The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Wednesday, November 4, 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 Robbie Kromminga, Recorder Tarah Berry, Treasurer Alise Snyder, Sheriff Kevin Aistrope, EMC Clayton Long, Mike Stenzel, Danny Whitehill, Andy Hansen, Linda White, and Jim Olmstead were present for this meeting. Bill Barrett joined the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

The board did not discuss or take action on the creation of supervisor districts. This item was inadvertently left on the agenda.

Assistant Engineer Robbie Kromminga met with the board for the following:
Kromminga presented the board with the 28E Agreement on which the county attorney has been working with Mills County. The board reviewed the 28E. The board discussed the termination details of the agreement. Auditor Owen asked if this replaced the agreement they approved of on Friday. Blackburn called Attorney Peter Johnson and placed him on speakerphone at 9:20 a.m. Johnson stated that there was a miscommunication between him and Mills County about what was presented in an email. Johnson said this is a more thorough agreement that is also very flexible. He said this can serve as a 90-day agreement or a longer-term agreement. He said Mills County contacted him and said that the agreement that they sent wasn't what he gave to the board. Blackburn said that is what they understood: that it had options on time frame. Johnson said that this is one document that covers every different question that anyone might have, but he hasn't heard anything back from the board as far as feedback. Auditor Owen asked if the approval of the agreement last Friday needed to be rescinded. Johnson said there is no rescission required in the matter of the one that was approved because there was no approval by Mills County. He said they will see what Mills County approves and if there are changes, they may have to revisit it. Motion by Shearer to sign the 28E agreement as it currently stands. Motion carried unanimously.

Kromminga also discussed a change of title to assistant and asked for more compensation for his position. Kromminga said his current title is Assistant 2. He said when he came, there was another assistant with the assistant's title, and that person is long gone. He said he has been doing the job of two people. He stated his responsibilities and said he would like to request a wage change to what assistant engineers make, at a state average of $110/hour. Chairman Blackburn asked if there were testing requirements that needed to be met. Kromminga said some counties require testing and some don't. Supervisor Sheldon said he would like to see some accreditation, so they know if they are paying enough or not enough. Blackburn said he wants to see what Jacob has to say and thinks it would be beneficial to wait 30 days to see how this turns out instead of reinventing the wheel. He reiterated that instead of taking action today, he'd rather wait to see where everything lands. Motion by Sheldon to table action until the first part of December. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Shearer to approve the renewal of the Class B Alcohol and Sunday Sales License for Sidney Foods. Motion carried unanimously.

Jim Olmsted met with the board to update them on the Hwy 2/I-29 Drainage District. He said he has reached the "final act" and presented the board with the final draft of the O & M Manual. He said Clayton will receive one, one for the future board, and one goes to the auditor. He said there is a letter and three copies to Clayton. He said he doesn't have any more to add on where they are with the project. He discussed the tiger dams being stored at Sapp Bros. He said there will be training associated with the dams. Olmsted said EMC Long will be on that list for training. Olmsted asked for feedback on the manual. They briefly discussed the appointment of trustees and where Attorney Woods is on that.

At 9:30 a.m., Attorney Bri O'Hearn met with the board to discuss the 28E agreement with law enforcement and the cities. She said she sent drafts to get the conversation proceeding; She said she was here in August, and the board said they would form a committee to work on a solution. She said she is here today asking for the status of the committee. She said Hamburg and Sidney presented proposed agreements, and she is just trying to get conversations going. She said she hasn't been able to get a final draft and wants to get this done. She said they all have an obligation to make sure they are complying with State Code. She said she is curious about thoughts and how to get this going. She said Hamburg has proposed a per capita rate of $60. She said they all need to get together and need to have an idea of what it looks like countywide. She said everyone appreciates law enforcement and the sheriff's office, but they have to have an agreement in place. Sheriff Aistrope added they first came to him and wanted a contract and not their own police department; then down the road, Sidney came to him for the same. He said that's why they have been off

