it. Shearer asked why they are not driving through Page County on their paved roads. Shearer also said that when school gets out, it will be a nightmare. Mayberry said that is why the project is from June 1 through August 1 to avoid school. Mayberry said the City of Shenandoah also contacted them about the detour. They want it on the north side of Shenandoah on J32 down M41. Shearer asked if he had spoken to the City of Farragut. Mayberry said he is attending the July 9th Farragut City Council meeting to see what they and mayor want to do. Motion by Shearer to table until the meeting on the 15th after Farragut has their city council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sheldon to allow Chairman Blackburn to sign IDOT payment voucher with HGM Associates for engineering services for FM-CO36-(83) - - 55-36 per agreement through June 15, 2026, for $21,921.64. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Shearer to approve the renewal of the Cigarette, Tobacco, Vapor, Alt. Nicotine Products Permit for Cubby's Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sheldon to approve the renewal of Class C Retail Alcohol License for Williams-Jobe-Gibson Post 128 Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

Jim Olmsted with Olmsted & Perry, Connor Shields with R-W Engineering, and Zach Euler with M Con met with the board for the approval of an O & M Manual and signing of two agreement amendments regarding the Hwy 2/I29 Drainage District. He said that IDOT is requiring an operation and maintenance manual to be prepared. He said they want to address how they close Highway 2 where levee comes up and stops in the event of a flood. He said it would have to be closed in event of a flood with sandbags, tiger dams, etc. It would also address how the dike is mowed and maintained. He said the DOT as agreed they will pay for it and county will approve it first. He said there will be two agreements, one between Olmsted and the county and one between county and IDOT. He said the IDOT would also be purchasing whatever is used to close Highway 2. Motion by Shearer to approve going ahead with the O & M Manual. Blackburn, aye; Shearer, aye; Sheldon, abstain.

Regarding closing the project, Olmsted stated they can't completely close today. He said there is no agreement with the sand and there is still an issue with one property owner on the north side. Zach Euler with M Con said he talked to Mr. Kruse. The issue wasn't what he originally thought it was. He thinks it is with access problems on the other side at the grain bins. Olmsted said if he will let us go beyond there, we can make that ramp smoother. Sheldon said he thinks the problem is with the road at his bin driveway. Sheldon said they offered to make a new driveway, he said no. Olmsted said he had been in contact with Kruse throughout the project and he had maps. Olmsted said it is a little late in the game to change now. Blackburn and Sheldon said they need to talk to him to try to reach a common solution. Olmsted said two documents need to be signed today. Those are the two change orders and the certificate of substantial completion. The original cost of the project was $4,374,461.20, after Change Orders 1-3, the contract price increased by $29,594.20. The final contract price is $4,404,055.40. Motion by Shearer to approve the certificate of completion with a date of July 1, 2026, and to approve the certificates of changes. Blackburn, aye; Shearer, aye; Sheldon, abstain.

