

Columbia County Board of Commissioners
July 15, 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 Smith requested to add Discussion Item 4, Commissioner Garrett's Out of State Travel to New Orleans, for the Annual NACo Conference, July 16-21, 2026.

Commissioner Garrett moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Magruder seconded. Vote: KJS, MM, and CG all in favor. Motion Approved.

VISITOR COMMENTS - 3 MINUTE LIMIT

No comment.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Larry Evenson, Community Justice Director, Requesting to Open and Post for an Adult Probation Officer. Larry presented the need to open recruitment for an adult probation officer due to a rising caseload and population. The increase is linked to more cases entering the system and reduced crisis situations. The position is already budgeted, but hiring was delayed for financial reasons. Additional funding, including a grant, is needed for part-time support, especially to launch a new impaired-driving court. Larry requested and received approval to post the position to help manage the growing workload. After the discussion, Commissioner Garrett moved to approve opening recruitment and filling the adult probation officer position. Commissioner Magruder seconded. **VOTE:** KJS, GC, and MM all in favor. Motion Approved.
2. Riley Baker delivered a farewell speech honoring Lindsay Elder's eight years of service to Columbia County. Highlighting Lindsay's reliability, professionalism, integrity, and the positive impact she's had on her colleagues and the organization. Riley expressed personal gratitude for Lindsay's mentorship and support, emphasizing that Lindsay's dedication and character will be deeply missed. The speech concluded with warm wishes and acknowledgment of Lindsay's lasting contributions.
- 2a. Riley Baker, General Services Director, Request to Open and Fill Custodian Position. Riley outlined the ongoing challenges in maintaining the position due to funding issues, referencing past discussions and comparisons to similar counties. Despite a significant operating deficit and ongoing budget constraints, the position is currently funded and approved for the next year. Riley emphasized the importance of the custodian role, noting that while everyone has pitched in, the need for a dedicated custodian remains clear, especially for cleanliness and maintenance. After the discussion, Commissioner Magruder moved to approve opening the recruitment and filling the custodian position. Commissioner Smith seconded. Commissioner Garrett was not in favor and cast a nay vote. Commissioner Garrett stated that the general fund budget has a

deficit and will more than likely result in additional layoffs. **VOTE:** KJS and MM in favor. CG is not in favor. The motion passed. The conversation concludes with a reminder to continue seeking efficiencies and to appreciate everyone's contributions.

- 2b. Riley Baker, General Services Director, and Melissa Enright, General Services Coordinator, Parks Master Plan, Briefing and Request for approval. Riley and Melissa presented the updated parks master plan, highlighting its importance for future decision-making, grant competitiveness, and capital investment. Commissioner Garrett requested that the plan include both motorized and non-motorized recreation to open options when grant writing.
The commissioners showed appreciation for staff efforts, cost savings from not hiring outside consultants, and the potential to secure grants, particularly for projects in Asbury Park and Wilkerson. After the discussion, the Board directed staff to make the discussed modification and bring it back to the consent agenda.
3. Mike Russell, Public Works Director, Request Approval for Letter of Support for the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council's Application for a Grant from OWEB. Mike requested the commissioners' signatures on a letter supporting the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council's OWEB grant application. The grant is for stream restoration as part of a larger project funded by federal grants for a river crossing on Apiary Road. Staff is strongly in favor of the project. A draft support letter was provided. After the discussion, Commissioner Garrett moved to approve the Letter of Support for the Columbia River Watershed Council's Grant Application. Commissioner Magruder seconded. **VOTE:** KJS, MM, and CG all in favor. Motion Approved.
4. Commissioner Smith, Out-of-State Travel Permission for Commissioners. This discussion centered on whether board members (Commissioners) should follow the same travel approval rules as employees, particularly for out-of-state conferences, such as the NACo conference that Commissioner Garrett will attend July 16-21, 2026, in New Orleans. There are differing interpretations of policy, with some considering Commissioners as employees and others viewing them as exempt from certain rules. The board has discretion to apply these rules to itself, with an emphasis on transparency and accountability in its spending. Commissioner Smith would like to add travel decisions to the agenda for proper discussion and approval. Commissioner Magruder requested that this be brought back to a work session for additional discussion.

