

Columbia County Board of Commissioners
June 25, 2025, Board Meeting
Hybrid from the
John Gumm Building and Civic Center, St. Helens, OR. 97051.

Present: Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Casey Garrett, Sarah Hanson, County Counsel, and Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator. Commissioner Margaret Magruder is not present.

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 approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded.

- **Vote:** CG/KJS all in favor. Motion approved.

VISITOR COMMENTS - 3 MINUTE LIMIT

No comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Smith read the consent agenda. Commissioner Garrett moved to approve the consent agenda but requested discussion. Commissioner Smith seconded the approval of the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Garrett explained that he initially intended to vote no on the budget.

(Item I) Due to concerns about zero contingency and reserve funds, a \$1,000,000 shortfall from last year's inaccurate forecasts, and the use of over \$1,000,000 from dedicated funds to balance this year's budget, along with 19 furlough days. He believes the budget is unsustainable, as it does not prioritize reserves and contingency, contrary to our stated priorities. However, with Commissioner Magruder's absence due to an emergency and to avoid violating budget law, he changed his vote to "yes" out of respect for the county and Commissioner Magruder. He emphasized the importance of reflecting individual votes and concerns, noting that the lack of contingency is inappropriate. Serious decisions must be made quickly to create a sustainable budget. He supported the motion but stressed the need for more responsible financial planning.

Commissioner Smith agreed that the lack of a contingency fund is entirely inappropriate. We do have a process, and we have to accept it. As a county, we need to be more responsible and find a way to head down a more responsible path. After the discussion, VOTE: CG/KJS all in favor. Motion passed.

- A. Approve Board Meeting Minutes from June 11, 2025, for 9:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Columbia County Budget Hearings.
- B. Approve Select to Pay for June 11 and June 18, 2025.
- C. Delegate Voting Proxy to Casey Garrett for the 2025 Annual NACo Conference and Authorize Kellie Jo Smith to Sign.
- D. Delegate Voting Proxy to Casey Garrett for the 2025 Annual NACo Conference and Authorize Margaret Magruder to Sign.
- E. Appoint Nancy Ward to the Jail Operating Citizen Advisory Committee, Seat No. 1, with a Term to Expire June 30, 2027, and Authorize the Chair to Sign.
- F. Approve Order No. 29-2025, In the Matter of Granting a Franchise for Ambulance Services to Columbia River Fire & Rescue for Ambulance Service in Area 3.
- G. Approve Order No. 30-2025, In the Matter of Granting a Franchise for Ambulance Services to Columbia River Fire & Rescue for Ambulance Service in Area 4.

- H. Approve Resolution No. 31-2025, In the Matter of Transferring Appropriations Between Categories in the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget.
- I. Approve Resolution No. 32-2025, In the Matter of the Adoption of the Columbia County Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and the Appropriation and Levying of Ad Valorem Taxes.
- J. Approve Order No. 33-2025, In the Matter of Reimbursing the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District Pursuant to ORS 275.275(2) [2025 Distribution- Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District].
- K. Approve Order No. 34-2025, In the Matter of Reimbursing the Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire Protection District Pursuant to ORS 275.275(2) [2025 Distribution- Mist Gas Field Revenues].
- L. Approve Order No. 35-2025, In the Matter of the Distribution of Proceeds Under ORS 275.275 [2025 Distribution: Gas & Land Sales].
- M. Approve Order No. 36-2025, In the Matter of Granting a Franchise for Ambulance Services to Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire Protection District for Ambulance Service in Area 6.
- N. Approve Order No. 37-2025, In the Matter of Granting a Franchise for Ambulance Services to Clatskanie Rural Fire Protection District for Ambulance Service in Area 5.
- O. Approve Order No. 38-2025, In the Matter of Granting a Franchise for Ambulance Services to Scappoose Rural Fire District for Ambulance Service in Area 2.
- P. Approve ORDER 39-2025, In the Matter of Approving FY 2025-2026 Solid Waste Collection Rates.
- Q. Approve Order No. 40-2025, In the Matter of the Distribution of Forest Trust Land Revenues [2025 Distribution].
- R. Approve Notice of Election for Guaranteed Cost Plan and Authorize Sarah Hanson to Sign.
- S. Approve CIS Property, Equipment, and Automobile Schedules and Authorize Sarah Hanson to Sign.
- T. Approve Self-Insurance Fund Notice of Financial Condition and Authorize Sarah Hanson to Sign.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS

Commissioner Smith read the consent agenda. Commissioner Garrett moved to approve the Agreements, Contracts, and Amendments as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote CG/KJS. Motion Passed.

- A. Approve C73-2025, Agreement with Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire Protection District for Ambulance Service Franchise in ASA Area 6.
- B. Approve C75-2025, Agreement with Clatskanie Rural Fire Protection District for Franchise in ASA Area 5.
- C. Approve C76-2025, Agreement with Columbia River Fire & Rescue for Ambulance Service Franchise in ASA Areas 3 and 4.
- D. Approve C77-2025, Agreement with Scappoose Rural Fire District for Ambulance Service Franchise in ASA Area 2.
- E. Approve C82-2025, 2025-2027 Intergovernmental Agreement #185805-0 with the Oregon Health Authority for the Financing of Public Health Services and Authorize the Chair to Sign.
- F. Approve C92-2025, Primary Funding Agreement for the disbursement of funds by Circular Action Alliance Oregon LLC and Authorize the Chair to Sign.
- G. Approve C117-2022-3, Amendment 3 to USDA APHIS Wildlife Services Agreement and Authorize the Chair to Sign.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Riley Baker, General Services Director, and Ed McGlone, Assistant County Counsel, are here to review and approve C91-2025, Permit and Hold Harmless for City of St. Helens Fourth of July Event in the Plaza.

Commissioner Garrett moved to approve C91-2025, Permit and Hold Harmless for City of St. Helens Fourth of July Event in the Plaza. Commissioner Smith seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: GC/KJS all in favor. Motion approved.

2. Julie Heuer, Treatment Court Program Manager, is here with updates on the CJC Grant Program. The budget allocation is the amount that is being requested, not the amount that will be granted. Julie will return to the Board once the GJS Grant has been allocated in August 2025.

COMMISSIONER GARRETT COMMENTS

Monday is June 30th, and we will have to wait and see how the legislative process goes. St. Helens Ribbon Cutting is tomorrow at 4:30 and you could stay to enjoy 13 nights after. Tonight is River Time in Rainier at 5:30. This is another great opportunity to get out and enjoy the summer. It is overcast today, and no one should get a sunburn.

COMMISSIONER SMITH COMMENTS

I have been traveling, and we could learn a lot from other states charging a 24% tax on liquor and wine. River Time in Rainier and 13 Nights on the river are happening this week. Tomorrow is the ribbon cutting in St. Helens, and on Saturday is the Crown Z Trail race. I'll be there cheering on those in the race. Then I will head over to McCormick Park for Community Day and then to Clatskanie for Heritage Days. The summer season is here.

COMMISSIONER MAGRUDER COMMENTS

Not Present

ADJOURN

With nothing further to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:22 AM.

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

The next regular scheduled meeting is on July 2, 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