Bri O'Hearn met with the board to discuss the law enforcement 28E agreements with the cities. She told the board she is the city attorney for all our cities, except Imogene and Farragut. She said she wanted to bring up the conversations because the 28E agreements expired yesterday. She said she has been trying to get in contact with the county attorney but hasn't been able to. She said she talked to Sheriff Kevin Aistrope, and he is out of town, but they will meet next week. She informed the board that the 28E's in the past were negotiated 15-20 years ago. She said it is the agreement in cookie cutter format. She said Hamburg and Sidney have a minimum patrol time and a flat rate is paid quarterly. She said the issue was raised how did we come up with the rates that are charged, and trying to figure out an equitable way to pay those fees. She wants the best way to maximize that value for everyone. She said each city has their own concerns like Thurman and Randolph's would be traffic control on main roads. The question is how to meet budgetary requirements and provide city with solutions for their concerns, too. She said an example option would be geo-pinning, so when the deputy reaches the corporate city limits and enters town, they have that information. She said these would be simple reports to print off and it seems the system now makes it difficult for the towns to understand the reports. She said some other ideas were to pay a hourly rate, paying per capita rate, or other unique ways to calculate cost. She is here to request that he (Sheriff Aistrope) will continue to provide coverage until the contacts are renegotiated. She asked the board for thoughts on this matter. Sheldon said one of his concerns with geo-pinning is that if a deputy is elsewhere in the county and gets a call to a city, travel time should be considered. He said from the financial standpoint of the county, they are still spending money on travel time/fuel going there. At 9:40 a.m., Kent Benefiel joined the meeting. Justin Shirley said the geo-pinning idea is for accountability. The group said another thing is how terms are defined like what patrol time is, not investigative work. They would like the 28E's clarifying terms and understanding of what each party is going to be doing. She said the agreements are antiquated and concerns need to be addressed. She also said the idea of a code enforcement officer has been discussed. It would be a way cities could have a code enforcement officer they could share. She gave the possible benefits of a code enforcement officer. Kent Benefiel said they are supposed to be getting 3-4 hours day. He doesn't think a deputy being in town is a deterrent. He said there are three places where they park and anyone who wants to be doing anything knows those three spots. Chairman Blackburn used examples to cite differences between baseline nuisance ordinances, mowing, dogs at large, and inspections. O'Hearn said having deputies do some municipal code enforcement would justify the expense that the cities have. She said they need to figure out expense to value ratio equitably and the board has ultimate decision. She said the board has control of the budget. Auditor Owen pointed out that the board has control of the amount of money distributed to departments, but after that, they can't tell the elected official how they can spend it. After much discussion, the matter will be discussed further after O'Hearn speaks with the sheriff. The board said they support a committee to discuss a fair and equitable resolution. Blackburn said he would sit on the committee. There was no action taken on this matter.

The board discussed the new hires for the sheriff's office. They discussed the previous hiring freeze. The board is going to be clear from this point forward that there are no new hires for any office/department without prior approval. Chief Deputy Tim Bothwell had one of these approved by the board and previously discussed filling the other without official board approval. Motion by Shearer to approve two new hire resolutions for the Sheriff's Office. Motion carried unanimously.
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-28
BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Fremont County Board of Supervisors this 1st day of July, 2026, that the following individual shall be approved as a Jailer for the Fremont County Sheriff's Department, as requested by Fremont County Sheriff Kevin Aistrope. The effective date of employment shall be May 22, 2026:
Amanda Driever
Motion was made by Shearer.
Attest:

/s/ Dee Owen, Auditor	/s/ Clint Blackburn, Chairman	aye
	/s/ Dustin Sheldon	aye
	/s/ Jeff Shearer	aye

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-29
BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Fremont County Board of Supervisors this 1st day of July, 2026, that the following individual shall be approved as a Jailer for the Fremont County Sheriff's Department, as requested by Fremont County Sheriff Kevin Aistrope. The effective date of employment shall be June 30, 2026:
Todd Bonnes
Motion was made by Shearer.
Attest:

/s/ Dee Owen, Auditor	/s/ Clint Blackburn, Chairman	aye
	/s/ Dustin Sheldon	aye
	/s/ Jeff Shearer	aye

Motion by Sheldon to rescind the motion made on June 24, 2026, approving the agreement to rectify the discrepancy of the 25/26 union agreement and to approve the 26/27 union agreement due to lack of assent from the union. Motion carried unanimously. The contract was subsequently approved on June 29, 2026, with the intent to renegotiate a stipend agreement in the future.

Claims were approved for July 3, 2026.

At 10:35 a.m., with no further business, Shearer motioned to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Dee Owen

Dee Owen, Auditor

Clint Blackburn, Chairman

At 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, a Department Head meeting was held in the Fremont County Courthouse Boardroom. Present were Vicki Kirkpatrick, Alise Snyder, Dee Owen, Scott Evans, Dustin Sheldon, Clint Blackburn, Jeff Shearer, Clayton Long and Zach Benedict. Topics discussed: Year end, IT, bidding process for concrete repair, tree damage, annual fire alarm testing, Hwy 2/I29 Drainage District, assessor's abstract, recon, and homestead & military, new legislation causing delays in year-end processes, and the hiring freeze still in effect.

