

Columbia County Board of Commissioners
December 10, 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, Spencer Parsons, Senior Assistant County Counsel, Kathy Coddington, Administrative Assistant.

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

VISITOR COMMENTS - 3 MINUTE LIMIT

Terri Russell, Nicole Richman, and are all here to comment about the Mojo Fest planned on McDermott Road in Deer Island.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Smith read the consent agenda in full. Commissioner Garrett moved, and Commissioner Magruder seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Vote:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Approved.
- A.** Approve the Board Meeting Minutes for November 12 and November 26, 2025.
- B.** Approve the Board Work Session Minutes for November 12, 2025.
- C.** Approve Select to Pay for December 3, 2025.
- D.** Approve the FY2026-27 Budget Calendar.
- E.** Approve personnel action for Amy Hansford, effective December 2, 2025, and Authorize the Chair to Sign.
- F.** Approve Order 71-2025, In the Matter of the Vacation of a Portion of Meissner Road, County Road P-222, located in the Southeast corner of section 36, Township 6 North, Range 3 West.
- G.** Approve Order No. 72-2025, In the Matter of Distributing Strategic Investment Program ("SIP") Payments for FY26.
- H.** Reappoint Norman McKeague-Foster to the Columbia County Vector Control Board with a Term to Expire December 31, 2029, and Authorize the Chair to Sign.
- I.** Reappoint Trevor Schneider to the Columbia County Vector Control Board with a Term to Expire December 31, 2029, and Authorize the Chair to Sign.
- J.** Reappoint Ted Richardson to the Columbia County Vector Control Board with a Term to Expire December 31, 2029, and Authorize the Chair to Sign.
- K.** Reappoint Ellen Bailey to the Columbia County Civil Service Committee with a Term to Expire December 31, 2031, and Authorize the Chair to Sign.
- L.** Reappoint George Dunkel to the Columbia County Elected Officials Compensation Committee with a Term to Expire December 31, 2028, and Authorize the Chair to Sign.
- M.** Reappoint Kathy Syrstad to the Columbia County 4H & Extension Service Budget Committee with a Term to Expire December 31, 2028, and Authorize the Chair to Sign.

- N.** Reappoint Mark Lang to the Columbia County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council as a Voting Member with a Term to Expire December 31, 2028, and Authorize the Chair to Sign.
- O.** Reappoint Josh Pond to the Columbia County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council as a Voting Member with a Term to Expire December 31, 2028, and Authorize the Chair to Sign.
- P.** Reappoint James Macfarlane to the Columbia County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council as a Voting Member with a Term to Expire December 31, 2028, and Authorize the Chair to Sign.
- Q.** Reappoint Dave Stevens to the Columbia County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council as a Non-Voting Member with a Term to Expire December 31, 2028, and Authorize the Chair to Sign.
- R.** Reappoint Amelia Kercher to the Columbia County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council as a Non-Voting Member with a Term to Expire December 31, 2028, and Authorize the Chair to Sign.
- S.** Reappoint Tim Cork to the Columbia County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council as a Non-Voting Member with a Term to Expire December 31, 2028, and Authorize the Chair to Sign.
- T.** Reappoint Nick Brajcich to the Columbia County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council as a Non-Voting Member with a Term to Expire December 31, 2028, 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 Agreements, Contracts, and Amendments as presented.

- **Vote:** KJS/MM/CG all in favor. Approved.
- A.** Approve C167-2025, Public Services Agreement with Cardinal Services Inc. For Temporary Staffing Services.
- B.** Approve C170-2025, Settlement Agreement with Gabriel Johnson, and Authorize the Chair to Sign.
- C.** C171-2025, Settlement Agreement with Rachael Johnson and Authorize the Chair to Sign

DISCUSSION ITEMS

No Discussion

COMMISSIONER GARRETT COMMENTS

We had our first energy transmission task force meeting yesterday at the Columbia River PUD, and it went well. Big thanks to Business Oregon for funding the task force and to Paul Vogel for coordinating the details to get it moving.

Big thank you to Senator Weber and staff for helping with courthouse improvements. I hope this information will help us finally get somewhere after 2.5 years of going nowhere.

COMMISSIONER MAGRUDER COMMENTS

We attended the Business Summit in Portland on Monday and heard lots of interesting conversations and announcements about moving forward in Oregon. Lots of legislative and other elected officials and the Governor, so hopefully some of these things have follow-through and come to fruition. Secure Rural Schools passed the Congress and Senate yesterday for a three-year period. We will review the details and determine exactly what that will mean for us.

I will be attending the Oregon-California Lands meeting this Thursday and Friday. This is our BLM lands, and we will discuss SRS and timber harvest in Oregon.

COMMISSIONER SMITH COMMENTS

I want to thank Jake Trenton and Blue Horizon for being in the room today and for the continued work on our audio. It seems to be working just fine today.

We had a childcare desert meeting with NWRESA. They are looking at the Clatsop County model, and there will be a grant opportunity for daycare in the spring or summer of 2026. Providers must be licensed daycare providers, open to referrals, and accept ODHS payments. They will move through the process, strengthening the business model classes.

NWRESA, Columbia County Public Health, Columbia Economic Team, St. Helens Park and Recreation, Inroads Credit Union, and United Way were all in attendance.

It is good to see that we might have some more options within our community for childcare soon.

ADJOURN

With nothing further to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:19 AM.

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

The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 26, 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____
Kellie Jo Smith, Chair

By: _____
Casey Garrett, Commissioner

By: _____
Kathy Coddington, Administrative Assistant

By: _____
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner