

Columbia County Board of Commissioners
July 1, 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, Ed McGlone, Assistant 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 postpone consent agenda items B, C, D, & E, Continuum of Care agreements until next week, and moved to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Magruder seconded. **Vote:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Approved.

VISITOR COMMENTS - 3 MINUTE LIMIT

No comment

HEARING

In the Matter of the Rate Adjustments for Solid Waste Curbside Collection Services in Unincorporated Columbia County and Tipping Fees at the Columbia County Transfer Station.

Mike Russell, the Public Works Director, presented recommendations for solid waste rate increases, including a 9.7% increase for rural areas and a 1.83% increase for specific service classes. Tipping fees were also proposed to rise by 14%.

Questions arose regarding the necessity of the increases, particularly about the current fund balance and the need for a 14% increase in franchise fees. Commissioner Garrett expressed concerns about the fund's stability, citing historical fund balances and questioning the justification for the proposed rate hikes. Mike Russell acknowledged the need for more data on past fund performance and operational costs to clarify the proposed increases. He emphasized the importance of future contributions for infrastructure upgrades.

The floor was opened for public testimony. With no testimony in favor, opposed or neutral comments, the floor was closed.

The Board has scheduled deliberations on this matter for July 8, 2026.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Judge Jim Gibson Requests to Exempt Justice Court Staff from the FY26/27 Mandated Furloughs.

Judge Gibson has concerns about staff shortages and furloughs impacting court operations. We've lost funding due to paperwork delays, which were further strained by reduced staffing and increased ticket volumes. Efficient workflows are essential for funding and community safety.

The Justice Court is considering implementing new software to help reduce strain by moving to an online system.

The Board directed Jim to explore limited-duration support options, review his software options, and bring them back for further discussion.

2. **Amy Hansford, Finance Director, Requests to Amend Job Description and Requests to Open Recruitment for a Finance Analyst Position.**

Amy provided a job description for a finance analyst to fill the assistant director position, which will become vacant this month. Changes to the job description role include changing this classification to exempt and removing it from union representation due to the specialized nature of the data involved. Transitioning to this position will save about \$30,000 in wages compared to maintaining an assistant director. Commissioner Garrett stated that, given our staffing deficiencies, he proposed to consider internal recruitment to temporarily bridge gaps during this transition. After the discussion, Commissioner Smith called for a motion to approve the Amended Job Description. Commissioner Garrett moved, and Commissioner Magruder seconded. **VOTE:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Motion Approved.

Commissioner Garrett moved to open the recruitment for the Finance Analyst Position internally. Commissioner Magruder seconded. **VOTE:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Motion Approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Approve Order No. 22-2026, In the Matter of Authorizing the Allocation of County Funds for Public Purposes- Columbia Health Services.
- B. ~~Approve CAT Continuum of Care Funding Application for the CAT Fish DV Bonus RRH # 223484 and Authorize the Chair to Sign.~~ pulled
- C. ~~Approve CAT Continuum of Care Funding Application for the CAT Permanent Housing Program PH #223485 and Authorize the Chair to Sign.~~ pulled
- D. ~~Approve CATS Continuum of Care Funding Application for the Cat New Beginnings # 223486 and Authorize the Chair to Sign.~~ pulled
- E. ~~Approve CAT Continuum of Care Funding Application for the CAT St. Helens PH-RRH Consolidated # 223487 and Authorize the Chair to Sign.~~ pulled
- F. Approve OLCC Special Event License Application Recommendation for Unruh Management & Consulting, LLC at the Columbia County Fair, June 15-June 18, 2026, and Authorize the Chair to Sign.

//
//
//

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS

Commissioner Smith read the Agreements, Contracts, and Amendments in full. Commissioner Magruder moved, and Commissioner Garrett seconded to approve the Agreements, Contracts, and Amendments as presented. **Vote:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Motion Approved.

- A. Approve C83-2026, Sponsorship Agreement with Columbia Health Services for the Community Baby Shower Event and Authorize the Chair to Sign.

COMMISSIONER MAGRUDER COMMENTS

- A huge thank you to Melissa Enright for her efforts in organizing a successful Crown Z Trail event with 123 contestants.
- The commissioners attended the AOC legislative retreat over the past couple of days, noted that other counties face ongoing financial struggles, and discussed the importance of advocating for funding for essential services.
- She encourages everyone to attend the 4th of July parade and logging show in Clatskanie on July 4, 2026.

COMMISSIONER GARRETT COMMENTS

Concerns regarding a newly introduced parking fee program at the courthouse, which he feels was implemented without proper discussion or approval. He requested clarity on how the funds will be allocated and expressed discomfort with the lack of communication surrounding the program. Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator, has scheduled the Revenue Option Team to attend the work session on July 8, 2026, to discuss the parking program and other revenue initiatives.

COMMISSIONER SMITH COMMENTS

- Announced that the County Office will be closed on July 3rd for observation of Independence Day.
- She will be ringing the bells at the Courthouse on July 4, 2026, at 2:00 pm.
- We do have a work session this afternoon at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

With nothing further to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:04 AM.

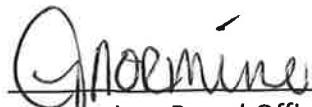
The recording of this meeting is posted at www.columbiacountyor.gov/meetings

The next regular scheduled meeting is on July 8, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____
Kellie Jo Smith, Chair

By: _____
Casey Garrett, Commissioner

By: _____
Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator
July 1, 2026, BOCC meeting

By: _____
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner
Page 3 of 3