The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in a regular session on Wednesday, July 8, 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 Troy Gorham, Chris Johnson, Treasurer Alise Snyder, Sheriff Kevin Aistrope, EMC Clayton Long, and Jim Olmsted were present at this meeting.

Jim Olmsted with Olmsted & Perry met with the board regarding the closeout of the Hwy 2/I29 Drainage District Project. He gave the board details about the remaining steps on his end for closeout, this includes the O & M Manual, IDOT tiger dams, and the resolution they offered to a landowner who has issues with the road. The landowner refused the solution offered. The final payment must be held for 30 days. Vice Chairman Sheldon said the board wants the O & M manual completed before the closeout. Olmsted says he expects that within those 30 days that will be done. The board also agreed that they want trustees to be appointed before the closeout as was originally planned. They reminded Olmsted that the county is just a pass-through and isn't responsible for upkeep, levying, etc. The board requested that Attorney Matt Woods come to the next meeting to discuss turning the district over to trustees. After much discussion, Olmsted said he would arrange that.

Motion by Shearer to sign application for Payment No. 11 for the Hwy 2/I29 Drainage District to M-Con for $148,872.90. Blackburn, aye; Shearer, aye; Sheldon, abstain.

Motion by Shearer to sign application for payment No. 12 with the understanding that it must be held for 30 days for Hwy2/I29 Drainage District to M-Con for $220,202.77. Blackburn, aye; Shearer, aye; Sheldon, abstain.

Motion by Shearer to approve payment for Olmsted & Perry for Hwy2/I29 Drainage District for $4,723.54. Blackburn, aye; Shearer, aye; Sheldon, abstain.

Motion by Sheldon to approve the secondary roads union agreement as negotiated. Motion carried unanimously.

Chris Johnson met with the board regarding the purchase of the lot at 809 Ohio Street that is owned by the county. He is in the process of building spec homes. He said the county and cities are losing revenue by tearing down houses and not replacing them. He is building spec homes to replace these homes. He would like to purchase 809 Ohio Street. He said a group tried this about 25 years ago and it fell apart. Johnson said he has taken the lead on this and is trying to get something going. He explained that prisoners at an Iowa Correctional Facility build these houses. He wants to put homes and garages on these lots around the cities. Johnson said it usually takes 4-6 months to get a house once you order and he would like to have a basement in the ground by October. Chairman Blackburn stated the board will put this on for action next week and would work with the county attorney to put this out for public bid.

Motion by Shearer to approve the award of the FY26 audit bid to the current auditing firm Gronewold, Bell, Khynn, & Co. PC. Motion carried unanimously.

Weed Commissioner Troy Gorham discussed progress on his certifications. Vice Chairman Sheldon let him know he has a year to complete his certifications, so there is still plenty of time. Gorham gave an update on what he has been doing around the county regarding noxious weeds.