DELIBERATIONS

1. This is the time set for deliberations 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, Public Works Director, is here to present proposed adjustments to solid waste management rates in Columbia County. After initial proposals for steeper increases, the staff revised their recommendation to a standard 3.1% increase for all fees, following corrections in their financial modeling. This change is expected to generate additional revenue for the county, with annual reviews planned. Waste management providers are also proposing moderate increases in their service areas. After the discussion, Commissioner Garrett moved to approve Order 24-2026, In the Matter of Rate Adjustments for Curbside Collection Services for Franchised Haulers in Rural Columbia County and for Disposal Rates at the Columbia County Transfer Station. Commissioner Magruder seconded. **VOTE:** KJS, MM, and CG all in favor. Motion Approved.

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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, and CG all in favor. Motion Approved.

- A. Approve the Board Meeting Minutes from June 24, 2026, and June 1, 2024.
- B. Approve the Board Work Session Meeting Minutes from July 1, 2026.
- C. Approve the OLCC Application Recommendation for the Watering Hole, LLC, Mums & Mimosas at 33723 Havlik Dr., Scappoose, OR, on September 19, 2026, from 12-5 pm, and Authorize the Chair to Sign.
- D. Approve the OLCC Application Recommendation for the Watering Hole, LLC, Sande School of Horsemanship Casino Night at 33836 Bennett Rd. Warren, OR, on August 8, 2026, from 5-10 pm, and Authorize the Chair to Sign.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS

Commissioner Smith read the agreements, contracts, and amendments in full. Commissioner Garrett moved, and Commissioner Magruder seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Vote: KJS, MM, and CG all in favor. Motion Approved.

- A. Ratify C27-2026-1, Amendment 1 to Public Services Contract with Scene Health and Authorize the Finance Director to Sign.
- B. Approve C44-2018-8, Amendment No. 8 to Intergovernmental Agreement with Oregon Health & Science University for Health Officer.
- C. Approve C96-2023-2, Oregon Amendment 2 to ODOE Energy Performance Agreement for the CREP and Authorize the Chair to Sign.
- D. C33-2024-1, Amendment 1 to Intergovernmental Agreement between Columbia County and the City of Rainier.
- E. Approve C82-2025-9, Amended and Restated Agreement #185805-9 Intergovernmental Agreement for the Financing of Public Health Services and Authorize the Chair to Sign.
- F. Approve C4-2026-1, Amendment 1 to Personal Services Contract with Iron Tribe Network for Criminal Justice Commission Specialty Courts Grant Services.
- G. Rescind Approval of C39-2026, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, County Opportunity Grant Program Agreement.
- H. Approve C90-2026, Revised Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, County Opportunity Grant Program Agreement, and Authorize the Chair to Sign.

COMMISSIONER MAGRUDER COMMENTS

Commissioner Magruder expressed appreciation for the hard work and teamwork of several individuals, specifically mentioning Jamie Anderson, Alicia Davis, Tina, and Lindsay, and their crucial behind-the-scenes contributions, and the importance of collaboration. She agreed with everything that Mr. Baker said in his speech honoring Lindsay. Lindsay, you will be missed.

The Columbia County Fair starts today. Last night, we celebrated the dedication of volunteers at the Volunteer Dinner. Be sure to stop in and support the youth 4H, and encourage participation in the Saturday auction at 1:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER GARRETT COMMENTS

Commissioner Garrett shared his travel plans. July 16-21, he will attend the NACo Annual Conference in New Orleans, then travel to Wyoming for a family vacation through the end of the month.

Commissioner Magruder offered condolences to Angela and congratulated her on having the house to herself and on managing teenage girls.

COMMISSIONER SMITH COMMENTS

Commissioner Magruder has already shared everything on my list. We will both be at the Fair on Friday and Saturday night at 7:00 PM.

Commissioner Smith expressed gratitude to Lindsay for her dedication and leadership during a transitional period without a finance director, wishing her well.

RECESS

The Board will recess this regularly scheduled meeting and attend the Fair and Rodeo July 15-18, 2026.

The recording of this meeting can be requested by emailing

BoardofCommissionersOffice@columbiacountyor.gov. The next regular scheduled meeting is on July 22, 2026.

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