

**Board of County Commissioners
For Columbia County, Oregon
Hybrid from the John Gumm Building and Civic Center
Wednesday, October 1, 2025
Meeting Minutes**

Present: Commissioner Kellie Jo Smith, Commissioner Margaret Magruder, Commissioner Casey Garrett, Ed McGlone, Assistant County Counsel, Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Smith called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Magruder moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Garrett seconded.

Vote: KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Approved.

VISITOR COMMENTS - 3 MINUTE LIMIT

No comment

PROCLAMATION:

- 1.** Commissioner Magruder read the Domestic Violence Awareness Proclamation.
 - a. Commissioner Garrett moved to approve the Domestic Violence Awareness Proclamation, and Commissioner Magruder seconded. **Vote:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Motion Approved.

- 2.** Erin Hass, Victims' Assistance, briefed the Board regarding the 1st Annual Domestic Violence Awareness March on October 18, 2025.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Smith read the consent agenda in full. Commissioner Garrett moved, and Commissioner Magruder seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. **Vote:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Approved.

- A. Approve personnel action for Corey Padron, effective October 1, 2025, and Authorize the Chair to sign.
- B. Approve personnel action for Nathan Woodward, effective October 1, 2025, and Authorize the Chair to sign.
- C. Approve Select to Pay for September 25, 2025.
- D. Approve Order 59-2025, In the Matter of Authorizing the Allocation of County Funds for Public Purposes-Columbia County Economic Team and United Way.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS

Commissioner Smith read the Agreements, Contracts, and Amendments in full. Commissioner Garrett moved, and Commissioner Magruder seconded to approve the Agreements, Contracts, and Amendments as presented. **Vote:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Approved.

- A.** Approve C47-2020-2, Amendment Number Six to Intergovernmental Agreement Between Columbia County, Oregon, and the Port of Columbia County.
- B.** Approve C135-2025, Indemnity Agreement for 2025 Spirit of Christmas Parade (St Helens) and Authorize the Chair to sign.

- C. Approve C136-2025, Indemnity Agreement for 2025 Spirit of Christmas Parade (Scappoose) and Authorize the Chair to sign.
- D. Approve C137-2025, Indemnity Agreement for 2025 Reindeer Run and Authorize the Chair to sign.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 1. Sarah Hanson, County Counsel, update the Board regarding a Treasurer Vacancy. After the discussion, the Board directed Counsel to get an appointment letter written for MaryAnn Guess and bring it back for the consent agenda.
- 2. Chris Wheatley, Transit Director,
 - a. Requesting Approval for Public Transportation Grants.
 - I. Commissioner Garrett moved to approve C140-2025 Transportation Grant Agreement 35801, Operating 5311, and authorize the Chair to sign. Commissioner Magruder seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
 - II. Commissioner Garrett moved to approve C138-2025 Transportation Grant Agreement 35738, Capital 5310, and authorize the Chair to sign. Commissioner Magruder seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
 - III. Commissioner Garrett moved to approve C139-2025 Transportation Grant Agreement 35739, Capital 5310, and authorize the Chair to sign. Commissioner Magruder seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
 - Vote:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Approved.
- 3. Ed McGlone, Assistant County Counsel, along with the City of St. Helens, is here asking for the right of entry to County property for testing regarding a reservoir siting study. The PUD is also asking for permission for the right-of-way on County property. After the discussion,
 - a. Commissioner Garrett moved, and Commissioner Magruder seconded C134-2025 Right of Entry to Fairgrounds for St. Helens Reservoir Siting Study. **Vote:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Approved.
 - b. Commissioner Garrett moved, and Commissioner Magruder seconded C132-2025, Right-of-Entry on County Property. The motion carried unanimously. **Vote:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Approved.

COMMISSIONER MAGRUDER COMMENTS

I attended the Oregon and California Lands meeting last week in North Bend. The Oregon/California land is our BLM, or Bureau of Land Management, lands, which were given to the Federal Government to manage, and we receive payments for what they harvest. We used to receive multi-million-dollar annual payments, and this change is due to several reasons, but the Environmental Protection rules are the primary reason. Barry Bushue, BLM's State Director for Oregon and Washington, is encouraging more harvests and not to do twenty-year contracts. This will allow for more harvest, and we will get a little bit of money. We are currently getting a couple of hundred thousand and maybe a million a year now. We had another sawmill, Roseburg Timber, go out of business last week. We must harvest trees in Oregon and Washington and manage our forests more profitably, so we don't lose all these trees. If you notice here in Columbia County, where 94% of the land is in private ownership and 75% of it is Douglas Firs, it doesn't burn up, not just because we are in Western Oregon, where we are greener, but because when private timber starts to burn, the landowners put it out. The federal landowner seems to wait until it burns up. Jason Smith, owner and CEO of Southport Lumber Company in North Bend, has been active in higher-value products from underused pulp logs. We need to continue harvesting our federal

lands, as well as private lands. We are working with our lobbyists in DC to get BLM to harvest more, and perhaps we can get a little bit more value.

COMMISSIONER GARRETT COMMENTS

One of your previous colleagues said, under every tree is a perfectly good stump. Thank you, Commissioner Hyde. I enjoy short meetings, so come to the Shrine Club this Saturday from 7:30 am to 10:30 am, and I will cook you breakfast for a reasonable price.

COMMISSIONER SMITH COMMENTS

I attended the Empty Bowls event, which supports the Pacific Food Bank and its efforts to end hunger. Many students and teachers make the ceramic bowls and have been doing this for many years. On Saturday morning, I attended the Elk’s Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony, where they inducted many more members. Saturday night, I was a blackjack dealer at the Sande School of Horsemanship Fundraiser Saddle Up and Double Down event supporting the foster community and the IDD community.

OTHER DISCUSSION

Commissioner Garrett requested thoughts on relocating the morning meeting to the Work Session space until the audio issue in the Auditorium is resolved. After the discussion, we will meet in the Community Room until further notice.

ADJOURN

With nothing further to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:36 AM. The recording of this meeting is posted at www.columbiacountyor.gov/meetings The next regular scheduled meeting is on October 8, 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____
Kellie Jo Smith, Chair

By: _____
Casey Garrett, Commissioner

By: _____
Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator

By: _____
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner