

Columbia County Board of Commissioners
January 28, 2026, Board Meeting
Hybrid from the
John Gumm Building and Civic Center
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 this meeting to order at 10:00 am and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Garrett moved to amend the agenda by removing items F and G. Commissioner Magruder seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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

VISITOR COMMENTS - 3 MINUTE LIMIT

Rick Hobart, of Vernonia, Oregon, is here to give comments regarding the censure of Commissioner Garrett.

Brady Prehiem, St. Helens, Oregon, is here commenting on Commissioner Garrett and Fair Board Member Butch Guess.

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 C3-2026, Contract with Southland Industries for Courthouse Boiler Replacement, and Authorize Amy Hansford to sign.
- B.** Approve Select to Pay for January 22, 2026.
- C.** Approve Invoice "Dues2026COL", AOC 2026 General Fund Dues for \$34,650.75, and the 2026 Council of Forest Trust Land Counties Dues for \$ 1, 248.34.
- D.** Approve Personnel Actions for Department Heads, effective February 1, 2026, and Authorize the Chair to sign.
- E.** Approve Personnel Action for Chris Wheatley, effective February 1, 2026, and Authorize the Chair to sign.
- ~~**F.** Approve Out of State Travel for Mike Russell to attend the 2026 National Association of County Engineers Conference in Arlington, Tx. April 12-15, 2026, related costs covered by the Oregon Association of County Engineers and Surveyors.~~
- ~~**G.** Reappoint Butch Guess to the Columbia County Fair Board Seat # 5, with a Term to Expire January 1, 2029, and Authorize the Chair to Sign.~~
- H.** Approve OLCC Application for a Special Event, Scappoose High Boosters, Spring Chinook Derby and Banquet/Auction on May 16, 2026, at 58892 Saulser Road, St. Helens, OR. 97051, and Authorize the Chair to Sign.

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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 in favor. Approved.
- A.** Approve C77-2019-3, Amendment No. 5 to Agreement for Detention of Columbia County Juveniles in the Cowlitz County Juvenile Detention Facility.
- B.** Approve C155-2019-5, Amendment 5 to Public Services Contract with Trinity Services Group for Food Services in the Columbia County Jail.
- C.** Approve C160-2025-3, Change Order 007 to Prime Contract with 2KG Contractors for the Construction of a deflection Suite in the Columbia County Courthouse, Door Hardware Scope Clarifications, and Authorize Riley Baker to Sign.
- D.** Approve C160-2025-4, Change Order 008 to Prime Contract with 2KG Contractors for the Construction of a deflection Suite in the Columbia County Courthouse, Access Control Changes, and Authorize Riley Baker to Sign.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 1.** Mike Russell, Public Works Director, Grant DeJongh, Assistant Public Works Director, and Tim Hancock, Road & Bridge Maintenance Superintendent, Public Works, are here to discuss the operational planning for the Columbia County Road Department and to answer questions from the public and the Commissioners. After much discussion, Public Works staff will continue working on alternative work plans and will return before the Board for further discussion.

VISITOR COMMENTS – Answered by Mike Russell, Public Works Director

Constituents met in Clatskanie and Goble over the weekend and early this week. A list of questions regarding the proposed Public Works plans to provide efficiencies throughout the department and road work for Columbia County. Mike answered those questions.

In the room were Brady Preheim, Dustin Loomos, LaVana Paire, Rick Loomos, and Terry Gibson. Norman Gore and Katie asked questions, and Mike Russell answered them.

COMMISSIONER MAGRUDER COMMENTS

No comment.

COMMISSIONER GARRETT COMMENTS

No comment.

COMMISSIONER SMITH COMMENTS

No comment.

ADJOURN

With nothing further to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:47 PM. The recording of this meeting is posted at www.columbiacountyor.gov/meetings The next regular scheduled meeting is on February 04, 2026.

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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