

THIRD MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Fremont, State of Colorado, met in Regular Session on February 8, 2005, 615 Macon Avenue, Room LL3, Fremont County Administration Building, Canon City, Colorado. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M. by Commissioner Chairman, Larry Lasha.

Larry Lasha	Commissioner	Present
Edward H. Norden	Commissioner	Present
Michael J. Stiehl	Commissioner	Present
Brenda Jackson	County Attorney	Present
Norma Hatfield	Clerk and Recorder	Present

Also present Finance Director, Dana Angel; Bill Giordano, Planning and Zoning Director and Sharon Kendall, Deputy Clerk.

The Morning Prayer was given by Pastor Jim Roberts from Healing Waters Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited by those present.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Stiehl made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes January 25, 2005
2. Approval of Bills, February 8, 2005

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lasha. Upon vote: Commissioner Stiehl, aye; Commissioner Lasha, aye; Commissioner Norden, aye. The motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE/INFORMATIONAL

1. Staff/Elected Officials

Norma Hatfield, Fremont County Clerk & Recorder, submitted the Clerk's Report for the month of January and stated that fees earned was \$556,075.23 and that was \$45,039.01 less than a year ago. The Fremont County sales tax collected was \$50,068.77, and that was \$10,358.64 less than in 2004. Of these monies, a total of \$336,249.79 was collected and that was \$18,796.58 less than a year ago. Specific ownership tax collected in the Clerk's Office for last month was \$286,420.38. **Commissioner Lasha** made the motion to approve the Clerk's Report for January 2005. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norden. Upon vote: Commissioner Lasha, aye; Commissioner Norden, aye; Commissioner Stiehl, aye. The motion carried.

Commissioner Stiehl wanted to mention that he and Commissioner Norden had their new In-Training badges. He stated that Commissioner Norden had been working really hard to put together the news on the County website.

Commissioner Norden stated that the high school technician and website designed, Rene Tate, has enthusiastically pursued this News Now web page. fremontco.com and click on "News Now".

2. Citizens Not Scheduled

Duane Caldwell, Elm Avenue Resident, stated his concerns regarding plowing snow on Hickory, Riley Drive and Locust. Mr. Caldwell also had concerns regarding the need for

more or larger speed limit signs on the 1600, 1700 blocks on Elm and get the stripes painted. He stated he thought Fremont County needed a noise law.

NEW BUSINESS:

BRUCE REDUS – SOUTHERN COLORADO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (SCEDD) BOARD UPDATE

Bruce Redus stated that regarding the activity at the Airport, there was occupancy of 10,000 square feet at the 380 Skyland building. It is a funeral supply distribution operation and will be on a lease arrangement. There may be some manufacturing opportunities with 15-20 employees in the future. There has been discussion regarding a food processing operation that would like to be out at the Airport area, and they will continue to monitor that. The powder coating building is for sale. The True Value operation is pretty much on schedule with a March timeframe to move some equipment on site.

Mr. Redus stated that they had just met with the Office of Economic Development and PCC on the technical service side for Holcim. They are looking at a training program that would be a \$102,000 grant to work on training and retraining of existing employees. With the SBA programs, the status is about the same. There are 14 performing loans that represents about 10% of the portfolio, and that is just the SBA portion. Five loans are ready to close that would just about double their portion of the portfolio. Those projects represent better than \$6 million in capital investments. Out of the FEDC office, they did a letter of support for the Recreation District in regard to the entrance for the Center on Highway 115. The Colorado Workforce Center, in partnership with the Chambers and civic groups, are putting on programs at PCC in February, March and April with focus on working with customer service and sales techniques for companies in the Fremont County area.

RESOLUTION #6/ASSESSOR'S OFFICE – ABATEMENT OF TAXES – AQUILA

Commissioner Lasha stated this was a request for abatement of taxes for 2004 to Aquila, a data entry error in the amount of \$4,134.56. **Commissioner Norden** made the motion to approve **Resolution #6**, Abatement of Taxes for 2004 for Aquila as reported by the Assessor's Office. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stiehl. Upon vote: Commissioner Norden, aye; Commissioner Stiehl, aye; Commissioner Lasha, aye. The motion carried and carried with it the adoption of **Resolution #6**.

PLANNING AND ZONING CODE ENFORCEMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Bill Giordano, Planning & Zoning Director, stated that both Walter Elkins and Robert Sapp had background in police enforcement. He stated they had done a very good job to get the violations resolved without court action.

Walter Elkins stated that the code enforcement section of Fremont County Planning & Zoning Department enforces all aspects of the zoning resolution. The purpose is to preserve and improve the health, safety and general welfare of Fremont County residents. If a citizen feels that a property is in violation, they may submit a complaint and the complaint will be followed by an inspection of the property. It is the policy to keep the identity of complainants confidential, but they should be aware that the County may be required to release the information under the Colorado Open Records Act. Complaints are usually investigated within 5-10 days. If a violation exists, an attempt will be made to personally speak with the property owner followed by a written notice. Only after exhausting every avenue available to obtain compliance with the zoning resolution, will a case be submitted to the County Attorney for prosecution.

Robert Sapp stated that in 2004, they handled about 119 cases which were all pretty difficult. They cleared 80 cases or 67%, and sent 9 cases to the County Attorney. In 2003 they handled 176 cases, and 86% of those came into compliance with less than 5% of them going to the County Attorney. When they submit a case to the County Attorney, it is

ready to go. There are presently 30 cases under investigation and they average one to five cases coming in per week. Another job they do is physical addressing of several properties, and in the last two years, they have addressed 450 properties. They have readdressed two subdivisions. They have reviewed 47 different home occupations to ensure that they are in compliance, and all of them are. Code Enforcements Officers in this State have a very difficult task, and they have been threatened several times. Through their training, they are able to diffuse those things and bring people into compliance. Code enforcement throughout the State are starting to uniform their officers and marking their vehicles.

Commissioner Norden stated that he would like to get copies of the statistics to the media. He stated that even before taking office, he had been impressed with Walter and Robert's work and they are doing an admirable job under difficult circumstances.

Bill Giordano stated that since these two gentlemen had been in place, he had two formal complaints. Mr. Giordano stated that if you don't have the enforcement, the only people getting penalized are the people that are honest. They are the ones coming forward, the ones who have to pay the fees, and they are the ones who have to comply with all the regulations. He stated he was seeing cooperation and support with other agencies that they had not had before.

Commissioner Lasha stated he echoed the appreciation for Walter and Robert. He stated they also needed to thank the people in the County that comply with the regulations.

REQUEST: REAPPOINTMENT OF FRANCIS WILLIAMS TO BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

Bill Giordano stated this term expires February 22, 2005 and this is a three-year term. **Commissioner Stiehl** made the motion to reappoint Francis Williams to Board of Zoning Adjustment for another three years. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norden. Upon vote: Commissioner Stiehl, aye; Commissioner Norden, aye; Commissioner Lasha, aye. The motion carried.

REQUEST: MS 04-002 JORDAN SUBDIVISION

Commissioner Lasha stated this was a request for an additional six months. **Bill Giordano** stated this property was on 15th and South Street, and all the minimum requirements had been met. When they sent the referral for the drainage to Mr. Effinger, they found a number of issues that still had not been addressed. It is all drainage related issues, everything else is in place and ready to go. **Commissioner Norden** made the motion to approve a six-month extension for MS 04-002 Jordan Subdivision. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lasha. Upon vote: Commissioner Norden, aye; Commissioner Lasha, aye; Commissioner Stiehl, aye. The motion carried.

Commissioner Lasha adjourned the meeting at 10:18 A.M.