



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

August 4, 2025

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

The regular meeting of the Columbia County Board of Commissioners was held on August 4, 2025, with Chairman Marty J. Hall, Commissioner Jack G. Miller, Commissioner Ryan R. Rundell, Clerk of the Board Virginia Schmidt and Deputy Clerk Ashley Kilts present. List of attendees is attached.

9:00 AM - PORT OF COLUMBIA

Jennie Dickinson and Shane Laib were present to discuss grant funds received for the current broadband project. The Port of Columbia received grant funds to provide broadband to the Thorn Tower area and other outlying areas of the county. A match from the County was requested in the amount of \$100,000. The project needs completion by October 2026. A letter of support for matched funds will be needed to move forward.

Shane discussed the sesquicentennial celebration, the planned events, local funding, and also requested funds from the County to support the celebration. October 4th commemorative event - unveiling mural, historical tours, etc. The Hotel/Motel fund could be utilized for advertising.

9:30 AM - COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

Stephanie Konen presented a contract from Titan Earthworks LLC, to complete the Tumalum Fish Passage Structure.

Commissioner Miller moved to approve the Tumalum Fish Passage Structure contract and award the project to Titan Earthworks LLC, with a changed date, and authorize the Chair to sign. The motion unanimously carried.

Time was allowed for public comment. Representative Joe Schmick was present to hear local concerns and answer questions.

9:35 AM - COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - CIVIL DEPUTY

Sheriff Joe Helm and Civil Deputy Sarah Boudrieau were present to discuss grant funds received for officer wellness from the Criminal Justice Training Commission. A request was made to utilize the grant funds for gym equipment for deputies in the empty jail. No structural changes to the jail or courthouse will be made.

Commissioner Miller moved to authorize Sarah to move forward with the Office



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Wellness Grant to create a gym area for the deputies. The motion unanimously carried.

Sarah updated the Board on the Tyler software upgrade which is needed to continue with good business practices for the Civil Deputy and Sheriff's office. The cost will be shared with Walla Walla County.

Commissioner Rundell moved to authorize the Civil Deputy to join Walla Walla County to pay our portion of the Tyler software, using the sheriff's budget in the amount of \$16,474. The motion unanimously carried.

9:50 AM - COLUMBIA COUNTY PLANNING AND BUILDING

Dena Martin was present to discuss advertising for the open position of assistant Planning Director which is currently in the budget. The Board had no objection to posting the position.

Dena presented a contract from White Bluffs Consulting, LLC for professional services for preliminary groundwork and preparation activities in support of permitting for a future dredging project beneath the Main Street Bridge.

Commissioner Rundell moved to approve the contract with White Bluffs Consulting, LLC not to exceed \$5,000, and authorize the Planning Director to sign. The motion unanimously carried.

10:00 AM - PUBLIC HEARING: BUDGET AMENDMENTS

A public hearing was held at 10:00 am, to discuss the proposed amended budgets. A list of those present is attached. The proposed budget amendments were reviewed by Auditor Will Hutchens and public comment was taken. The hearing closed at 10:08 am.

Commissioner Rundell moved to adopt Resolution #2025-18 in the matter of amending the 2025 budgets. The motion unanimously carried.

At 10:15 am, an executive session was held for 10 minutes to discuss personnel pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). The session closed at 10:25 am; no action was taken.

10:30 AM - COLUMBIA COUNTY I.T.

Tim Dyke and Tyler Huff were present to discuss installing internet at the fairgrounds.



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At 10:40 am, an executive session was held for 15 minutes with Tim Dyke to discuss technology security risk assessments and security plans pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(a)(ii). The session closed at 10:55 am; direction was given, no action was taken.

11:00 AM - COLUMBIA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Nancy Berentsen was present to give updates from the Emergency Management Department to include Code Red notifications, local fires, and grants.

11:25 AM - COLUMBIA COUNTY CORONER

Tabled - no appearance

11:30 AM - EXECUTIVE SESSION: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING STRATEGY SESSION RCW 42.30.140(4)B)

At 11:35 am, an executive session was held for 30 minutes to discuss collective bargaining strategies pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b). At 12:00 pm, the session was extended by 25 minutes. The session closed at 12:30 pm; direction was given, no action was taken.

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Miller moved to approve the meeting minutes of July 21 and 28, 2025. The motion unanimously carried.

No comment was made regarding a resolution concerning a 'sanctuary county'.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly declared adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Submitted by:

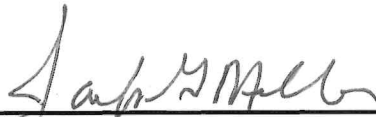

Virginia Schmidt
Clerk of the Board

Approved:


Marty J. Hall, Chairman



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COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**



Jack G. Miller, Commissioner



Ryan R. Rundell, Commissioner

Columbia County Commissioners

Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Meeting Date: 8-4-25

Place/Room:

Please Print Name: Boll + VS + Als	Time: 9am
1 Dave Schreck	
2 Joe Schmick	
3 Mr Erick Bengel	
4 Nancy Bernstein	
5 Shane Leib	
6 Jennie Dickerson	
7 Grant Morgan	
8 Stephanie Lowen	
9 Fred Clark	
10 Barbara (2)	
11 Joe Helm	
12 Sarah Boudreau	
13 Will Hutchins	
14 Kristi Zinn	
15 Dana Manton	
16 Tyler Huff	
17 Tim Dulke	
18 Hannah Haag (2)	
19 Kevin Wesley (2)	
20	