MARION COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Emergency BOC/CAO Issues Coordination

August 12, 2026
1:30PM to 2:30PM
Courthouse Square
Commissioner's Boardroom
Salem, Oregon

**Meeting Minutes**

**AGENDA**

1. **Welcome** Chair Willis

Chair Willis called the meeting to order at 1:35PM

Chair Willis, Commissioner Cameron, Commissioner Bethell, CAO Fritz, DCAO Eppley, County Ops Manager Lawyer, CFO White, HHS Director Gregg, CHRO Llerenas, Labor Attorney Walterman were present.

2. **HHS Contracts** Troy Gregg

   - **a.** Metro Ambulance Contract – Troy asked for the ability to extend the Metro Ambulance contract for 1-year to provide enough time to develop a comprehensive RFP for this service. This contract provides secure transport for patients from the State Hospital to secure residential treatment facilities. Chair Willis and Commissioner Cameron were in favor of this approach as long as the Legal Department has reviewed the contract language to allow HHS to exclude patients from transport who aren't Marion County citizens and for other reasons where an exclusion is appropriate. Troy was going to verify that Legal had modified that language and then will be moving forward with the 1-year contract extension.
   - **b.** Troy Gregg explained that HHS has contracts with many vendors where minor funding changes are driving contract amendments where the Scope of Work isn't actually changing due to the funding change. Examples of why funding might change are a settlement with an insurance company or a redistribution of funds from a state agency without a contract scope change. HHS would like to find a way to categorize these types of contract amendments specifically in order to find a simplified way to process the changes. He will develop some language that outlines when this type of simplified amendment process might be used and bring it back to the Board for review.

**c.** Troy Gregg stated that HHS is still trying to get clarification from the Oregon Health Authority on the allowable use of County Financial Assistance Agreement (CFAA) funding in relation to Aid and Assist.

**3. PERS Bond Update** Jeff White

**a.** Jeff white provided an update on the PERS Bonds issue where there many entities that issued Bonds in the early 2000s whose bonds are nearly paid off. For Marion County, once the PERS Bonds are retired, the PERS system rate reduction benefit associated with them will expire and the County's PERS rates will increase by at least 2% or greater. Jeff explained that the County received a personalized review of whether or not it makes sense to issue new PERS Bonds to cover our unfunded PERS liability going forward. ECO NW did the analysis and found that interest rates are currently too high for a new bond issuance to make fiscal sense. It was decided the County will have bond counsel perform the pre-work for a bond issuance, which will take 7 to 9 months, and then see if rates make more sense at that point. If not, no cost for the pre-work will be charged to the County. Chair Willis asked that bond counsel come and have a discussion with the Board at a work session so that they can better understand how the PERS bonds work and what they mean for the County. Jeff will set up that meeting.

There was also a question as to when PERS rates are expected to begin dropping as Tier 1 and 2 retirees begin to expire. It was stated that the original estimate was 2025 but that has been pushed out to 2040 as the Oregon legislature continues to change the rules around who is eligible under what classification of PERS and based on investment returns that PERS receives.

**4. Other** Salvador Llerenas

**a.** Salvador Llerenas and Cody Walterman provided an update on MCEA bargaining. They explained that they will be providing the County's last best offer to the Oregon Employment Relations Board (ERB) and the state provided mediator this evening for posting on the ERB web page tomorrow morning. They then explained the financial summary of the County's offer, which includes 3-4 additional days of vacation each year, depending on the years of service of the employee, one additional day off (the day after Thanksgiving, or Christmas Eve), and additional $50/month increase to the current 2026 County Health Insurance cost contribution, an additional $204 per month increase for 2027, and an additional $150 increase per month for 2028, a 2% COLA for FY 2026-27 and a 2% COLA for FY 2027-28, sift differential increase from $1.25 to $2 per hour, and the addition of a pay element for longevity pay vs how it is currently represented on pay stubs. The total cost of this package is an additional $11,607,601 over the two years of the contract term.

Jan Fritz explained that the median MCEA member annual salary, including steps and COLAS, increased 56.9% since 2019 while the annual salary of the Board of Commissioners increased 48.9% over the same time frame. There were several years when Commissioners received 0% base wage increase, as determined by the County's Compensation Board, aside from the same annual COLA received by all other MCEA and unrepresented County employees. Additionally, many MCEA positions received a 7.2% market increase during that time frame.

Salvador explained that he is preparing a communication that will go to all MCEA employees tomorrow explaining the County's final best offer, link to the ERB web page, and explain median salary increases for MCEA member positions vs Board of Commissioners and other elected officials since 2019.

## 5. Adjourn

**a.** Chair Willis adjourned the meeting at 2:35PM.