

The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, 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 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 Engineer Dan Davis, Dave Roberts, Shad Smith, Nick Golden, Dana Herrs, EMC Clayton Long, Sheriff Kevin Aistrope, Sergeant Ashton Luke, and Assistant Auditor Cassie Gilbert were present at this meeting.

Motion by Blackburn to approve Resolution No. 2025-29 to transfer funds from the Local Option Sales Tax Fund and Rural Services Fund to Secondary Roads. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-29

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Fremont County Board of Supervisors this 4th day of June 2025, that the following transfer of funds be approved and made: \$761,177.00 from the Rural Services Basic Fund, the share of Rural Services taxes, to the Secondary Road Fund and \$54,605.00 property tax relief of local option taxes, from the Local Option Sales Tax Fund to the Secondary Road Fund.

Motion to approve transfer made by Blackburn.

ATTEST:

/s/ Cassie Gilbert, Assistant
Fremont County Auditor

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

Auditor Owen Discussed the purchase of new election equipment. The software they currently use will require updating to laptops with Windows 11. They watched a demo of a new system called Tenex. It is more user friendly for PEO's and voters. The amount is \$14,703, half this year and half next year and \$945 annual fee.

There will be an opening for the Tourism Board for the term expiring 6/30/25. Motion by Sheldon to post the opening for Tourism Board. The motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Kevin Aistrope met with the board to discuss deputies' wage reconsideration. Sheriff's Office lost two more deputies because of money related. The Iowa Code, Back the Blue, states we must give the Sheriff's Office more money to operate. Aistrope said the overnight shift got a \$2.00 increase for the jailer but the deputies on overnights did not so that is terrible for morale. Aistrope would like to get them up to \$75,000 for morale. He would like to start a stair step effect. Aistrope has 7 deputies and we are contracted with three cities. He will renegotiate with those cities to try to offset the salaries. Aistrope said he can use the room and board to offset some of the salaries. Aistrope says a quick solution would be to use room and board revenue for some of the jailer's salary and use the other money he is saving to give it to the deputies. In the end game, Aistrope wants the deputies up to \$75,000. Sheldon asked what deputies were leaving. Aistrope mentioned that they lost Wake to the roads department and Degase with the K9. Degase will be taking the K9 with him to Mills County. Sheldon asked what compensation we would get for the K9. Aistrope said we will not get anything in return for Degase taking the K9 to Mills County. Aistrope is giving a good avenue to pay for the raises with the room and board for two years. Blackburn stated the County is not growing so when we get revenue it goes right back into the county, so the departments do not reap the benefits. Sheldon asked what sustainability is in using the room and board revenue for wages. Aistrope stated there isn't any, it would only be feasible for 2 years. Sheldon stated that is the point, if you can't come up with \$100,000 in your budget in two years when the room and board revenue does not cover your wages. Sheldon asked Aistrope if he would be able to cut his budget in other places to cover the raised wages. Aistrope stated in 2 to 3 years I will have the cities contracted to pay the right wages. Aistrope also said if we can hold more people in the jail from other counties, we will have more revenue coming in that way. Blackburn said we will never be able to compete with our neighboring counties with our tax base with our deputies' wages. Blackburn stated not to fill one position and then pass that wage out to the deputies still on the payroll. Blackburn said that it has been discussed in meetings previously. Aistrope said that wasn't an option. The reason for this is because of the Interstate 29 and the extra patrol they do on the Interstate. Aistrope said we have more to patrol than neighboring counties. Aistrope mentions everyone around us pays more than us and if we don't start paying more, we are going to lose more deputies. Then we will end up wasting \$50,000 every time we have to hire a new officer by sending them to the academy. Sergeant Luke just wants to be competitive so Fremont County can keep their deputies. Blackburn stated we would like to give you the money, but Fremont County does not have the money to give out. Luke understands that we do not have the money but would like to find a solution, so we do not lose any more deputies. Sheldon said if we would give out raises you are asking for this year. Next budget year comes around someone might not have a job due to not having the funds to pay them. Sheldon then stated that Aistrope did

not have to take his huge pay raise, and he could have given his raise out to his deputies to make the salaries more appeasable for them to stay in Fremont County, but he didn't. Aistrope agreed that he did take his pay raise and could have split his raise with his deputies but didn't. Aistrope said if he loses a jailer, he could absorb that salary in 3 years. Aistrope wants to use the room and board for three years for wages. Blackburn stated that we cannot decide today without looking over the numbers and the budget. Sheldon mention to table it till next week after they have looked over the budget. Motion by Sheldon table next week, carried unanimously.

