



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

November 17, 2025

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

The regular meeting of the Columbia County Board of Commissioners was held on November 17, 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. No comments were taken.

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 SUPERIOR COURT

Krissy Chapman was present to discuss purchasing wall panels for the superior court office. The discussion included a quote for the panels and budgetary concerns. The cost for the panels will come out of Capital Improvement and additional quotes will be gathered.

10:15 AM - COLUMBIA COUNTY PLANNING AND BUILDING

Dena Martin and Andy Plieth presented contracts for approvals for the periodic update grant and the cost reimbursement agreement for the Peaking plant application. The contracts have been approved by the prosecuting attorney.

Commissioner Rundell moved to approve the contract with White Bluffs consulting for the 2027 periodic update grant and authorize the chair to sign. The motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Rundell moved to approve the agreement with Bilinkin Renewable Energy and Shockey Planning Group for the CUP permit for the peaking plant. The motion unanimously carried.

10:30 AM - COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

A public hearing was held at 10:30 am to discuss the proposed changes to the BDI fee schedule for solid waste rates. A list of those present is attached. The proposed fee schedule was reviewed and time was allowed for public comment. Auditor Will Hutchens asked questions, no formal comments were taken. The hearing closed at



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10:34 am.

A resolution will be adopted at the next regular meeting.

A public hearing was held at 10:45 am to discuss the proposed annual program and the transportation plan. A list of those present is attached. The proposed plan and program were reviewed and time was allowed for public comment. No comments were taken. The hearing closed at 10:50 am.

A resolution will be adopted at the next regular meeting.

Grant Morgan presented a bid recommendation for the 2025 pavement preservation project with Poe Asphalt in the amount of \$858,943.20.

Commissioner Miller moved to award the bid for the 2025/2026 pavement preservation project to Poe Asphalt. The motion unanimously carried.

Grant presented Resolution #2025-25 establishing road projects for 2026.

Commissioner Rundell moved to adopt Resolution #2025-25 establishing the 2026 county road projects. The motion unanimously carried.

Grant presented salary increase requests for the contracted positions of County Engineer and County Land Surveyor Engineering technician.

Commissioner Miller moved to approve the salary increases of Grant Morgan to \$157,000 and Ron Weeks to \$108,721.90, effective January 1, 2026. The motion unanimously carried.

11:00 AM - COLUMBIA COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

At 11:00 am, an executive session was held for one hour with the Prosecuting Attorney to discuss litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). The session closed at 11:18 am; direction was given, no action was taken.

12:00 PM - BREAK FOR LUNCH

At 11:18 am, the Board recessed until 1:15 pm.

1:15 PM - CLOSED SESSION: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING STRATEGY SESSION 42.30.140(4)(B)

At 1:15 pm, an executive session was held for 30 minutes with county employees and representatives from the City to discuss collective bargaining sessions pursuant to



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RCW 42.30.140(4)(a). The session closed at 1:48 pm; no direction was given, no action was taken.

1:45 PM - COLUMBIA COUNTY AUDITOR

Auditor Will Hutchens was present to review the preliminary budgets and receive direction from the board on balancing the budgets, COLA increases for employees, the healthcare fund and reserve funds. A follow-up discussion will be scheduled for December 1st. No action was taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL RCW 42.30.110(1)(G)

At 3:00 pm, an executive session was held for fifteen minutes to discuss employee evaluations pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). The session closed at 3:18 pm; no action was taken.

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Miller moved to approve the meeting minutes of November 3, 6 and 10, 2025. The motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Rundell moved to appoint Ken Cox to the Walla Walla Columbia County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee. The motion unanimously carried.

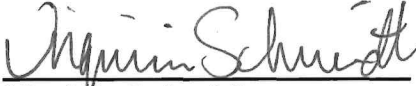
Commissioner Miller moved to approve the agency assist agreement with Lisa Webber for Coroner services and authorize the chair to sign, contingent upon the prosecuting attorneys approval. The motion unanimously carried.

A public hearing for levy certifications was set for December 1, 2025, at 9:30 am.

The Board had no objections to the credit card request for deputy Farrens with a limit of \$1,000.

Commissioner Rundell moved to approve the October warrants #50292-50689, excluding districts, and direct deposits in the amount of \$1,334,350.54. The motion unanimously carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly declared adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Submitted by: 
Virginia Schmidt
Clerk of the Board



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COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Approved:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Marty J. Hall", written over a horizontal line.

Marty J. Hall, Chairman

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jack G. Miller", written over a horizontal line.

Jack G. Miller, Commissioner

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ryan R. Rundell", written over a horizontal line.

Ryan R. Rundell, Commissioner

Columbia County Commissioners

Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Meeting Date: 11-17-25

Place/Room:

Please Print Name: BOCC + VS + AL		Time: 9am
1 Nick Ward		
2 Tyler Huff		
3 Tammy Ketterman		
4 Will Hutchens		
5 Jon Cassetto (2)		
6 Tim Dyke 2		
7 Joe Helm		
8 Andy Plieth		
9 Dena Martin		
10 Krissy Chapman		
11 Carla Rowe		
12 Desi Lockard		
13 Nancy Berentzen		
14 Grant Morgan		
15 Kristi Zinn		
16 Jen Stokkelin (2)		
17 Kim Boggs (2)		
18 Robert Beddome (2)		
19 Stephanie Koenen		
20 Shane Andrews (2)		

Columbia County Commissioners

Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Meeting Date: 11-17-25

Place/Room: pg 2

Please Print Name:	Time:
1 Roger Trump	1:15
2 Ryan Paulson	
3 Diane Dill	
4 Laura Anekerman	
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