

Columbia County Board of Commissioners
October 29, 2025, Board Meeting
Hybrid from the
John Gumm Civic Center, 251 St. Helens Street. St. Helens, OR. 97051.

Present: Commissioner Kellie Jo Smith, Commissioner Margaret Magruder, Commissioner Casey Garrett, Sarah Hanson, County Counsel Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Smith called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Garrett moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Magruder seconded. The motion carried unanimously. **Vote:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Approved.

VISITOR COMMENTS - 3 MINUTE LIMIT

Julie Scism, the OHSU Extension Office Manager, introduced herself and shared that they have resumed publication of the newsletter.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A.** Approve the Board Meeting Minutes for April 30, June 4, and October 1, 2025.
- B.** Approve the Board Meeting Work Session Minutes for April 30, June 4, and July 29, 2025.
- C.** Approve Personnel Action for Carrie Garcia, effective November 1, 2025, and Authorize the Chair to sign.
- D.** Approve Personnel Action for Jaime Aanensen, effective November 1, 2025, and Authorize the Chair to Sign.
- E.** Approve Select to Pay for October 22, 2025.
- F.** Approve Order No. 66-2025, In the Matter of the Livestock Attack by Two Dogs Owned by Frank McGuire.

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 C87-2024-1, Change Order #1 Extending Completion Date and Authorize the Chair to Sign.
- B.** Approve C153-2025, Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of St. Helens for Permit Data Compilation Services.
- C.** Approve C154-2025, Grant Agreement #JRP-27-05 with the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission and Authorize the Chair to Sign.
- D.** Approve C155-2025, Brown Contracting Permit and Hold Harmless Agreement, and authorize the Chair to sign.
- E.** C156-2025 2025 Subscription Agreement with Thomson Reuters for Westlaw and Authorize Sarah Hanson to Sign.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Corey Padron, Emergency Management Director, is here to request ratification of a UASI Reallocation that was submitted last week. After the discussion, Commissioner Garrett moved to ratify the UASI Reallocation application. Commissioner Magruder seconded. The motion carried unanimously. **Vote:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Approved.
2. Carrie Garcia briefed the Board on the recruitment process for the Finance Director position. We have received 17 applications; 4 viable applicants have been scheduled for interviews. Today, the Board will conduct an interview, and after that, we will serve lunch to the Department Heads for them to meet and greet with the applicant. Sarah Hanson, County Counsel, is also here to seek approval of a board order allowing lunch to be served today as part of the official compensation package. After discussion, Commissioner Magruder moved to approve 68-2025 In the Matter of Authorizing Food and Drink for Finance Director Hiring Process. Commissioner Garrett seconded. Commissioner Garrett voted Nay. The motion carried. **Vote:** KJS/MM in favor. CG, nay.

COMMISSIONER MAGRUDER COMMENTS

- We had an AOC Board meeting this morning, and we had some conversation regarding the loss of SNAP benefits for people. Linn County is extending the hours of its food bank and other food providers to accommodate individuals who work and allow them time to collect donations. In Clackamas County, a letter was sent to the State asking the Governor to request that the federal government make some changes. They are also planning to declare a State of Emergency so they can conduct additional outreach that they would otherwise be prohibited from doing. They are also asking Walmart to sell to the food bank at cost and the County will provide funds to make that happen. These are all things that we need to think about.

COMMISSIONER GARRETT COMMENTS

- I attended the Area Commission Transportation Committee in Salem yesterday. There were updates for the different regions throughout the state. It was somewhat optimistic, but the elephant in the room was the potential referendum over the transportation package. I'm assuming the Governor will sign that package sometime soon, but there are some political plays there. I think the meeting was a success. It will be interesting to see what happens in the coming months for funding. As it stands, Columbia County will receive an additional \$1.2 million per year.
- Also want to give kudos to Les Watters and all the museum folks. We have a nice display out in the hallway here, so there is another reason to attend these meetings in person and see all the hard work the museum has been doing.
- Halloween is coming up soon. Brush your teeth extra to make up for all the candy you'll eat this week.
- Shriners breakfast this Saturday.

COMMISSIONER SMITH COMMENTS

- I would like to echo the same with the potential loss of SNAP, WIC, housing services, and Medicaid services; there will be many individuals in need. Please donate to the local Columbia Pacific Food Bank. I appreciated Ben West's comments and that we can all get together and do something.

We will recess until 11 AM

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to ORS. 192.660(2)(a) to consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent.

Coming out of the executive session with no action taken.

ADJOURN

With nothing further to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:59 AM.

The recording of this meeting is posted at www.columbiacountyor.gov/meetings

The next regular scheduled meeting is on November 5, 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