

Columbia County Board of Commissioners
May 28, 2025, Board Meeting
Hybrid from the
John Gumm Building and 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/FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Smith called this meeting to order at 10:00 am and led the flag salute.

APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Garrett moved to amend the agenda by pulling consent agenda item F for discussion. Commissioner Magruder seconded. **Vote:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Motion approved.

VISITOR COMMENTS - 3 MINUTE LIMIT

No comment

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A.** Approve Select to Pay for May 19 and May 22, 2025.
- B.** Approve the Board Meeting Minutes from May 14, 2025.
- C.** Approve the Board Work Session Meeting Minutes from May 14, 2025.
- D.** Approve Potential Change Order 53 with Kirby Nagelhout for Scaffolding and authorize the Chair to sign.
- E.** Approve Certificate of Substantial Completion for Courthouse Improvements and authorize Riley Baker to sign.
- ~~**F.** Approve Order No. 21-2025, In the Matter of Adopting a Policy on Board Direction. — Pulled into discussion.~~
- G.** Approve Order No. 24-2025, In the Matter of Adopting a Furlough Schedule for FY2026.
- H.** Approve Order No. 25-2025, In the Matter of Granting a Franchise for Ambulance Services to Metro West Ambulance Services, Inc. for Ambulance Service Area 7.
- I.** Approve Order No. 26-2025, In the Matter of the Petition to Name a New Private Road Located off Nehalem Highway North, “Starlight Lane.”
- J.** Approve Order No. 27-2025, In the Matter of the Petition to Name an Existing Public Way off Frontage Road in Warren, “Hammerbeck Lane.”

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. Motion approved.

- A.** Approve C28-2025, Master Opioid Settlement Agreement with Target Corporation, and authorize Sarah Hanson to sign.

- B. Approve C62-2025, Agreement for Ambulance Service Franchise with Metro West Ambulance Services, Inc. for Ambulance Service Area #7.
- C. Approve C65-2025, Permit and Hold Harmless Agreement for 71990 Hutchinson Road, Rainier, Oregon, and authorize the Chair to sign.
- D. Approve C70-2025, Indemnity Agreement for Columbia Century Challenge, and authorize the Chair to sign.
- E. Approve C75-2022-3, Amendment 3 to Personal Services Contract for Audit Services with Moss Adams.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Order No. 21-2025, In the Matter of Adopting a Policy on Board Direction, was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.
 - a. Commissioner Garrett does not feel that this order is needed. He feels it sets a high precedent by attempting to restrict the ability of elected Commissioners to communicate with our constituents and provide direction to staff. We have worked without this order for 150 years and feel our staff should be able to know when a majority vote is required. He believes that this is an effort restrict our ability to direct staff and will be confusing for them. His vote is a no for this policy.
 - b. Commissioner Magruder feels that the order makes it very clear how everyone should interact and avoid issues. Commissioner Magruder added that, in her experience, the Robert’s Rules of Order work very well, and she knows most people don’t even know what they are anymore. So, having some direction will be very helpful.
 - c. Commissioner Smith feels that we did not have Commissioner direction until 1971. She feels this provides a lot of guidance and structure and is not intended to take away any authority. It will allow our department head to refer to something and be able to say no if necessary. They can come to the Board for direction. I feel like we are not telling anybody what to do, so I completely agree with this policy.

After discussion, **Commissioner Magruder moved to approve Order 21-2025, In the Matter of Adopting a Policy on Board Direction. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote:** KJS/MM in favor, CG opposed. Motion Approved.

COMMISSIONER GARRETT COMMENTS

Well, there goes May. We had some rain to make up for the lack of rain in April. Looking forward to the AOC Board of Directors gathering this weekend in Sisters. We hope to resolve all the issues in the Counties around the State. See you back here next week.

COMMISSIONER MAGRUDER COMMENTS

National Hamburger Day! I love to experience the positive things that young people do in our community. I attended the Grimm Brothers' play at Clatskanie. It was amazing! The children had many speaking parts and learned their lines. On June 8th, we are having a Tony Watch Party. Cole Escola, a local former resident, has been nominated for 5 Tony awards. This will be a fundraiser! Deborah Hazen is organizing this event, and it promises to be a great one.

COMMISSIONER SMITH COMMENTS

We have Jayden Pence, a sophomore from St. Helens, who has made the local news for her wrestling success. She will be continuing to compete at the district and state levels for the Triple Crown. This afternoon, I will be hosting the Rotary Club here for a tour of the John Gumm Building and Civic Center.

ADJOURN

With nothing further to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:14 AM.
The recording of this meeting is posted at www.columbiacountyor.gov/meetings
The next regular scheduled meeting is on June 4, 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