

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON
Wednesday, August 27, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
WORK SESSION

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

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Smith called this meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

APPROVE AGENDA

- Commissioner Garrett moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Magruder seconded. **Vote:** KJS, MM, & CG in favor. Motion Approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Riley Baker, General Services Director, is here with a Courthouse Renovations Closeout from Kirby Naglehout on the old courthouse with the bell tower and the elevator. We are closing out with a 13% over budget. Commissioner Garrett would like it to be in the record that he disagrees with all of this. We paid for a design-build maximum price, and the contractors screwed up the design, and we paid for it. In the future, we should hold the contractor to their design. Commissioner Smith would like to go on the record stating that Commissioner Garrett made statements online, implying that she and Commissioner Magruder were at fault, and that she disagrees with that assessment as well. I also advocated for the stairwell design and a lift, and was outvoted on that. There are a couple of different programming things that a feasibility study would have helped with. After further discussion, Commissioner Magruder moved to approve the Certificate of Final Completion and authorize the chair to sign. Commissioner Garrett seconded. **Vote:** KJS, MM, and CG in favor. Motion Approved.
2. Riley Baker, General Services Director, and Melissa Enright, General Services Office Coordinator, are here to discuss the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), Heritage Grant Program (PO-25-07). We have been awarded \$20,000.00, but there are some challenges. We are required to do a match for this grant, and with the current challenges in the budget, I am unsure if we should accept the grant and would like some direction from the Board. After discussion, the Board would like to amend the application to reduce the match amount and extend the deadline and then bring this back in front of the Board after completion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Under ORS 192.660(2)(e), to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

Coming out of the executive session, no action was taken.

Grant DeJongh, Assistant Director of Public Works, explained to the Board that we have an RPM for engineering and design services for Apiary Road mile post 8.4. We sent the notice of intent to ward on August 12th. On August 15th, we received a protest letter from Lower Columbia Engineering, one of the respondents to the RFP. We responded with a denial to the protest on August 19th and directed them to escalate the matter to the next level, which they did on August 25th. Ed McGlone, Assistant County Counsel, went through the documents that were presented to the Board for this meeting.

Commissioner Magruder moved to approve, denial of the protest, and direct staff to prepare the final order. Commissioner Garrett seconded for the sake of discussion. After the discussion, Commissioner Magruder and Commissioner Smith voted in favor, and Commissioner Garrett opposed. The motion carried.

Commissioner Garrett moved to entertain accepting the denial and to move forward as quickly as possible with a re-solicitation to address concerns with how the RFP was put out. KJS, MM, & CG in favor. Motion Approved. Motion Approved.

PIO DISCUSSION

Mark Pacheco, County PIO, gave an update on projects that he is currently working on. Mark also requested a modified work arrangement to be able to work part-time from home due to his medical condition. The Board agreed that Mark can communicate with HR regarding his needs, and the Board concurs with his needs to do what he needs to do.

Mark will check in with CCSO and see about doing a post regarding back-to-school safety and driving safely.

Mark is also the Interim Board Director for the Chamber.

BOARD ADMINISTRATOR DISCUSSION

The quarterly department head meeting is scheduled for Tuesday at 2:30 in the Community Room.

Beginning in September, each Department will present the ins and outs of its daily operations at a work session. On the 3rd, we will see Land Development, Code Enforcement, and Permitting. On the 10th, we will see Public Works.

I'm putting vacations for Department Heads and elected officials on the Board for September. We have a few that will be out for 10-19 days.

Have you all responded to the RMD 2025 Internship Showcase for September 4th? Jacyn will ensure that everyone has RSVP'd and that it is noticed.

September 2nd, 8:30 AM to 10 AM, Wela Negelspach is the key speaker at Women Power Hour.

September 7th-September 13th is National Suicide Prevention Week.

August 29th would have been a furlough day, and it has been canceled. The County will be open but will remain closed on Labor Day.

AOC registration opens next week on the 2nd. So, I will be sending you a schedule to make sure you are signed up for all the webinars and conferences.

ADJOURN

With nothing further to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.
The recording of this meeting is posted at www.columbiacountyor.gov/meetings

The next regular scheduled meeting is on September 3, 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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By: _____
Kellie Jo Smith, Chair

By: _____
Casey Garrett, Commissioner

By: _____
Jacyn Normine, Administrator

By: _____
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner