

Columbia County Board of Commissioners
September 24, 2025, Board Meeting
Hybrid from the
Columbia County Courthouse, 230 Strand St., St. Helens, OR. 97051.

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

CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Smith called this meeting to order at 10:02 am and led the flag salute.

APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Magruder moved to amend the agenda by adding item E, a letter requesting no action to FEMA. Commissioner Garrett seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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

VISITOR COMMENTS - 3 MINUTE LIMIT

Jeff Pricher, Scappoose, Oregon, regarding a concern about a recent proceeding and discussion made during a public meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Smith read the consent agenda in full. Commissioner Garrett moved, and Commissioner Magruder seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- A.** Ratify Order No. 58-2025, In the Matter of Amending the County Fee Schedule for the Department of Community Justice-Adult.
- B.** Approve the Board Meeting Minutes for September 3 and September 10, 2025.
- C.** Approve the Board Work Session Meeting Minutes for August 27, 2025, September 3,10, and 17, 2025.
- D.** Approve Select to Pay for September 10 and September 17, 2025.
- E.** Ratify letter to FEMA requesting no action.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS

Commissioner Smith read the Agreements, Contracts, and Amendments in full. Commissioner Magruder moved, and Commissioner Garrett seconded to approve the Agreements, Contracts, and Amendments as presented.

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

- A.** Approve C99-2022-2, Amendment 5 to Public Services Contract with The Act 1 Group, Inc. DBA ATIM.
- B.** Approve C104-2020-5, Amendment No. 5 to Intergovernmental Agreement No. 90G000254 with Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, Building Codes Division, and Authorize Chair to Sign.
- C.** Approve C109-2025-1, Amendment 1 to Personal Services Contract with Robert Cromwell for Transmission Line Consulting.
- D.** Approve C131-2025, Permit and Hold Harmless for Weyerhaeuser Tail Hold over CZ Trail and Authorize the Chair to sign.

//

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Kara Master, Brownfields Coordinator/ Project Manager, is here with an update regarding the former Johnson Oil- Project and potential next steps. The Board would like to investigate the obligations from the grant application and work with Counsel.
2. Mike Sykes and Branden Staehely, Columbia River PUD, are here regarding a Reinforcement Study update and potential next steps. They will report back to the commissioners in a few months.
3. Rebecca Fieken, Medical Examiner, would like to request to apply for Federal Grant Funding for the Medical Examiner's Division. This grant could cover approximately \$100,000 of improvements, with a cutoff date of October 6th for applications.
 - A. Commissioner Magruder moved to allow Rebecca Fieken to apply for the federal grant funding for the medical examiners' division, which is subject to review from Counsel. Commissioner Garrett seconded. **Vote:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Approved.
4. Melissa Enright, General Services Office Coordinator, is here asking permission to apply for a playground grant for Big Eddy. The current playground equipment is outdated. This grant is due by October 17th.
 - A. Commissioner Garrett moved approval of 61-2025 In the Matter of Authorizing the Application for a County Opportunity Grant to Construct a Playground at Big Eddy Campground. Commissioner Magruder seconded. **Vote:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Approved.
 - B. Commissioner Garrett moved to authorize the Play Time Grant application. Commissioner Magruder seconded. **Vote:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Approved.
5. Mike Russell, Public Works Director, is here with three road event applications.
 - A. Spirit of Christmas Parade-St. Helens Road Event Application for December 7th. Commissioner Garrett moved to approve the 2025 Spirit of Christmas Parade- St. Helens Road Event application, authorizing Public Works to issue a permit. Commissioner Magruder seconded. **Vote:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Approved.
 - B. Spirit of Christmas Parade-Scappoose Road Event Application for December 6th. Commissioner Garrett moved to approve the 2025 Spirit of Christmas Parade-Scappoose Road Event application and authorize Public Works to issue a permit. Commissioner Magruder seconded. The motion carried unanimously. **Vote:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Approved.
 - C. Reindeer Run Road Event on December 6th. Commissioner Garrett moved to approve the Reindeer Run Road Event, authorizing Public Works to issue a permit. Commissioner Magruder seconded. **Vote:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Approved.

COMMISSIONER MAGRUDER COMMENTS

Happy Birthday to Commissioner Garrett. The Housing Summit in Astoria on Monday was really good, and hopefully, we will be able to put some of it to use. Thanks to the Events Committee and all the staff who helped with the County Picnic. The food was good, and the company was superior.

//

COMMISSIONER GARRETT COMMENTS

The Housing Summit was well-organized. Shout out to Sarah Lu and Lydia from COLPAC for organizing everything. I don't know if I am optimistic coming out of it, but it was interesting to hear back the strategy for the cities back in the 90s. The plan for cities and counties was to set a platform and get out of the way, letting developers in the free market do their thing. Over the years, everything has gotten more complicated. Now, the government must be more involved, and it seems that the more we get involved, the less actual production occurs. Hopefully, we can find a way to remove some of the barriers and not create new ones as we move forward, allowing the free market to operate freely and drive growth. There was a lot of positivity there, and the recognition that something must change. We will see where it all goes from here.

COMMISSIONER SMITH COMMENTS

We were on the road in Newport for the District 7 event. Happy Birthday to Commissioner Magruder this weekend.

ADJOURN

With nothing further to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:48 AM. The recording of this meeting is posted at www.columbiacountyor.gov/meetings The next regular scheduled meeting is on October 1, 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