MARION COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOC/CAO Issues Coordination

October 29, 2025
1:30 pm to 2:30 pm
Courthouse Square
Commissioner's Boardroom
Salem, Oregon

Meeting Minutes

AGENDA

1. **Welcome** — Chair Bethell

Chair Bethell called the meeting to order at 1:39 p.m.

Chair Bethell, Commissioner Willis, Commissioner Cameron, CAO Fritz, DCAO Eppley, County Operations Manager Lawyer, and BOC Administrative Services Manager White were present.

2. **Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) HB 4002 Funding** — Chris Eppley, Gary White

   a. Chris Eppley provided an update on the level of funding provided by the CJC to Marion County for the 2025-27 biennium. The CJC is allocating Marion County $1,992,766 for the biennium, which is $524,912 less than the estimates provided by the CJC for budgeting purposes, and $698,614 less than the County's submitted budget to provide deflection services. Commissioner Willis asked that staff draft a letter to the CJC explaining our concerns and asking for clarification on how the CJC believes several much smaller counties are expected to serve more clients than Marion County based on the maturity of our program and size of population.

3. **BHCC Playground** — Commissioner Bethell

   a. Commissioner Bethell stated that the Behavioral Health Crisis Center (BHCC) needs a playground to be built on site for children that may be at the facility from time to time. She stated that she has identified a community partner who would like to help build the playground. She asked if the other commissioners were OK with contacting a local area Rotary club to take ownership of the project and be the recipient of any funds that are fundraised for the project. All agreed.

4. **PW Public Safety Radio System fund creation** — Commissioner Willis

a. Commissioner Willis discussed that he would like to see the new Public Safety Radio System be accounted for in a Central Services fund separate from the Public Works Department. CAO Fritz explained that she had met with Public Works staff and all have agreed on creating a new fund that will be housed in the Non-Departmental budget category. Public Works will manage the system and bill the new fund to cover their costs. The new fund will be managed out of the Budget Office in the Finance Department. All Commissioners were agreeable to this fund design.

5. CAO Updates on County Operations CAO Fritz

a. CAO Fritz updated the Commissioners that the County's fraud and abuse hotline will be live on Monday, November 3, 2025.
b. CAO Fritz explained that, due to the abbreviated budget process this year, she will need to schedule meetings with the Board on Mondays in January and February to provide department budget detail prior to the public budget process in March. They were in agreement with Commissioner Willis explaining he would have to miss the first on in January due to travel.
c. CAO Fritz announced that Budget Member Denyc Boles's term is up. She has expressed interest in serving an additional term. The Board was unanimously in favor.
d. CAO Fritz asked if Matt Lawyer could serve as the County's representative to the OHCS DRR Advisory Committee. Commissioner Bethell stated that she would prefer to be the designated member in case she needed to attend a meeting on behalf of the County and that Matt would be her designee. The Board approved.
e. CAO Fritz announced that, after a desk audit, Sr. Policy Analyst Lawyer will be moved to the position of County Operations Manager effective immediately due to the work he has been performing since the previous County Operations Manager vacated the position. The Board approved the appointment.

6. Other All

a. The Board discussed nominations for sworn and unsworn employee of the year for the Marion County Sherriff Office Appreciation Gala.
b. Commissioner Bethell asked the other Commissioners if they would be attending the AOC and/or NACO meetings coming up. Commissioner Willis said he would be attending the NACO meeting and Commissioner Cameron is planning on attending the AOC meeting. They discussed which staff members should be invited to attend with them. CAO Fritz was directed to make a determination on staff attendance.
c. Commissioner Cameron discussed a conversation he had with the owner of Detroit Marina regarding the excavation project we are preparing to deliver. The owner stated that the project as it currently is defined will not be of benefit to his operation. He identified what would need to change to make it beneficial. Commissioner Cameron discussed with issue with the County's Owner's Representative on the project who confirmed that the marina owner has a valid point. The marina owner stated he would be willing to invest some funding to add to the project. Commissioner Willis agreed to a discussion with the marina owner but that the owner should provide specific plans level detailed information about his proposal and why it is necessary.
d. Commissioner Bethell discussed the impact the Federal Government shutdown is going to have on SNAP benefits. She wants to declare an emergency and provide funding to the Marion/Polk Food Share to help those who ae qualified for SNAP benefits in Marion County. The Board agreed to providing $100,000 per week for

two-weeks and to leverage these funds with community volunteers to check SNAP benefit credentials and with community partners to match funding or food.

7. Adjourn Chair Bethell

a. Chair Bethell adjourned the meeting at 2:45PM