

**Columbia County Budget Committee**  
**251 St. Helens St.**  
**St. Helens, OR. 97051**

The Columbia County Budget Committee met in a scheduled session from May 6, 2025, through May 8, 2025, with Commissioner Margaret Magruder, Commissioner Casey Garrett, Commissioner Kellie Jo Smith, Paul Langner, Kathy Engel, and Dan Garrison, together with Pam Smith, Lindsay Elder, and Jacyn Normine from the John Gumm Building and Civic Center.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Paul Langner called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. on May 6, 2025.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Paul Langner called for the agenda's approval. All in Favor, the agenda was approved.

**VISITOR COMMENT**

Erin O'Connell, representing Local 1142, submitted a letter to the Budget Committee. Erin addressed the members directly to ensure they heard from employees who will be affected by the proposed FY 25/26 budget. While not all of the union's positions are supported solely by the General Fund, many are, and the union wants to express its concerns.

A 7.3% salary reduction proposed to balance the budget equates to 19 paid days and represents a significant impact. The Union asks that the Budget Committee examine the situation through the lens of its implications on functions, the public, and the public employees who show up every day to support the work of the county.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approve the minutes from the Budget Committee Meeting, May 7-9, 2024.
- B. Approve the minutes from the Budget Committee Meeting on May 21, 2024.
- C. Approve the minutes from the Budget Committee Meeting on April 30, 2024.

Kathy Engel moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, with the provision of a correction to the April 30, 2024, minutes correcting a scrivener's error from \$2 million to \$3 million. Dan Garrison seconded. Vote: Paul Langner, Dan Garrison, and Kathy Engel all in favor. The motion carries.

**BUDGET DISCUSSIONS**

The Committee met with Pam Smith, Finance Director, to discuss the Admin Fee schedule. Followed by Sarah Hanson, County Counsel, for an update and review of Counsel's budget. Then, with Commissioner Margaret Magruder and Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator, to discuss the Commissioner's Office budget.

Paul Langner called the meeting to recess at 11:54 a.m.

Paul Langner reconvened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

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**BUDGET DISCUSSIONS**

The Committee met with Suzie Dahl, Land Development Services Director, Riley Baker, General Services Director, Andrea Jurkiewicz, Assessor, Pam Smith, Finance Director for the County Surveyor, and the Cornerstone budget for updates and discussion.

Paul Langner called the meeting to recess at 2:42 p.m.

Paul Langner reconvened the meeting at 2:51 p.m.

**BUDGET DISCUSSIONS**

The Committee met with Brian Pixley, Sheriff, to receive updates and discuss the Sheriff’s Office, Jail, and Marine Patrol budgets.

Paul Langner called the meeting to recess at 3:41 p.m.

Paul Langner reconvened the meeting at 10:01 a.m. on May 7, 2025.

**BUDGET DISCUSSIONS**

The Committee met with Debbie Klug, County Clerk, to receive updates and discuss the Clerk’s Office and Election budgets. Commissioner Magruder and Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator, presented the Economic Development budget. MaryAnn Guess presented the Taxation and County Fair budgets, and Pam Smith, Finance Director, presented the Grants budget.

Paul Langner called the meeting to recess at 11:01 a.m.

Paul Langner reconvened the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

**BUDGET DISCUSSIONS**

The Committee met with Jaime Aanensen, Public Health Director, Josh Pond, District Attorney, and Holly Miller, IT Director, to receive updates and discuss departmental budgets.

Paul Langner called the meeting to recess at 12:08 p.m.

Paul Langner reconvened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

**BUDGET DISCUSSIONS**

The Committee met with Mike Russell, Public Works Director, to receive updates and discuss the budgets for Roads, Solid Waste, Capital Projects, and Bike and Footpath. The Committee also met with Chris Wheatly, Transit Director; Corey Padron, Emergency Management Director; and Pam Smith, Finance Director, for NON-Departmental budget discussions.

With no other business to come before the committee, Paul Langner called the meeting to recess and will reconvene on May 8, 2025, at or after 10:00 a.m.

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Paul Langner reconvened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on May 8, 2025.

### **BUDGET DISCUSSIONS**

The Committee met with Pam Smith, Finance Director, to receive updates and discuss the budgets for the Finance Office, Veterans, Risk Management, Treasurer, and SIP. They also met with Judge Jim Gibson for the Justice Court update and discussion.

Paul Langner called the meeting to recess at 11:20 a.m.

Paul Langner reconvened the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

### **BUDGET DISCUSSIONS**

The Committee met with Carrie Garcia, HR Director, to receive updates and discuss the Compensation Committee budget.

### **COMMITTEE REVIEW**

The Committee reviewed the Compensation Committee Report, Proposed Budget, and Tax Rate for FY 25/26. After discussion, Dan Garrison moved to approve the 2025-2026 Budget for Columbia County as corrected in the amount of \$17,553,093.00 for the General Fund, \$11,885,458.00 for the Jail Fund, \$3,613,922.00 for the Sheriff Patrol Levy Fund and \$63,098,440.00 for a total of all Funds for \$96,150,613.00 and approve the tax rate for the General Fund of \$1.3956/1,000 of assessed value, the tax rate for the Jail Fund of \$0.5797/1,000 of assessed value and the tax rate for the Sheriff Patrol Levy Fund of \$0.2900/1,000 of assessed value. Kathy Engel seconded. All in favor, Margaret Magruder, Kellie Jo Smith, Dan Garrison, Paul Langner, Kathy Engel, and Casey Garrett cast a Nay vote. The motion carried.

Dan Garrison moved to approve the Sheriff's increased base pay by 3% to ensure a higher salary than the highest-paid direct reports, as required by statute. Kathy Engle seconded. All in favor, Margaret Magruder, Kellie Jo Smith, Dan Garrison, Paul Langner, Kathy Engel, and Casey Garrett. The motion carried.

Kathy Engel moved to approve a 2.8% COLA for the Commissioners, Assessor, Clerk, and Justice of the Peace to align with the general fund staff and to allow the furlough schedule for general fund employees. Dan Garrison seconded—all in favor, Kellie Jo Smith, Dan Garrison, Paul Langner, Kathy Engel. Casey Garrett abstained, and Margaret Magruder cast a Nay vote. The motion carried.

With no other business, the Budget Committee thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

The recording of this meeting is posted at [www.columbiacountyor.gov/meetings](http://www.columbiacountyor.gov/meetings)

Signatures on the following page.

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Margaret Magruder, Budget Officer

by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Langner, Chair

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Casey Garrett, Commissioner

by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Garrison, Vice Chair

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kellie Jo Smith, Commissioner

by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy Engel, Committee Member

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator