

PROPERTY VALUE APPEALS BOARD  
2026 SESSION  
MINUTES

February 26, 2026

In accordance with Oregon Revised Statutes, Columbia County Property Value Appeals Board convened on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 09:30 A.M., in the Foundation Room, 1st Floor, Columbia County Courthouse, St. Helens, Oregon. Meeting was called to order by Deborah Hazen, Chairman. The other members present were Rene Leland and Leslie Wood. Also present were Barbara Fail: Board Clerk, Debbie Klug: County Clerk, David Leader: Assessor Representative and Angie Barbouletos from the Assessor's office.

A letter requesting appointment of the Property Value Appeals Board pools was sent to the Board of Commissioners on October 7, 2025. The Commissioners signed letters appointing Deborah Hazen and Rene Leland to the Chairpersons Pool and appointing Rene Leland and Leslie Wood to the Non-Office-Holding Pool October 15, 2025, with terms ending on June 30, 2027.

Deborah Hazen administered the oath to Rene Leland and Leslie Wood. Rene Leland administered the oath to Deborah Hazen. The Secrecy Clause and Affidavit regarding reading of the manual were signed.

Public Notice of Columbia County Property Value Appeals Board was prepared by the Columbia County Clerk's Office and posted at the following locations:

US Post Office, 1571 Columbia Blvd., St. Helens, OR 97051

US Post office, 52643 Columbia River Hwy, Scappoose, OR 97056

US Post Office 716 Jefferson Ave., Vernonia, OR 97064

US Post Office, 90 SW Belair Dr. Clatskanie, OR 97016

US Post Office, 207 W A St. Rainier, OR 97048

Columbia County Courthouse, 230 Strand St., St. Helens, OR 97051.

The original affidavit is filed with the County Clerk.

Debra Hazen and Rene Leland completed online training for returning members this year. Leslie Wood completed new member training.

It was recommended that the clerk attend each session, maintain minutes, attend all meetings, amend orders, and correct clerical errors.

The decision was made that the legal advisor is County Counsel as it was last year.

A board appraiser will be hired if one is needed.

It was determined that only one board would be necessary, as in the past.

A discussion was held on what constitutes a quorum; (2) two.

It was decided that the Board Clerk is to send hearing notices to petitioners, make copies of petitions for board members, assessor's office, and appraiser, and prepare orders for a signature, according to the board.

It was decided that the board will make decisions and recalculate values while the taxpayers is present unless they feel the need to do otherwise.

The circumstances under which the board will reduce a penalty was discussed, they need to have sufficient cause, not under their control, it will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Additional meetings will be scheduled if necessary.

There were six petitions this year: one was stipulated prior, three were withdrawn, and two went to hearings before the board. All hearings were recorded.

NOTE: The recorded files for these hearings are available for purchase by the public or interested parties.

With No further business appearing at this present time, board recessed at approximately 10:36 am.

Summary of Actions were submitted to Oregon Department of Revenue.