



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 16, 2024

9:00 AM - CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The regular meeting of the Columbia County Board of Commissioners was held on December 16th, 2024, with Chairman Jack G. Miller, Commissioner Marty J. Hall, Commissioner Ryan R. Rundell, Clerk of the Board Virginia Schmidt and Deputy Clerk Ashley Kilts present. List of attendees is attached.

9:00 AM - PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Time was allowed for public comment. Dave Schreck requested comfortable chair cushions be purchased for the jury-box chairs in the courtroom.

9:10 AM - FACILITIES MAINTENANCE/PARKS AND RECREATION

Tyler Huff was present to discuss the golf course contract between Touchet Valley Golf and the County. No action was taken.

Tyler discussed the WSDA grant for improvements to the fairgrounds. Recommendations for funding uses include a mini split for the youth building and painting the pavilion and new siding on the sale barn. An amendment to the contract was presented, and the bid process will begin.

Commissioner Hall moved to accept the modification to the WSDA grant for the fairgrounds and authorize the chair to sign. The motion unanimously carried.

9:30 AM - COLUMBIA COUNTY AUDITOR

Auditor Will Hutchens was present to discuss the need to disburse funds from the abolished Flood Control Zone District fund as reimbursement to the other funds as listed.

Commissioner Rundell moved to adopt Resolution #2024-44 for disbursement of funds from the Flood Control District. The motion unanimously carried.

Will discussed the need to transfer funds from the ARPA fund to the Health Care Reimbursement Fund to cover costs for health care premiums for county employees.

Commissioner Hall moved to adopt Resolution #2024-45 to transfer funds to the Health Care Reimbursement Fund. The motion unanimously carried.

9:45 AM - PUBLIC HEARING: 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENTS



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A public hearing was held at 9:45 am to discuss the proposed 2024 budget amendments. A list of those present is attached. The proposed amendments were reviewed and public comment was taken. The hearing closed at 9:51 am.

Commissioner Hall moved to adopt Resolution #2024-38 in the matter of amending the 2024 budgets. The motion unanimously carried.

10:00 AM - PUBLIC HEARING: 2025 BUDGET ADOPTIONS

A public hearing was held at 10:00 am to discuss the proposed budget adoptions for 2025. A list of those present is attached. The proposed budgets were reviewed and public comment was taken. The hearing closed at 10:17 am.

Commissioner Rundell moved to adopt Resolution #2024-39 adopting the 2025 current expense budgets. The motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Hall moved to adopt Resolution #2024-40 in the matter of adopting the 2025 public works budget. The motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Rundell moved to adopt Resolution #2024-41 in the matter of adopting the 2025 various budgets. The motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Hall moved to approve the 2025 salary schedule with a 3% COLA for employees, as presented. The motion unanimously carried.

10:30 AM - PLANNING AND BUILDING - PUBLIC HEARING: FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENT

A public hearing was held at 10:30 am to discuss the proposed amendment to the Planning and Building fee schedule. A list of those present is attached. The proposed fee schedule was reviewed and public comment was taken. The hearing closed at 10:37 am.

Commissioner Rundell moved to adopt Resolution #2024-42 in the matter of the Planning and Building fee schedule amendment. The motion unanimously carried.

Dena Martin and the Planning Commission recommended Doug Maxey to be reappointed to a second term on the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Hall moved to reappoint Doug Maxey to the Planning Commission for another 4 years. The motion unanimously carried.

Robert Stearns held a discussion regarding the county policy on voluntary abatement processes.



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Commissioner Rundell moved to adopt the Voluntary Abatement Policy as presented. The motion unanimously carried.

11:00 AM - DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING

A department head meeting was held to discuss activities of the county departments; no action was taken.

A discussion was held regarding changes to hourly pay for exempt and non-exempt employees. Changes will take effect in January 2025.

12:00 PM - BREAK FOR LUNCH

1:15 PM - COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Commissioners recessed and the Board of Health convened at 1:15 pm.

Meeting minutes of the Board of Health are available upon request.

At 1:30 pm, the Board of Health adjourned and the Board of Commissioners reconvened.

1:35 PM - COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

Commissioner Hall moved to adopt Resolution #2024-46 in the matter of approving a transfer of funds from Special Paths and Trails to the County Road Fund. The motion unanimously carried.

1:45 PM - COLUMBIA COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES

At 1:45 pm, an executive session was held for 30 minutes with Kristi Zinn, Desi Lockard and Nancy Berentsen to discuss personnel pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g).

At 2:15 pm, the Board extended the session for an additional 35 minutes. The session closed at 2:50 pm; no action was taken.

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Rundell moved to approve the meeting minutes of December 2 and 9, 2024. The motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Hall moved to adopt Resolution #2024-43 for the extra paid holiday and grant December 24, 2025, Christmas Eve, as a paid day off. The motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Hall moved to approve the November warrants #'s46040-46404, excluding districts, and direct deposits in the amount of \$2,015,268.35. The motion unanimously carried.



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COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

The Board discussed assignments for 2025 for boards and commissions.

Commissioner Rundell moved to approve the board assignments for 2025 as presented. The motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Rundell moved to approve the indigent defense contracts for Superior Court and District Court with Attorney Ashely Kulberg for 2025, as well as the addendum to the 2025 contracts. The motion unanimously carried.

No comment was made regarding the liquor and cannabis license renewals.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly declared adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Virginia Schmidt", written over a horizontal line.

**Virginia Schmidt
Clerk of the Board**

Approved:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jack G. Miller", written over a horizontal line.
Jack G. Miller, ChairmanA handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marty J. Hall", written over a horizontal line.
Marty J. Hall, CommissionerA handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ryan R. Rundell", written over a horizontal line.
Ryan R. Rundell, Commissioner

Columbia County Commissioners

Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Meeting Date: 12-16-24

Place/Room:

Please Print Name: BOCC + VS + AM	Time: 9am
1 Dave Schreck	
2 Will Hutchens	
3 Eric Brangel	
4 Tyler Huff	
5 Barbara (Z)	
6 Dale Slack (Z)	
7 Kristi Zinn (Z)	
8 Grant Morgan	
9 Dena Martin	
10 Robert Stearns	
11 Mel Mings	
12 Nancy Borenstein	
13 Desi Lockard	
14 Tim Dyke	
15 Krissy Chapman	
16 Rachelle Osoth	
17 Joe Helm	
18 Jan Strubben	
19 Darla (Z)	
20 Diane Dill (Z)	

Columbia County Commissioners

Meeting Sign-In Sheet

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Meeting Date: 12-16-24 cont.

Place/Room:

Please Print Name:	Time:
1 CCPT (2)	
2 Nancy Laughery <u>Bott</u>	1:15
3 Chuck Belenij	
4 Tasmin Helm	
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