

Columbia County Board of Commissioners
September 10, 2025, Board Meeting
Hybrid from the
John Gumm Building and Civic Center
St. Helens, Oregon.

Present: Commissioner Kellie Jo Smith, Commissioner Margaret Magruder, Commissioner Casey Garrett, Sarah Hanson, County Counsel, Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Commissioner Smith called this meeting to order at 10:00 am and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Magruder moved to amend the agenda, pulling item F from the Consent and item B from Agreements, Contracts, and Amendments. Commissioner Garrett seconded. The motion carried unanimously. **Vote:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Approved.

VISITOR COMMENTS - 3 MINUTE LIMIT

- Representing ASFME 1442, Courthouse Employees, Erin O’Connell, Rainier. Read the Columbia County’s mission, vision, and value statement into the record. She called to attention the last sentence. The Board of Commissioners reaffirms its commitment to maintaining a safe, respectful, and professional workplace for all county employees and to upholding the public trust. This proclamation is powerful. These words require action. Employees deserve a safe workplace that is free from unbecoming conduct.
- Gloria Rice, St. Helens, Oregon, commented regarding Commissioner Garrett's investigation report and requested transparency and that the report be released.
- Tammy Maygra, Deer Island, Oregon, read the letter into the record written by Tracy Smith from 2020. Tammy also requested that the investigation report be released.
- Brady Prehiem, St. Helens, Oregon, commented on the Commissioner’s Magruder and Garrett’s behaviors and Commissioner Garrett’s integrity.

PROCLAMATION

1. In the Matter of the 2025 National Suicide Prevention Month Proclamation for Columbia County, Oregon. Commissioner Magruder read the 2025 National Suicide Prevention Month Proclamation into the record. Commissioner Garrett moved to adopt “In the Matter of the 2025 National Suicide Prevention Month Proclamation for Columbia County, Oregon”. Commissioner Magruder seconded. **Vote:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Ratify Final Plat Approval for the Sommarstrom Subdivision.
- B. Approve Board Meeting Minutes from August 27, 2025.
- C. Approve Personnel Actions for Department Heads, effective September 16, 2025, and Authorize the Chair to sign.
- D. Approve Select to Pay for September 4, 2025.

- E. Approve Resolution No. 56-2025, In the Matter of Adopting the 2025-2027 Columbia County Community Corrections Biennial Plan.
- ~~F. Approve Order No. 58-2025, In the Matter of Adopting the Fee Schedule for Columbia County Community Justice Adult. PULLED~~
- G. Approve Order No. 60-2025, In the Matter of Amending the Fee Schedule for Services Provided by the Columbia County Surveyor's Office.

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.

- A. Approve C113-2025, IGA with the City of Saint Helens for the Transfer of Jurisdiction Over Portions of Gable Rd, Columbia Blvd, Bachelor Flat Rd.
- ~~B. Approve C92-2022-2, Amendment No. 2 to Columbia County Retired Senior Volunteer Donation Agreement by and between Columbia County and United Way of Columbia County. PULLED~~

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Kelly O'Donnell, Community Justice, Request to Open Recruitment and Fill .35 FTE Work Crew Supervisor Position. After discussion, Commissioner Garrett moved to approve opening recruitment for the 0.35 FTE Work Crew Supervisor Position. Commissioner Magruder seconded. **Vote:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Approved.

COMMISSIONER GARRETT COMMENTS

We all attended the Infrastructure Summit in Seaside this week, and I was very pleased to hear Angela Wilhelms, the keynote speaker, during yesterday's lunch.

I encourage everybody to go to the Oregon Business and Industry's website.

The 2025 economic competitiveness report and the 2025 regulatory impact analysis really speak volumes to the board's challenges and the urgency of getting the state back on track. Regardless of the visitor comment topics, it's too bad we don't have a whole room anymore.

COMMISSIONER MAGRUDER COMMENTS

Today is my grandson Tanner's 31st birthday. Can you imagine I have a grandson that old? I only look 43.

The infrastructure summit was interesting, and your comments about Angela Wilhelms were spot on. I would love to see us have nuclear energy again at the Trojan site. We really need to explore that and get the citizens of Oregon on board, and the legislature to approve nuclear energy back again in Oregon.

I was disappointed, as I'm sure you all noticed in the response, today. This is a business meeting, this is not a performance, and we listen to our constituents. I expect them to act in a grown-up and appropriate way when they are in this chamber. Anybody who wants to call me and talk to me about it, bring it on.

COMMISSIONER SMITH COMMENTS

Yesterday, one of the things that I thought was neat, just in general, was to have the acknowledgement that we are so far behind, and one of the things that Angela Wilhelms said was she wanted us to cross the aisle and admit that we have needed to do something a long time ago, regardless of the administration. She was also bringing people together, saying Come on, let's get together and do this.

This afternoon, we have Senator Weber and Representative Edwards. They'll be at the Law Library in downtown St. Helens, meeting with constituents. I booked an appointment, so I'm going to sit with them for 15 to 30 minutes. I created an OAR for school policy, as Senator Weber is a former educator, so I thought I would ask for her feedback.

ADJOURN

With nothing further to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 AM.

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

The next regular scheduled meeting is on September 17, 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