Engineer Dan Davis met with the board for the following:

Motion by Sheldon to approve and sign Roadside Maintenance No-Spray Agreement for Wells 29 & 30, City of Shenandoah, IA. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sheldon to approve and sign agreement for DOT-initiated detour of primary highways onto local roads (Fremont County Roads J-32 & L-68) April 15th 2026 -Oct 1st 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sheldon to approve the renewal of the cigarette/tobacco/nicotine/vapor permit for Pilot Travel Center. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sheldon to table signing the Solutions Software Annual Maintenance Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sheldon to table the topic of public records policy at the county attorney's request. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sheldon to table the topic of county-owned lot auction designation of authority, future land projects at the county attorney's request. Motion carried unanimously,

Motion by Sheldon to allow the County Attorney to hire an intern Resolution No. 2025-30. Motion carried unanimously.

Discuss/Action Hiring Intern for Co Atty Office

RESOLUTION 2025-30

RESOLUTION TO HIRE SUMMER INTERN IN COUNTY ATTORNEY OFFICE

WHEREAS, the Office of the Fremont County Attorney has created a position for a summer prosecutor internship; and WHEREAS, a candidate has been identified; BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FREMONT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that Corine Aranda be hired to the position of Summer Intern with the Fremont County Attorney's Office for a total salary of \$7,500 per year, without benefits, effective June 4, 2025. DATED this __4th__ day of June, 2025.

/s/ Cassie Gilbert, Assistant

/s/ Clint Blackburn, Chairman

aye

Fremont County Auditor

/s/ Dustin Sheldon

aye

Motion by Sheldon to table the topic of the old law books upstairs at the county attorney's request. Motion carried unanimously.

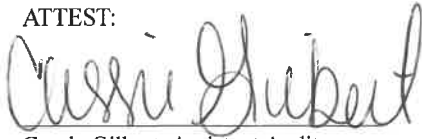
During public comment, Clerk of Sidney Township Dave Roberts said he is worried that if they put in cattle guards and cattle still get out they will still be responsible for the injury. In the minutes from the 1980s Roberts found it stated the township agreed to pay up to \$400 to install, not to purchase. Shad Smith said it's been going on 3 to 4 years. Cattle have been getting in and out for years. These cattle guards are homemade, and they do not work. Roberts stated if they put up \$20,000 and the cattle still get out how are they still responsible. Shad Smith stated that the township should be responsible for putting in a new cattle guard for safety concerns. Roberts wants to know the Iowa Code about fence law. Roberts needs a clear idea of what Smith wants the township to do. Blackburn stated that the key factor is the cemetery and putting up a gate would be one solution instead of not having cattle guards. But a gate wouldn't allow people to come and go to the Grandview Cemetery. Smith said the cattle guard could cost between \$8500 to \$15000. Smith states he has no say about what gets done but he is just worried about the safety of the situation. Sheldon said to have this issue on the agenda for next week.

During public comment, Dana Herrs said he is trying to get back to his property in Bartlett. The gap between sanitation employees has put a huge issue on him reaching out to his contractors. Engineer/Zoning Dan Davis said that a meeting has been set for June 23rd. Herrs just stated he is trying to do things right and just wants to go back on his property. Davis mentioned that he will be an advocate for him with the board of adjustment. Blackburn said he wishes he had a good answer for him on this. Herrs is asking for a reasonable timeframe to line up for his contractors. Davis asked him to show up to the board of adjustment meeting on June 23rd so he can state his case and then he will get his final answer.

Claims were approved for June 6, 2025.

At 10:23 a.m., with no further business, Sheldon motioned to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cassie Gilbert", written over a horizontal line.

Cassie Gilbert, Assistant Auditor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Clint Blackburn", written over a horizontal line.

Clint Blackburn, Chairman