

The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, in the Fremont County Courthouse Boardroom, with Clint Blackburn, Jeff Shearer. Let the record show that Dustin Sheldon 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 Alise Snyder, Treasurer, Scott Evans, IT, Dan Davis, County Engineer, Jack Reed, with INCS, Sheriff Kevin Aistrope, Sergeant Andrew Wake, Peter Johnson, County Attorney, by zoom.

Chairman Blackburn called Shad Smith, regarding the cattle guard. Blackburn stated that no one from Sidney Township are in attendance for this meeting. Blackburn requested updates on what needs to be done. County Attorney Johnson said we need to come up with a temporary solution that everyone can agree to. The original easement was from the 20s and the original easement has shifted. Johnson showed that the easement has shifted with a diagram. County Attorney Johnson said that '89 or '87 board of supervisor minutes agreed to replace the cattle guard. Shad Smith mentioned that the cattle guards had 1975 welded on the bottom of cattle guard. So, he doesn't believe it was ever done. County Attorney Johnson mentioned the Township Trustee's tried to make a homemade cattle guard to make do. Johnson doesn't believe that the homemade cattle guard helps them much for this problem. Johnson asked Smith what we need to do so we have a permanent/temporary solution in place before he leaves town, what do you propose for the township to do. Smith would like a gate that opens when a car comes for the cemetery would be the best option. He is okay for them coming across his land he is okay with the easement on his land still. But he needs the township to understand that this needs to be their solution and their problem to solve. Smith said he will help with anything. Smith wants Johnson to know that the Township is trying to push the liability off on him and he needs Johnson to know that it isn't his responsibility or liability on this issue. Johnson is going to try and reach out to the Township trustee's to rectify a temporary solution.

Engineer Dan Davis met with the board for the following:

Motion by Shearer to allow Chairman Blackburn to sign IDOT Federal-aid Agreement for Project #BROS-CO36(95) - - 8J-36. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Shearer to allow Chairman Blackburn to sign title sheets for Project #BROS-CO36(95) - - 8J-36 & Project #FM-CO36(83) - - 55-36. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Shearer to allow Chairman Blackburn to sign IDOT payment voucher for \$35116.68 with HGM Associates for engineering services for BRS-CO36(92) - - 60-36 per agreement through June 15, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Peter Johnson met with the board through zoom for the following:

Public Records Policy, Intern has been working on this and will update on this when we have solid language. And everyone is on the same page.

County-Owned Lot Auction, Designation of Authority, Future Land Projects, Auction went well Lots in Hamburg as expected 2 interested landowners came in and had a minimum bid. Purchase agreements need signed by the board. With future auctions, we need to have higher starting bids. County Attorney Johnson needs authority from the board and any other necessary documents to sign.

Motion by Shearer to sign the Purchase Agreement/Designation of Authority, motion carried unanimously

Old Law Books Upstairs, there are old code books we use to sponsor an old law library. Johnson wants the authority to get rid of the old law books that we have no use for anymore. Shearer asked what he would do with them. Johnson said he would ask around if the lawyers in the area would want them, if not he would dispose of them.

Motion by Shearer to give authority to dispose of old law books, motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Kevin Aistrope met with the board to discuss deputies' wage reconsideration. Aistrope is still not at what the state recommends his salary is supposed to be by the Iowa Code. Blackburn asked if the county is down two deputies. Aistrope answered yes, we are down two deputies right now. All the applications we have in right now are uncertified applications. Aistrope stated we have lost all our deputies due to wages over the last year. The reason we lost the last deputies is because of the night shift differential. Aistrope was embarrassed when the posted job was for \$56,000. This job is a dangerous job, and the salary should be higher. Johnson stated to the board you should consider the new rules the deputies have to learn, for example, examining evidence and testifying on stand. The high turnover doesn't just affect the sheriff's office it affects the County

