



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

October 20, 2025

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

The regular meeting of the Columbia County Board of Commissioners was held on October 20, 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 - PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Time was allowed for public comment. Dave Dressler was present to give updates on the BERRI project at the composting site.

9:10 AM - DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING

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

9:50 AM - COLUMBIA COUNTY PLANNING AND BUILDING

Dena Martin held a discussion regarding contracts and interlocal agreements with Starbuck and City of Dayton to serve as agents for comprehensive plan updates.

Commissioner Miller moved to adopt Resolution #2025-22 authorizing interlocal agreements between Columbia County, Starbuck and Dayton for the 2027 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update and sign the interlocal agreements with Starbuck and Dayton. The motion unanimously carried.

Dena presented the Moyer/Weinhard short plat for approval and reviewed the details of the conditions of approval.

Commissioner Rundell moved to approve short plat 2025-02 concerning the Moyer/Weinhard Rd, and authorize the chair to sign. The motion unanimously carried.

Dena recommended the appointment of Paul Strohbehn as Columbia County Building Official/Fire Marshal.

Commissioner Miller moved to appoint Paul Strohbehn as Columbia County Building Official/Fire Marshal effective, retroactively, September 1, 2025. The motion unanimously carried.

Dena requested credit cards for Strohbehn and Plieth with limits of \$3,000.



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Commissioner Rundell moved to approve the credit card requests for Strohbehn and Plieth with \$3,000 limits. The motion unanimously carried.

10:20 AM - COLUMBIA COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES

Kristi Zinn held a discussion regarding the costs of annual insurance coverage for county employees, noting an increase in rates of approximately \$86,000. The general consensus of the Board was to maintain the current approach, with the possibility of future changes — specifically grandfathering existing employees in the VEBA arrangements while discontinuing this option for new hires. The Board directed Kristi to proceed with the current plan as is and absorb the cost for employees.

Kristi presented a service contract with Ard Law Group to provide legal representation in specific cases from which the Prosecuting Attorneys office has recused itself. The agreement includes a flat rate fee, with costs to be covered by reserve funds.

Commissioner Rundell moved to approve the contract with Ard Law Group for the amount of \$50,000, effective October 13, 2025. The motion unanimously carried.

10:30 AM - PUBLIC HEARING: 5 YEAR HOUSING AND HOMELESS ACTION PLAN

A public hearing was held at 10:30 am to discuss the proposed 5-year action plan. A list of those present is attached. The proposed action plan was reviewed and public comment was taken. The hearing closed at 10:32 am.

Commissioner Miller moved to adopt Resolution #2025-23 in the matter of the Columbia County Housing and Homeless 5-year Action Plan. The motion unanimously carried.

10:40 AM - COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

Grant Morgan was present to recommend awarding the bid for the 2025 aggregate supply to DeAtly Crushing Company.

Commissioner Rundell moved to award the 2025 aggregate supply contract to DeAtly Crushing for the amount \$378,500.00. The motion unanimously carried.

At 10:45 am, an executive session was held for 25 minutes to discuss collective bargaining strategy pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b). The session closed at 11:12 am; no action was taken.

11:00 AM - COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF



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Sheriff Joe Helm was present to review the preliminary 2026 Sheriff's budget. No action was taken.

11:30 AM - COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Commissioners recessed and the Board of Health convened at 11:37 am.

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

At 11:55 am, the Board of Health adjourned.

12:00 PM - BREAK FOR LUNCH

1:15 PM - EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL RCW 42.30.110(1)(G)

At 1:15 pm, the Board of Commissioners reconvened.

At 1:15 pm, an executive session was held for 20 minutes to discuss personnel pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). The session closed at 1:35 pm; no action was taken.

1:30 PM - COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Jan Strohhahn was present to review the 2026 preliminary budget for the public health department. No action was taken.

2:00 PM - COLUMBIA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/DISPATCH

Nancy Berentsen and Desi Lockard were present for the 2026 preliminary budget review of the Emergency Management and Dispatch departments. No action was taken.

2:30 PM - COLUMBIA COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

Kim Boggs and Diane Dill were present to review the 2026 preliminary budget review for District Court. No action was taken.

3:00 PM - COLUMBIA COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES

At 3:05 pm, an executive session was held for 15 minutes with Kristi Zinn to discuss personnel pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). At 3:25 pm, the session was extended by 20 minutes. The session closed at 3:45 pm; direction was given, no action was taken.

MISCELLANEOUS



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COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

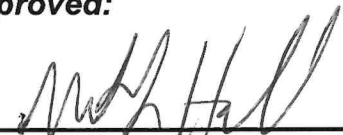
Commissioner Miller moved to approve the meeting minutes of October 6, 9 & 13, 2025. The motion unanimously carried.

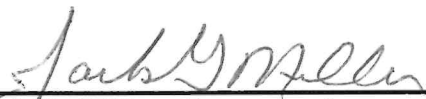
Commissioner Rundell moved to approve the September warrants #49911-50291, excluding districts, and direct deposits in the amount of \$1,560,804.90. The motion unanimously carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly declared adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Submitted by: 
Virginia Schmidt
Clerk of the Board

Approved:


Marty J. Hall, Chairman


Jack G. Miller, Commissioner


Ryan R. Rundell, Commissioner

Columbia County Commissioners

Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Meeting Date: 10/20/25

Place/Room:

Please Print Name: BOCC + VS + ALK		Time: 9am
1 Dave Schreck		
2 Kristi Zinn		
3 Lisa Norris		
4 Grant Morgan		
5 Nancy Brashkin		
6 Desi Lockard		
7 Andy Pethka		
8 Doree Maden		
9 Carter Rouse		
10 Will Harkness		
11 Tammy Ketterman		
12 Kristen Thorstenson (2)		
13 Dave Dressler		
14 Joe Helm (2)		
15 Mel Mings (2)		
16 Krissy Chapman (2)		
17 Kim Boggs (2)		
18 Jeanique Christensen (2)		
19 Diane Dill (2)		
20 Carey Hargreaves		

Columbia County Commissioners

Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Meeting Date: 10-20-25

Place/Room: 197

Please Print Name:		Time:
1	Erick Bengel (2) Pubhearing	10:30 am
2	Meghan Debolt (2)	
3	Amber Phinney	
4	Chuck Belong	BOH meeting @ 11:30am
5	Jasmin Helms	
6	Micki Fulbright	
7	Jan Strubbehn	
8	Diane Dill	
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