

The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, in the Fremont County Courthouse Boardroom, with Clint Blackburn and Dustin Sheldon present. Let the record show that Jeff Shearer was not present at 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 Zach Benedict, Maintenance, Gregg Connell, and Kevin Eicher were present at this meeting.

Gregg Connell with SCIA met with the board to update them on economic development in Fremont County. He said that Green Plains invested \$65 million in a clean sugar project three years ago. The dry mill took one year to build. It was completed last May and then paused in May of 2025 because of discharge. It takes 186 gallons of water per day for ion exchange to soften the water which is 100 times higher than the Iowa DNR will allow along with other readings. The next plan is to bring in a skid system with a membrane filter. They can't get chlorides out with that. They were required by the DNR to halt production. Green Plains' stock dropped which then resulted in the CEO and three board members being fired. Connell said it was a rudderless ship. Since then, they have hired a new CEO and have five full board members. They are committed to getting the clean sugar project running. He said it will require another \$15 million to build a pre-treat system. It will produce 200-400 million pounds of clean sugar per year. He said all other producers are unrefined. This system will take out manganese. Connell said companies they have been in contact with really want this refined sugar. He reiterated that Green Plains is committed to completing the project and they can't until they build the pretreat. He said that Green Plains' top three companies are the Shenandoah plant, the Obion plant in Tennessee, and the Central City, NE plant. They sold the Tennessee plant to proceed with building the pre-treat plant. Sheldon questioned the use of the Fremont County Aquifer and if it would cause a shortage of water for towns like Farragut. Connell explained the reasons for the water shortage in Shenandoah. He said the DNR has limited them to 800 gallons per minute so there are regulations to how much they can use. Connell then discussed the MidAmerican energy substation. He said MidAmerican is very careful planning. They approached MidAmerica years ago and asked about building a substation for Green Plains' needs. MidAmerican said they could build a substation for \$60 million. A year ago, he got a call from MidAmerican. They wanted to build a 53-megawatt substation and buy ground from Shenandoah Chamber & Industry. They purchased the ground from Shenandoah Chamber and Industry for \$20,000/acre. Connell said this will supply electricity to 26,500 homes and that there is more information to come on that. Connell moved on to the old Eaton Building on Airport Road. He said the 366,000 sq. ft. building is full. Pella temporarily occupies 75,000 sq. ft. The company Better Built Tire Co. 125,000 sq. ft. and the company Seed Box Solutions also has 125,000 sq. ft. Seed Box Solutions has patent on smaller tote design to hold more totes and in turn holds more corn or beans. He anticipates that they will use the other area if Pella moves out of the building. He added that they are from a small town and chose Fremont County over the Des Moines area. He let the board know about the Lakin Foundation allocation last October 1st. He briefed the board on the history of Charles Lakin. He said they have funds in the amount of \$165 million. The criteria is to keep the money in communities in SWIA allocating it to SWIA Communities. Shenandoah got \$16.35 million. Sidney received \$6,500,000 which also includes Farragut, Riverton, and Thurman. Connell said SCIA would be glad to assist 501c3's with any of these projects. He said the foundation chose to do this because population has dropped over the years. Chairman Blackburn discussed the fact that this was a loan and not like their typical grant funding. He wants entities to be aware that this money must be paid back.

Zach Benedict, Maintenance, met with the board requesting approval of the annual Lawn World irrigation winterization and spring start-up contract. It also includes a reduction on service calls from \$85 to \$60. The renewal contract is \$300.00. Motion by Sheldon to approve the Lawn World contract. Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Auditor Cassie Gilbert met with the board for the approval of the 2025 Homestead and Military Applications and Disallowances from the Fremont County Assessor. Motion by Sheldon to approve the 2025 Homestead and Military Applications and Disallowances. Motion carried unanimously.

The board discussed allowing the use of the courthouse for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Motion was made by Sheldon to approve the use of the courthouse in October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month for the Clothesline Project. Motion carried unanimously.

During public comments, Kevin Eicher spoke to the board regarding Fremont County's response to New Cooperative spill in Montgomery County. Vice Chairman Sheldon said the spill occurred in Montgomery County and it is a waterway, so he didn't believe the county had any skin in the game so to speak. Eicher said it is his belief that the state needs to refine regulations as far as containment. He questioned a monetary settlement for Fremont County. He said it has been a rough summer for nitrates in

water when he does strip testing. He asked if he could meet with county attorney. Chairman Blackburn stated he was sure he could meet with him by appointment.

Claims were approved for September 12, 2025.

At 9:53 a.m., with no further business, Sheldon motioned to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:


Dee Owen, Auditor
Clint Blackburn, Chairman