

Columbia County Board of Commissioners
May 14, 2025, Board Meeting
Minutes

Commissioner Kellie Jo Smith, Commissioner Margaret Magruder, Commissioner Casey Garrett, Spencer Parsons, Senior Assistant County Counsel, and Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator, met in a scheduled hybrid session from the John Gumm Building and Civic Center in St. Helens, Oregon.

CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Smith called this meeting to order at 10:03 am and led the flag salute.

APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Garrett moved to amend the agenda by pulling Consent Agenda item #4. Commissioner Garrett Magruder seconded. Vote: KJS/MM/CG in favor. Approved.

VISITOR COMMENTS - 3 MINUTE LIMIT

No Visitor Comments

PRESENTATION

1. Mike Sykes and Kyle Boggs, Columbia River PUD
 - a. Presented a certificate of Energy Efficiency Upgrades at the John Gumm Building, along with a check for \$96,410.00 for a photo op.
 - b. Mike Sykes discussed Bonneville Power and its ongoing projects. He will return in June or July with a complete presentation on the topic.

MATTERS

1. First and Second Reading of 2025-2, In the Matter of Amending the Columbia County Forest, Parks and Recreation Ordinance.
Sarah Hanson, County Counsel, read into the record by title only the First and Second Reading of 2025-2, In the Matter of Amending the Columbia County Forest, Parks and Recreation Ordinance.

With no objections from the Board, Commissioner Magruder moved to approve Ordinance 2025-2, In the Matter of Amending the Columbia County Forest, Parks and Recreation Ordinance. Commissioner Garrett seconded. A discussion was held on what would happen if this were approved, and it was determined that we did not need to use the full funding from Forest, Parks, and Recreation to fill the gap in the FY 25/26 budget. Counsel stated that the Ordinance would need to be amended to reflect the funding amount used. After the discussion, KJS, MM, and CG were all in favor. The motion was approved.

HEARING

Deb Jacob, Senior Planner, has come before the Board to present two applications for Road Naming and to accept public testimony.

1. In the Matter of Public Road Naming Request, LDS File No. Road 37, submitted by Larry Gustafson, Karmels LLC, Ellis Karen D RLT, and DKE LLC, Applicant and three Property Owners. Requesting to name a new private road off Nehalem Highway North.

Staff recommends approval of the applicant's third choice of names and naming the new private road off Nehalem Highway North "Starlight Lane."

The floor and virtual room were open for Testimony in favor, opposition, or neutral. Hearing no testimony from the public, the floor and virtual room were closed to public testimony.

Commissioner Garrett moved to name the new private road off Nehalem Highway North "Starlight Lane" and directed staff to prepare a Board Order to be placed on an upcoming agenda for approval. Commissioner Magruder seconded. Vote: KJS/MM/CG all in favor. The motion was approved.

2. In the Matter of Public Road Naming Request, LDS File No. Road 38, submitted by Cathryn Abell and Joseph Hiebert, Applicant and Property Owners, requesting to officially name "Hammerbeck Lane" as the public road that was identified on the Final Plat for Partition Plat 2007-21 as a "50' public right-of-way dedication."

Staff recommends that the 50-foot dedicated public right-of-way on the Final Plat for PP 2007-21 be officially named "Hammerbeck Lane" as a new public road, consistent with the provisions in Sections 5 and 7 of the Columbia County Rural Addressing Systems Ordinance.

The floor and virtual room were open for Testimony in favor, opposition, or neutral. Hearing no testimony from the public, the floor and virtual room were closed to public testimony.

Commissioner Garrett moved to approve the application to name the 50' right-of-way "Hammerbeck Lane officially." Commissioner Magruder seconded. VOTE: All in favor. The motion was approved. Staff will draft a Board Order and place it on an upcoming agenda for formal approval.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Smith read the consent agenda in full. Commissioner Magruder moved, and Commissioner Garrett seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Vote: KJS/MM/CG all in favor. The motion was approved.