The lone application for the Civil Service Commission was from Grant Schaaf who is currently on the commission. Motion by Sheldon to reappoint Grant Schaaf to the Civil Service Commission for a term of 4 years. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Sheriff Kevin Aistrope met with the board to discuss stipends for sheriff's office employees. He said he is trying to figure out where at, in the budget his former jail administrators' salary is. Auditor Owen told him he prepared his budget with those funds in the salary lines of the employees that had been given stipends. He asked how he would hire a jail administrator if he had to which he didn't anticipate, but what if. Owen said the money is in the budget. He just didn't put it in a lump sum in the jail administrator line. He put it in the other employees' salaries as a stipend. Owen said he would need to forego the stipends if he wanted that full amount in his budget. He said his deputies want their stipends in hourly rate. He questioned where the money was going to come from for the $2.00/hour shift differential for the two deputy shifts. He discussed the proposal of 10.5-hour shifts and that he isn't sold on the idea. He said that would create more single coverage shifts and callback time than he has now. He pointed out the board's duties by Iowa Code and that they cannot set his schedules. The board advised him that it was put in the CBA open-ended so they could try it if he agreed to it but there was nothing saying it is a definite change. Vice Chairman Sheldon asked if they could use reserves. Sheriff Aistrope said he puts shifts out and many times there is no response to cover them. Chairman Blackburn said he doesn't know the inner workings and that we all must be mindful of the budget regarding the $2.00/hour shift differential. Aistrope said he is trying his best to watch overtime. He said a lot of it comes from covering a shift, because if he covers it with a full-time, it's time and a half. He said he tries to get reserves first. He said he usually has 2 or 3 called to court and that is overtime. He said he wishes they could talk about cases ahead of time because usually when they show up it's been decided and they weren't needed. Vice Chairman Sheldon gave thoughts on using reserves for shifts and for taking prisoners to court. He wondered if you could make it a requirement to have them do 5 volunteer shifts a year excluding rodeo, maybe fill in some gaps. Aistrope said that is the way they used to come up the ladder. He said there is already a minimum hour requirement in place. He said the Lieutenant is keeping a closer eye on overtime. Chairman Blackburn reiterated that the budget is worse every year and that though money increases, so do expenses. He discussed that in all the meetings and trainings they go to everyone says more than likely counties will have to reduce jobs. Aistrope asked who to contact regarding talks about stipends. Auditor Owen told him it would Tim at Jackson Lewis. Aistrope said he really didn't get an answer on the $2.00 but that he would move on. He said he meets tomorrow with city attorney Bri O'Hearn at 9:30 a.m. regarding the 28E agreements for law enforcement. He said he sent letters months ago regarding these agreements. She said she tried to get ahold of Attorney Johnson without any response. Aistrope said the board must decide if they are going to cut prices, charge some cities more, some less, or what they want to do. Chairman Blackburn told Aistrope that last week the parties agreed there would be a committee that was going to hash that out. Aistrope said he doesn't think the board can take less money for this. He said that is where he got two of the deputies and that's what they pay for. Sheldon said the issue is what is expected from the deputy, what constitutes their hourly time. The board reminded him this is not on the agenda so they could discuss it at a different time when it is on the agenda. Aistrope said time is of the essence since they are expired. The board said they knew the urgency. They will see what ideas come from the meeting tomorrow and the committee.

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

Claims were approved for July 10, 2026.

At 10:36 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 a special session on Tuesday, July 14, 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. The agenda was approved as posted.

Let the record show that Jessica Richardson was present at this meeting.

Assistant Auditor Jessica Richardson met with the board to canvass the City of Hamburg Special Election held on July 7, 2026, to fill a vacancy on city council. There were 47 votes cast. Lucas Barrett was the lone city council candidate on the ballot and received 25 votes. There were 22 write-in votes cast. Motion by Sheldon to approve the canvass results of the 2026 City of Hamburg Special Election held on July 7, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

At 9;03 a.m., with no further business, Shearer motioned to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Cassie Gilbert

Cassie Gilbert, Assistant Auditor

Clint Blackburn, Chairman

The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in a regular session on Wednesday, July 15, 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 9:02 a.m. Minutes of the previous board session were read and approved. The agenda was approved as posted.

Let the record show that Attorney Peter Johnson, Attorney Matt Woods, Assistant Engineer Robbie Kromminga, Purchasing Agent Drew Bartholomew, Recorder Tarah Berry, EMC Clayton Long, and Jim Olmsted were present at this meeting.

Attorney Matt Woods met with the board to discuss final steps regarding the Hwy 2/I29 Drainage District Project. He spoke to Jim Olmsted with Olmsted & Perry and there is a payment to be sorted out between the contractor and the state. He prepared a memo and presented it to the board early to mid-august final payment from the state. Woods think they can start on some of it even though the final payment isn't here yet. Has petition prepared for required signatures. Need 11 landowners to present to auditors office then he will make a request to set am election to elect a board of trustees, 3 trustees summer or early fall once first election occurs control goes immediately to the trustees, then it will operate themselves. Brief outline approval of the outline and make sure there is no objections while he gets the petition sent out. When final payment is receive he will make the board met with the board regarding the closeout of the Hwy 2/I29 Drainage District Project. Election can be held in 40 days once all paperwork is received, the interim will be the BOS but will not be long. Summer to mid-September. He gave the board details about the remaining steps on his end for closeout, this includes the O & M Manual, IDOT tiger dams, and the resolution they offered to a landowner who has issues with the road. The landowner refused the solution offered. The final payment must be held for 30 days. Vice Chairman Sheldon said the board wants the O & M manual completed before the closeout. Olmsted says he expects that within those 30 days that will be done. The board also agreed that they want trustees to be appointed before the closeout as was originally planned. They reminded Olmsted that the county is just a pass-through and isn't responsible for upkeep, levying, etc. The board requested that Attorney Matt Woods come to the next meeting to discuss turning the district over to trustees. After much discussion, Olmsted said he would arrange that. Consent of bonding company for final payment from MCon west bend insurance co of west bend Wisconsin. No action was taken on this matter but Woods will disseminate the petition.

