

The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 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. Minutes of the previous board sessions were read and approved.

Let the record show that Treasurer Alise Snyder, Recorder Tarah Berry, Engineer Dan Davis, Assistant Engineer Robbie Kromminga, Dan Litchfield - Invenergy, Sheriff Kevin Aistrope, IT Scott Evans, Kristy Rogers Fredrikson & Byron, P.A., Jill Ingraham - MidAmerican Energy, John Huff – MidAmerican Energy, Kelsey Ballard – MidAmerican Energy, EMC Clayton Long, Tandon VanScyoc, and Sanitarian Caleb Hammons were present at this meeting.

Engineer Dan Davis met with the board for the signing of the following:

Motion by Sheldon to allow Chairman Blackburn to sign right-of-way use permit for Evergy for replacement of distribution poles south of 305th Avenue and 320th Street. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Shearer to allow Chairman Blackburn to sign IDOT final payment voucher for Project #BROSCHBP-CO36(78) - - GA-36 Manti Bridge replacement. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sheldon to allow Chairman Blackburn to sign IDOT final payment voucher for Project #ER-CO36(81) - - 58-36 for J-34. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Shearer to allow Chairman Blackburn to sign IDOT payment voucher with HGM Associates for engineering services for L-31 over Waubonsie Creek Management per agreement dated February 15, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Dan Litchfield with Invenergy met with the board to update them on the Shenandoah Hills Wind Project. Harry Litchfield was unable to attend this meeting. Litchfield told the board that they are selling the project to MidAmerican Energy. He said this is their 14<sup>th</sup> project collaboration with MidAmerican. He said now MidAmerican assumes all obligations of the project. Kelsey Ballard with MidAmerican Energy said they are excited about the wind project and the benefits it will bring Fremont County and the surrounding areas. She said they are familiar with stipulations and agreements and that they will start in March. She said they talked through things with Engineer Dan Davis last week. She said that she knows this will cause more work for Davis's office. She stated that MidAmerican would reimburse the county if they hired a 3<sup>rd</sup> party for the administration of permits. She stated that the first step was to lay down yard in Fremont County with turbine delivery starting in June depending on the weather. They anticipate the turbine to be completed in 2025. She said there would be 12 months of work and then they would turn the project over to the operations group. Ballard said they will need zoning permits. Crane crossing and oversize load permits will be part of it and she reiterated that they would reimburse the county if they hired outside help. Supervisor Shearer asked what the first step was in the process. MidAmerican answered site construction where they will take delivery of turbines, then road work, entrances on private property, foundations, etc. Shearer asked how deep the foundation would be. Ballard state geotechnical on each site would be maybe 10-20 feet per stamped foundation plan. Shearer expressed concerns with well water safety. MidAmerican said they would make adjustments if there is an issue like that. Chairman Blackburn ask how big of a crew they would have. She stated different crews do different jobs. She thinks at the height of the project it could be 100-250 and then 5 to 10 for operations. Supervisor Shearer questioned how many days out they were from starting. Ballard stated it would be the end of this week beginning of next. Sheriff Aistrope asked who to call if there was a traffic problem and MidAmerican said they would provide a contact when they start. Ballard said they could reach out to John Huff who was also in this meeting but there will be a local contact on site. Vice Chairman Sheldon advised of the high traffic flow on Highway 2 and Ballard said the haul route was not finalized with IDOT yet. Shearer questioned the decommissioning agreement. Kristy Rogers with Fredrikson & Byron, P.A. said Fremont County has two, a decommissioning agreement and a decommissioning plan. Dan Litchfield gave copies of those to Shearer. Dan Litchfield then thanked board for their support. Supervisor Shearer stated that he wanted to make it clear that it was the previous board that supported it and not the entirety of this board or the entirety of the residents of Fremont County.

The board discussed the compensation board recommendations. The compensation board met on January 8, 2025. The compensation board recommended a 10% increase for elected officials across the board. Sheriff Aistrope wrote a letter to the compensation board to get written documentation of what they used to get that number. He said if they used his documentation then they wouldn't have recommended 10%. Sheriff Aistrope said that this may not be the end of it if he doesn't get his 10%. He doesn't know who makes that decision for the compensation board but they are not following the law. Supervisor Shearer asked for clarification of the Back the Blue law. Aistrope read from the Iowa Code saying the compensation board shall provide documents of how they reached their determination, they are to use applicable comparable officers' salaries of other entities, setting salary the board shall use comparables of the head of the Iowa State Patrol, DCI, and similar size city chiefs. He said if the Code says to do it he doesn't have the option of not enforcing it. He said that 10% is half of what it should be. Aistrope said if he gets 17% he would cap what the officers get, but not if he gets 10%. Aistrope cited prior comp board rules and what they are now. Vice Chairman Sheldon explained the 10% was to partially bridge the gap. When asked Auditor Owen discussed the budget deficit with current numbers. Sheldon said in trying to bridge the gap they can't break the bank. Shearer stated he doesn't like

disparity among the elected officials. Motion by Shearer for a raise for the sheriff at 7.5% and 3.5% for all other elected officials. Motion carried unanimously.


Motion was made by Shearer to allow Chairman Blackburn to sign ISAC/Wellmark/GBP Insurance renewal forms. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sheldon to set the Proposed FY 25/26 Property Tax Levy Hearing in a separate meeting for March 26, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.


Claims were approved for February 28, 2025. There was one claim denied.

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

ATTEST:



Dee Owen, Auditor



Clint Blackburn, Chairman