

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of a One-Year Extension for
Ambulance Service Area Franchises

ORDER NO. 89-2020

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 2016-1, the Columbia County Ambulance Service Ordinance, establishes Ambulance Service Areas and provides that no person may provide ambulance service in Columbia County without being fully franchised in accordance with the applicable provisions; and

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2015, the Board of County Commissioners adopted the following orders granting Ambulance Service Area ("ASA") franchises:

- Order No. 58-2015, granting a franchise to the Scappoose Rural Fire Protection District for ASA 2 (Scappoose);
- Order No. 59-2015, granting franchises to Columbia River Fire and Rescue for ASA 3 (St. Helens) and ASA 4 (Rainier);
- Order No. 60-2015, granting a franchise to Clatskanie Rural Fire Protection District for ASA 5 (Clatskanie);
- Order No. 61-2015, granting a franchise to Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire Protection District for ASA 6 (Mist-Birkenfeld); and
- Order No. 62-2015, granting a franchise to Metro West Ambulance Service for ASA 7 (Vernonia)

WHEREAS, the above franchises expire on December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Section 13(2) of the Ambulance Service Ordinance allows the Board of County Commissioners to extend the term of ambulance service franchises if it finds that a longer term is required in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Board adopted Resolution No. 25-2020, declaring an emergency for Columbia County to address the COVID-19 pandemic and authorizing the Board to take actions and issue orders necessary to protect the public and minimize or mitigate the effect of the emergency. The emergency declaration was extended to December 31, 2020, by Resolution No. 74-2020; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia County Public Health Director is the administrator of the Ambulance Service Ordinance, and because significant County public health resources have been devoted to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic since March, the processing of new or renewal applications for franchises has been delayed; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the County's Ambulance Service Area Plan, which affects the franchise agreements, was adopted nearly 20 years ago in 2001 and is in need of a comprehensive update; and

WHEREAS, because Public Health staff resources have been necessarily focused on the COVID-19 pandemic since March, a one-year extension to the ASA franchises is necessary to allow for the Ambulance Service Area Plan to be reviewed and updated as well as provide for an application process for the franchise areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEREBY FINDS that in light of Columbia County's COVID-19 public health emergency, a one-year extension of the ASA franchises is required and in the public interest to allow for a comprehensive review of the ASA Plan and an application process for the franchise areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEREBY ORDERS that the franchises granted by Order Nos. 58-2015, 59-2015, 60-2015, 61-2015 and 62-2015 shall be extended for one year, expiring on December 31, 2021.

DATED this 9 day of December, 2020.

Approved as to form

By: [Signature]
Office of County Counsel

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR
COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: [Signature]
Alex Tardif, Chair

By: [Signature]
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

By: [Signature]
Henry Heimuller, Commissioner