Jim Olmsted-Discuss/Action Closeout of Hwy2/I29 Drainage Construction portion of the project can't close due to the payment issue. Doesn't have everything and doesn't want to close out with a pending claim. May have to postpone it again but put iton for next week. Is also working on the O & M. No action was taken on this matter.

The board discussed the county-owned property at 809 Ohio Street in Sidney that was previously discussed last week. County Attorney Peter Johnson said he is working on a resolution declaring surplus property and proposing disposition by public auction by sealed bid for the board to review and take action on. Blackburn asked about having an auction or sealed bids. Attorney Johnson said it is the board's prerogative. Move to proceed with auction style of remediation of property at 809 Ohio.

At 9:19 a.m., Sheriff Kevin Aistrope joined the meeting. The board asked Sheriff Aistrope if he could conduct the auction at 809 Ohio Street. He said he would.

Vice Chairman Sheldon stated his only concern was if Roberts would take him away from SRO duties. Sheriff Aistrope said he has that worked out with the school and it would not. Motion by Shearer to approve the secondary employment applications for Logan Roberts and Dennis Paulson. Motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Peter Johnson met with the board to discuss changes in his employees' wages. One of his employees is getting their paralegal degree. He would like to raise her salary to $65,000, which is the market rate. These funds are already in his budget after they had a part-time employee leave. It would just be reallocation. Johnson said he also has funds for out-of-county council that he can use. He would also like to keep his rates of pay at market rate. His other part-time employee will also be adjusted to a higher hourly rate. Motion by Sheldon to approve the raises in the county attorney's office. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Shearer to approve the renewal of the Class B Retail Alcohol License for Pilot Travel Center #238. Motion carried unanimously.

Secondary Roads Purchasing Agent Drew Bartholomew met with the board regarding truck purchases for the department. Bartholomew recommends the purchase of the two 2027 Ford F350's from Woodhouse because they will be able to reuse the utility boxes that are on the current 2012 Fords. They will sell those Fords on auction. The bids were as follows:
Woodhouse 2026 Chevy Silverado 3500HD Crew Cab $51,988.00
Woodhouse 2027 Ford F350 Crew Cab $57,545.00
Woodhouse 2027 Dodge Ram 3500 Crew Cab $59,905.00
Wild Rose 2026 Chevy Silverado 3500HD Crew Cab $57,595.00
Larson Motors 2026 Dodge Ram 3500 Crew Cab $58,324.00
Larson Motors 2026 F350 Crew Cab $62,856.00
He reiterated that the lower bids would require the purchase of new utility boxes. Motion by Sheldon to accept recommendations from purchasing agent to accept the bid from Woodhouse for two 2027 Ford F350's for $57,545 each. Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Engineer Robbie Kromminga met with the board for the signing of the following:
Motion by Shearer to allow Chairman Blackburn to sign IDOT payment voucher with HGM Associates for engineering services for design for 310th Street/J-64 per agreement through 06/30/26 for $19,560.00. Motion carried unanimously.

The board briefly discussed the item that will be on next week regarding the detour for the roundabout construction.

Sheriff Aistrope briefly spoke to the board and said had reached out to HR and hasn't heard back. Attorney Johnson said that was on him. Johnson talked to HR council and would like to schedule a meeting with a board member, the sheriff, HR counsel, and himself to make sure they are on the same page.

Claims were approved for July 17, 2026.

At 9:40 a.m., with no further business, Shearer motioned to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Dee Owen, Auditor	Clint Blackburn, Chairman