

Columbia County Board of Commissioners
August 27, 2025, 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, Sarah Hanson, County Counsel, and Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator.

CALL TO ORDER -PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Garrett moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Magruder seconded.

Vote: KJS/MM/CG in favor. Approved.

VISITOR COMMENTS - 3 MINUTE LIMIT

Andrew Niemi, owner of Lower Columbia Engineering, is here to protest the proposed contract for engineering services for a bridge project on Apiary Road.

Carson King, an employee of Lower Columbia Engineering, is here to highlight the positives of LCE in past projects and the benefits of working as a team.

Brady Preheim, St. Helens, Oregon, is here to stand with Casey Garrett to say the letter of expectations is bullshit and a waste of public money. Casey needs to grow up, admit he was wrong, and move forward, or leave the position.

Tammy Maygra of St. Helens, Oregon, wanted to thank Commissioners Magruder and Smith for signing the letter. Commissioner Garrett needs to go.

ORDINANCE READING

Sarah Hanson, County Counsel, provided a briefing on Ordinance No. 2025-5, with no questions from the Board. Sarah read the first and second reading of Ordinance No. 2025-5, In the Matter of Designating Columbia Community Mental Health as the County's Local Drug and Alcohol Planning Committee.

Commissioner Garrett moved to approve Ordinance No. 2025-5, In the Matter of Designating Columbia Community Mental Health as the County's Local Drug and Alcohol Planning Committee. Commissioner Magruder seconded. **Vote:** KJS/MM/CG in favor. Approved. Ordinance No. 2025-5 was approved with an emergency clause and will take effect upon signature.

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 in favor. Approved.

- A.** Approve the Board Meeting Minutes from August 13, 2025.
- B.** Approve the Board Work Session Meeting Minutes from August 13, 2025.
- C.** Approve Select to Pay for August 20, 2025.
- D.** Approve personnel action for Larry Evenson, effective August 1, 2025, and Authorize the Chair to sign.

- E. Approve personnel action for Jacyn Normine, effective August 1, 2025, and Authorize the Chair to sign.
- F. Approve Order No. 55-2025 In the Matter of Adopting a Policy for Courthouse Visitors.

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 in favor. Approved.

- A. Approve C122-2025 Vendor Application and Agreement for the Clatskanie Health Fair and Authorize Jaime Aanensen to Sign.
- B. Approve C93-2025-1 Amendment 1 to Public Services Contract with Braxling Inc. for Rock Crushing Services at Ross Pit.
- C. Approve C9-2022-2 Amendment 2 to Lease Agreement with the St. Helens School District for 2370 Gable Road and Authorize the Chair to Sign.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 1. Larry Evenson, Community Justice Director, is here to discuss his biennial plan, M57 Grant Budget, BHD Grant Budget, and Fee Schedule. The Board directed staff to place the Board Order to Approve the Biennial Plan on the next available agenda and to schedule a public hearing for the proposed fee increase.

COMMISSIONER MAGRUDER COMMENTS

It is lovely to be here. Thank you, County Counsel, for the ginger tea to help clear my head with this head cold. Yesterday was August 26th, marking the 105th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote. I saw that we had a Community Baby shower, and Public Health was involved. It sounded like an exciting event and was well attended. I hope this becomes an annual event.

COMMISSIONER GARRETT COMMENTS

Mr. Preheim and Mrs. Maygra are misinformed about the training that I have been forced to take in the past. To clarify, I have voluntarily taken a class on how to deal with difficult people. I did that on my own accord, and other than that, the only training I have received at the County is basic training for all county employees. I also maintain that the investigation was conducted without due process. I do not believe it was due and fair process. It ignored my request to interview several witnesses and not to provide a rebuttal opportunity. Also, I think the restrictions imposed on me are unconstitutional. Limiting my oversight responsibilities would violate my freedom of speech rights. Given the circumstances, I urged the county to release the investigative report. With the available information, people could make a more informed decision for themselves. With that, I do respect that we have a process. We don't always agree. I don't feel like I am being treated fairly in this situation, but I am a big kid, and I can deal with it.

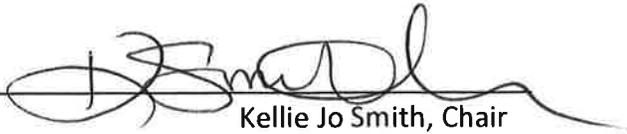
COMMISSIONER SMITH COMMENTS

I disagree with multiple things that Commissioner Garrett has said. I'm happy to have the rain today. It is time for a change and to do better.

ADJOURN

With nothing further to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:09 AM. The recording of this meeting is posted at www.columbiacountyor.gov/meetings The next regular scheduled meeting is on September 3, 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