all along. The board has to decide, and then Aistrope can decide what he can do. Chairman Blackburn said no one likes these hard discussions. He asked how to get this rolling. At 9:43 a.m., Attorney Peter Johnson joined the meeting in person. O'Hearn said they need to be compliant and get a long-term solution. She said something has to be done whether we are happy or not. She said two have presented a draft. She said they just want to know what they are paying for. She said smaller cities are more concerned about speed control, but that's not all they are worried about. She said Sidney and Hamburg want a visible presence, and they need a better definition of terms. She said Tabor is paying $20/capita and an additional charge if there is extra work time for a case. She said so far there has been stagnation, and they all share reasons for not getting it done. They all agreed they need a meeting with all mayors to sit down and see what they are looking for and allow mayors to have a voice and see what their financial position is. Aistrope said again that Hamburg and Sidney wanted a full-time person and he had to get the other cities in compliance. He said it has grown from there. Aistrope said no one was interested in a contract until he said they needed a contract. He said he needs the board to decide how the two deputies hired for these contracts are funded. He asked if they would cut it in half and eliminate two deputies and go to the contract like Tabor has. Sheldon said they passed a budget with that revenue. He said he knows it is an estimate. He said Hamburg and Sidney have two dollar amounts, and they aren't going to pay what they are paying right now. He knows that is a revenue shortfall. He said Aistrope has to cut that out of his budget; whether that is $50,000 short, he has to know that he has $50,000 less to spend. He said we have responsibilities to citizens, and the meeting he went to in August went nowhere. There was discussion on legislative constraints and the fact that cities are already facing constraints starting in 2028. They all agreed that everyone is going to have to find new revenue sources or operate differently. Sheldon said that emergency services are not a money-making business and not a revenue-generating source. They discussed that cities' only option is utilities for revenue. Recorder Berry, who is also on Riverton City Council, said they are supposed to get monthly reports, but they are hard to read. O'Hearn said if they can see accountability, they can sit down and see what they can agree on. She acknowledged that per capita is not fair to everyone but thinks they can come to some common ground and what terms are. She said as Kevin said these were entered into 20 years ago and everything was different. Shearer agreed they all need to get together and hash it out. He said it's not pretty and not fun but it needs to be done. Blackburn agreed. They discussed a workshop and Sheldon said it shouldn't be one blanket proposal and not 10 people talking at the same time. He said that is counterproductive to all be together. He said they should have the cities come to make their own deal. O'Hearn said none of these are tied to each other. Bill Barrett said he thinks being separated is a good idea. O'Hearn said she would propose that each mayor gets time to talk to the board separately. She said she would get with the mayors and present a proposed draft, then schedule a meeting with board for the end of November. Blackburn said as it sits today, they have a draft from Sidney and Hamburg, but he hasn't looked closely enough to say. Aistrope questioned the hours, and O'Hearn said there is not a set number. Blackburn read the duties. Bill Barrett said he would just like them to do a good job, and it doesn't have to be a set number of hours. Drafts proposed agreement and aistrope said have to have a dollar figure.

During public comments, Sheriff Aistrope brought up a dilemma with the airplane from the crash in the road ditch blocking a driveway. He said the FAA and NTSB are not paying anything on it. He said he doesn't think they have insurance because plane wasn't registered to the person. He said the county has resources to move it and can put it at impound. He said he is just trying to protect his budget. He said it is not a huge deal, but investigators have to dig the motor out of dirt. He said they hope to be done today and as soon as it is turned over to the sheriff's office, they can get it moved. Aistrope left the meeting.

There was public discussion about where money can be saved with everyone agreeing they need to figure out how to be more efficient in that office. They discussed areas around Fremont County and dollar amount paid for law enforcement. They also discussed bringing revenues to Fremont County. They briefly discussed spending, data centers, and TIF. After much discussion, the public comment concluded.

At 10:28 a.m., with no further business, Shearer moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.
ATTEST:

Dee Owen, Auditor

Clint Blackburn, Chairman