Attorney's office side of it too. Aistrope stated the deputy we lost that went to Mills County he picked up \$10,000 more and he moves up in pay after so long. Aistrope mentioned that our deputies do not move up in pay after so long we have to wait for the new budget year. Aistrope is asking for a \$10,000 per deputy to get them up to a comparable rate with other counties, so we aren't losing so many. Blackburn asked if Jack had anything to add. Jack Reed with INCS said if you as Board members have money to beef up the salary then you can. Reed stated that you can't guarantee the Sheriff's Office will not be asking for another increase in salaries in six months. But Reed doesn't have anything against increasing the salary. Shearer doesn't understand how he can ask for money from the county when we are already in a deficit. Aistrope said we will still be at a deficit when we keep having to train the employees. After hiring two new ones and sending them to train it will still put us in a deficit. Shearer said we can cut down on the deputies to pull from that salary for the raise. Aistrope said he won't do that we need those deputies. Aistrope said we are almost as busy as Pottawattamie County due to Interstate 29. Aistrope said keeping all the deputies is doing a service to the community. Blackburn stated we do not have the money to give out the extra salaries, it's not like we don't support you we do, we just can't do it. Aistrope said I can foot the extra money from the room and board for jail help. Blackburn brought in Dee Owen, to ask about the Room and Board from general fund. Dee Owen, Auditor stated it is a reimbursement to the general fund. Blackburn states that you can't use it for deputy salaries. Aistrope says it must be for jail related purposes. Aistrope stated the county has lost four deputies just this year. Blackburn couldn't agree more that it is a serious problem. As Board of Supervisors, it's hard-to-find money to give out an increase in salaries. Aistrope states if he gets four new deputies he will have to do a budget amendment. Aistrope also mentioned if he could find \$30,000 in his budget and if the Board of Supervisors could find \$30,000 in their budget somewhere. Aistrope could make the raises work somehow. So, he wouldn't have to rehire and rehire again. Blackburn said he would have the budget director look into it. Blackburn said this is the worst part of the job telling them that they can't have the money for the raises. Shearer said try the one deputy short for a while and see how it goes and see if safety and coverage are going to suffer. Aistrope said we can, but it will cost you in overtime. We have three towns that are paying us a portion, but we must ask them if we can cut hours from them. And after the 1st of July we are going to renegotiate the contracts. So, we will hopefully get more money from the towns. Aistrope said \$10,000 per deputy raise would bridge the gap for everyone to keep them happy and with that the last one wouldn't have left. Blackburn stated to let us talk with the budget director to see what we can come up with, but I am not promising you anything. Aistrope asked Sergeant Wake if \$60,000 will be a good whole amount for the raises. Wake responded with yes that should be good. Shearer said we can't force you to not fill the one position that is empty. Aistrope said yes but next budget year you can cut a position, but you would probably have a lawsuit if you did that. Blackburn wants to set a goal for the County, that goal is for everyone to work together. Blackburn states he doesn't know where the money will come from for the raises but he will speak with the budget director and get back to Aistrope.

Motion by Shearer to approve the following Resolution 2025-32. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-32

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Fremont County Board of Supervisors this 25th day of June 2025, that the Auditor be authorized to cancel outstanding warrants that are over one year old.

ATTEST:

/s/ Cassie Gilbert

Fremont County Auditor

/s/ Clint Blackburn

aye

/s/ Jeff Shearer

aye

Motion made by Shearer to approve the following Resolution No. 2025-33. Motion carried unanimously

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-33

Resolution Authorizing Appropriations to County Offices and Departments FY 2025/2026

Resolution to appropriate 100% of the budgeted amounts for expenditures deemed necessary to all Budgetary Funds/Departments FY 2025/2026, as published in the Notice of Public Hearing Budget Estimate on April 3 & April 4, 2025.

Motion made by Shearer.

PASSED AND APPROVED, this 25th day of June, 2025.

ATTEST:

/s/ Cassie Gilbert

Fremont County Auditor

/s/ Clint Blackburn

aye

/s/ Jeff Shearer

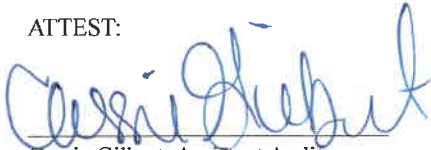
aye

Treasurer Alise Snyder met with the board to update them on tax sale results from June 16th, 2025. There were 200 regular parcels and 1 adjourned parcel. All 182 parcels sold for \$135,021.55. Snyder stated that she had 656 investors.

Claims were approved for June 27, 2025.

At 10:17 a.m., with no further business, Shearer motioned to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:


Cassie Gilbert, Assistant Auditor
Clint Blackburn, Chairman