

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
Work Session Minutes

Commissioner Kellie Jo Smith, Commissioner Margaret Magruder, Commissioner Casey Garrett, Sarah Hanson, County Counsel, Spencer Parsons, Sr. Assistant County Counsel, Ed McGlone, Assistant County Counsel, and Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator, were present for the scheduled hybrid meeting held from the John Gumm Building and Civic Center in St. Helens, Oregon.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Smith called this meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Garrett moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Magruder seconded. Vote: KJS/MM/CG all in Favor. Motion Approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Holly Miller, IT Director
 - a) Broadband Project Update.

Holly Miller introduced Michael Curri, Andrew Bates, Drew McNaughton, and James Anderson from RSG Consulting, who joined online from France. On Monday, May 12, 2025, BEAD OBO announced that all applications for funding have been placed on hold due to potential rule changes. RSG Consulting presented and explained how the Broadband project would work upon completion, as well as its benefits to the county. With funding on hold, RSG Consulting proposed a partnership with Columbia County. A discussion was held on aspects of the project and what it would look like to move into a partnership. RSG will return to the May 21, 2025, work session at 1:00 p.m. for further discussion and propose numbers for capital dollars, financing, and possible grant dollars.

2. Carrie Garcia, Human Resources, and Lindsay Elder, Assistant Finance Director:
 - a) Furlough Process for FY 25/26 and Recommend Closure Days.

Carrie Garcia and Lindsay Elder came before the committee to discuss furlough days for FY 25/26. The county is scheduled to have nineteen furlough days between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, resulting in a 7.31% reduction in payroll over the year. The County can set up to nine of these days and close all services, while county employees can choose which additional ten days they would like to take. Carrie and Lindsay have proposed four days for closures, leaving the remaining fifteen days to be determined by department heads and staff. During the discussion, the Board agreed that they would prefer to have the County

set all nine days and leave the remaining ten days up to department heads and staff to determine, while not completely closing departments. It was noted that if we find we do not need to take all nineteen days, we can claw back some of the time the Board has preset. Staff was directed to come up with the additional five dates, run by the BOCC individually, and place on an upcoming meeting agenda by Board Order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Commissioners recessed the regular scheduled meeting to enter executive sessions.

1. Executive Session Under ORS 192.660(2)(f), consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection, with Spencer Parsons, Sr. Assistant County Counsel.
2. Executive Session Under ORS 192.660(2)(h), to consult with Counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body regarding current litigation or litigation likely to be filed. With Ed McGlone, Assistant County Counsel.
3. Executive Session Under ORS 192.660(2P)(e), conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate property transactions.

Exiting the executive sessions without taking any action, the Board reconvened for its regularly scheduled meeting.

ADJOURN

With nothing further to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:54 pm. The recording of this meeting is posted at www.columbiacountyor.gov/meetings

The next regular scheduled meeting is on May 21, 2025.

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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