1. Ratify Letter of Support to the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, Attn. Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement Grant Program dated May 5, 2025.
2. Rescind Resolution No. 14-2025, In the Matter of the Application of Columbia County to Participate in the Assessment and Taxation Grant (2025).
3. Approve Corrected Resolution No. 14-2025, In the Matter of the Application of Columbia County to Participate in the Assessment and Taxation Grant (2025).
4. ~~Approve Order No. 21-2025, In the Matter of Adopting a Policy on Board Direction.~~
PULLED
5. Approve PCO 51 with Kirby Nagelhout and authorize the Chair to sign.
6. Approve Select to Pay for April 30, 2025, May 6, 7, and 8, 2025.

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. KJS/MM/CG all in favor. The motion was approved.

1. Approve C20-2023-13, Prime Contract Change Order #007: PCCO 7 with Kirby Nagelhout with the correct Contract Number and authorize the Chair to sign.
2. Approve C45-2024-2, Amendment 2 to the Personal Services Contract with REDE GROUP for Community Health Equity Assessment and Plan.
3. Approve C59-2025, Personal Services Contract with Hart Architecture & Design for Deflection Space Design.
4. Approve C61-2025, Indemnity Agreement for the Hood & Portland to Coast Relays to be held on August 22-23, 2025, and authorize the Chair to sign.
5. Approve C74-2023-19, Amendment 19 to Intergovernmental Agreement #180005 with the Oregon Health Authority for the Financing of Public Health Services and authorize the Chair to sign.

//

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Benjamin Burgener, Applicant,
 - a) Crown Zellerbach Trail Advisory Committee.

After discussion, Commissioner Magruder moved to appoint Benjamin Burgener to the Columbia County CZ Trail Advisory Committee, with a term to expire on December 31, 2027. Commissioner Garrett seconded. Vote: KJS/MM/CG all in favor. The motion was approved.

2. Grant DeJongh, Assistant Public Works Director,
 - a) Requesting authorization for the Public Works Department to initiate recruitment for the Mechanic position.

This position is funded in the FY24/25 and FY25/26 budgets. The Job description has not changed since its last update in 2023.

Commissioner Garrett requested that staff bring back a complete presentation on how the new maintenance program and software are functioning. Grant will schedule a presentation on the upcoming agenda for the maintenance program. The software is not functioning as intended, and they are seeking a solution to this issue. Once resolved, they will bring the software program back before the Board.

After discussion, Commissioner Magruder moved to approve opening a recruitment and filling the Mechanic position in Public Works. Commissioner Garrett seconded. Vote: KJS/MM/CG all in favor. The motion was approved.

COMMISSIONER GARRETT COMMENTS

- Monday was productive at Salem AOC.
- Roamed the halls with Commissioner Scarfo from Union County, who has been advocating for plumbing at his fairgrounds for the past six years. He brought a letter of support from his 10-year-old son. The Senate does not want to hear about Union County anymore; he may get funded this year.
- Commissioner Scarfo is working on an HB for the county fairgrounds. If this bill passes, it could result in up to five times more funding for the Columbia County Fairgrounds each year than our current level.
- Had the opportunity to meet with our Representatives, Javadi and Edwards, and Senator Weber to discuss local matters. It is really appreciated for all the work they are doing on behalf of Columbia County and the rest of their district. We have about a month left in this legislative session.

COMMISSIONER MAGRUDER COMMENTS

- Always a challenge to fund government services. People are willing to spend money on many things. Still, they expect the consistent amount of money they spend on government services to cover all the increases we all experience daily. The government experiences those too.
- On Monday at AOC, she spoke to other County Commissioners who are also struggling with their county budget, and some are having to cut personnel. Columbia County is currently implementing 19 furlough days.
- It is a national dance like a chicken day. I urge you to dance like whatever you think a chicken dances like.

COMMISSIONER SMITH COMMENTS

- May is Mental Health Awareness Month.

- Walk for the National Alliance on Mental Illness, at McCormick Park this weekend at 11:00 a.m. A Mental Health Fair will be there; the Columbia County Public Health should also be in attendance. There are 13 teams so far, and they have raised over \$8,000.00. Judy Thompson is a strong advocate. Thank you for being so dedicated.
- Jessica Kosydar, Columbia County Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, was awarded the 2025 Individual Outstanding Service Award by the Oregon Health Authority. Congratulations, Jessica.

ADJOURN

With nothing further to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:56 AM.

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

The next regular scheduled meeting is on May 21, 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 
Kellie Jo Smith, Chair

By: 
Casey Garrett, Commissioner

By: 
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

By: 
Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator,