



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

December 15, 2025

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

The regular meeting of the Columbia County Board of Commissioners was held on December 15, 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 made.

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 SHERIFF

Sheriff Helm presented the updated interlocal agreement with Sunnyside for housing inmates. The only change to the agreement is an increase in price.

Commissioner Rundell moved to approve the addendum to the interlocal agreement between Sunnyside and Columbia County for housing inmates, and authorize the chair to sign. The motion unanimously carried.

9:55 AM - COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

Grant Morgan and Amber Phinney presented several resolutions for adoption.

Commissioner Miller moved to adopt resolution #2025-31 in the matter of amending the Solid Waste fee schedule. The motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Rundell moved to adopt Resolution #2025-35 in the matter of diverting road funds to the current expense fund for 2026. The motion unanimously carried.

Grant informed the Board that there were discrepancies with the fuel bids, and they may need to be re-bid.

Commissioner Rundell moved to reject the fuel bids previously received and re-bid at a later date. The motion unanimously carried.



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Grant discussed Fund 122 for special purpose paths and trails.

Commissioner Miller moved to adopt Resolution #2025-40 in the matter of regulatory updating and continuity of fund 122 special purpose paths and trails. The motion unanimously carried.

10:15 AM - PUBLIC HEARING: 2025 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

A public hearing was held at 10:15 am to discuss the proposed budget amendments. A list of those present is attached. The proposed amendments were reviewed by the County Auditor and time for public comment was allowed; no comments were made. The hearing closed at 10:23 am.

Commissioner Rundell moved to adopt Resolution #2025-33 in the matter of amending the 2025 budgets as presented. The motion unanimously carried.

10:30 AM - PUBLIC HEARING: 2026 BUDGET ADOPTIONS

A public hearing was held at 10:30 am, to discuss the proposed budget adoptions. A list of those present is attached. The proposed budgets for 2026 were reviewed by the Auditor and time was allowed for public comment; no comments were made. The hearing closed at 10:39 am.

Commissioner Rundell moved to adopt Resolution #2025-34 in the matter of adopting the 2026 current expense budget. The motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Miller moved to adopt Resolution #2025-37 in the matter of adopting the 2026 various budgets. The motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Rundell moved to adopt Resolution #2025-39 in the matter of adopting the 2026 Public Works Department budgets. The motion unanimously carried.

10:50 AM - COLUMBIA COUNTY PLANNING AND BUILDING

Dena Martin presented a recommendation for reappointment to the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Rundell moved to reappoint Jerry Middel to the Planning Commission for a full term, beginning January 1, 2026. The motion unanimously carried.

Dena requested to close the Planning Department on December 26, 2025 due to a shortage of staff. The Board had no objections to the Planning Department closing as requested.



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11:00 AM - COLUMBIA COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES

Kristi Zinn presented a policy addressing children in the workplace. The policy will be added to the employee handbook at its next adoption date.

Commissioner Rundell moved to adopt the Children in the Workplace policy and its addition to the handbook. The motion unanimously carried.

11:15 AM - COLUMBIA COUNTY FACILITIES MAINTENANCE/PARKS & RECREATION

Tyler Huff and Grant Morgan held a discussion regarding purchasing two mowers from a private party for use at the golf course. Tyler shared quotes for values and received approval from the attorney regarding the purchasing process.

Commissioner Miller moved to adopt Resolution #2025-36 in the matter of the sole source purchase of used golf course equipment. The motion unanimously carried.

Tyler held a discussion regarding raising the rental rates for certain buildings at the fairgrounds.

A public hearing was set for January 5, 2026, at 10:30 am to hear comments on the fairgrounds facilities fee schedule.

11:30 AM - COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Commissioners recessed and the Board of Health convened at 11:30 am.

Minutes of the Board of Health are available upon request.

At 11:55 am, the Board of Commissioners reconvened.

12:00 PM - BREAK FOR LUNCH

At 12:05 the Board recessed until 1:00 pm.

1:00 PM - ATTORNEY RANDY REED

At 1:00 pm, the Board of Commissioners reconvened and conducted an interview with Randy Reed to assume the contract for the indigent defense contract for Superior Court. A Commissioner will contact Mr. Reed about the terms of the contract.



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1:45 PM - LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH INTERVIEW

The Board conducted an interview with Kim Emery for a position on the Board of Health.

Commissioner Miller moved to appoint Kim Emery to the Board of Health to serve as the representative for the health care seat. The motion unanimously carried.

2:05 PM - COLUMBIA COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

At 2:15 pm, an executive session was held for 15 minutes with Nick Ward to discuss personnel pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). The session closed at 2:25 pm; no action was taken.

Nick requested a payroll increase for Jennine Christensen.

Commissioner Rundell moved to approve the salary increase request for Jennine Christensen from old step 26:6 to new step 26:7. The motion unanimously carried.

2:30 PM - CLOSED SESSION: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SESSION RCW 42.30.140(4)(B)

At 2:30 pm, an executive session was held for one hour with Kevin Wesley and Sheriff's representatives to discuss collective bargaining sessions pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a). The session closed at 3:20 pm; direction was given, no action was taken.

3:30 PM- COLUMBIA COUNTY CLERK

Krissy Chapman held a discussion regarding office equipment for the Superior Court office. Quotes were received, and the cost is set to come out of capital improvement. The Board had no objections.

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Miller moved to approve the meeting minutes of December 1 & 8, 2025. The motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Miller moved to adopt Resolution #2025-38 approving an extra paid holiday on December 24, 2026. The motion unanimously carried.



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A brief discussion was held with Jan Strohbehn regarding the business manager position being a 25-hour position as opposed to being a 32-hour position.

Commissioner Miller moved to approve the Public Health Business Manager position as a 25-hour position. The motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Rundell explained past practices used for the developmental disabilities funds and a need to change the process going forward. The fund request form and after-action report form were reviewed.

Commissioner Rundell moved to approve the developmental disabilities fund form and the after-action report form. The motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Miller moved to approve the board assignments for 2026, keeping the assignments as in 2025 and appointing Ryan Rundell as the Chairman for 2026. The motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Rundell moved to approve the contract between the County and Sam Harrich for indigent defense services of District Court and Municipal Court for 2026. The motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Rundell moved to approve the November warrants, excluding districts, #50690-50912 and direct deposits in the amount of \$1,341,395.93. The motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Rundell moved to approve the November warrants #51000-51122. The motion unanimously carried.

A brief discussion was held regarding the city/county contract for law enforcement services for 2026-2028, to which the City has tentatively agreed.

Commissioner Miller moved to approve the interlocal agreement between the City of Dayton and the County for criminal justice and law enforcement services, contingent on the acceptance of the City. The motion unanimously carried.

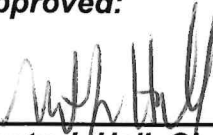
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly declared adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Submitted by: Virginia Schmidt
Virginia Schmidt
Clerk of the Board

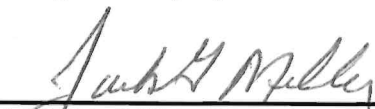


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COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

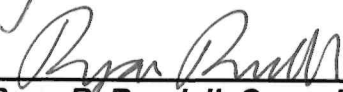
Approved:



Marty J. Hall, Chairman



Jack G. Miller, Commissioner



Ryan R. Rundell, Commissioner

COLUMBIA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Meeting Date: 12-15-25

Place/Room:

Please Print Name: BOCC + VS + AK		Time: 9am
1	Dave Schrick	
2	Nick Ward	
3	Melanie Mings	
4	Tyler Huff	
5	Nancy Berenshten	
6	Desi Lockard	
7	Amber Phinney	
8	Grant Morgan	
9	Lisa Norris	
10	Diane Dill (Z)	
11	Will Hutchens	
12	Andy Plieth	
13	Joe Helm	
14	Dana Martin	
15	Norrie Gregoir (Z)	
16	Jan Strohbehn	
17	Tim Duke (Z)	
18	Krissy Chapman (Z)	
19	Kristi Zinn	
20	Chuck Berenshten Belang	Boff 11:30am

COLUMBIA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Cont.

Meeting Date: 12-15-25

Place/Room:

Please Print Name:	Time:
1 Nancy Laughery	
2 Randy Reed (Z)	1:00 pm
3 Kim Emery	
4 Kevin Wesley (Z)	
5 Matt Wiens	
6 Riley Conahan	
7 Brandon Boudrieau	
8 Greg Lane	
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