



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Management Update Summary Minutes

O R E G O N

September 23, 2025. 9:30 AM

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Danielle Bethell, Kevin Cameron, and Colm Willis.

Board's Office: Alvin Klausen, Chris Eppley, Trevor Lane, Heather Inyama, Toni Whitler, and Matt Lawyer.

Legal Counsel: Steven Elzinga, Scott Norris, Cody Waltermann,

Finance: John Carlson,

Sheriff's Office: Jacob Ramsey.

Public Works: Kent Inman, and Lani Radtke.

Health and Human Services: Ryan Matthews.

Community Servies: Melissa Holmes, Lauren Thiekle, and Kelli Weese.

Human Resources: Sherry Linter.

Citizen: Kathy Rodgers.

Commissioner Danielle Bethell called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

INFORMATIONAL:

1. Contract Amendment #1 with Salem Health for Adults in Custody (AIC) Hospital Services

-Commander Jacob Ramsey

Summary of Presentation:

- Request to add \$250,000 to contract for services rendered through July 31, 2025.
- Clarification needed regarding contract extension dates and payment rates.
- New state law limiting hospitals' ability to send patients to collections:
 - Impacts county financial responsibility.
- The amendment clarifies that funds are only for services rendered through the original contract period.
- Ongoing review of monitoring process and legal leverage about reimbursement rates.
- Concern about not paying for services outside county custody.

Board Direction:

- Continue internal research on legal leverage and monitoring process.
- Expedite follow-up with legal and finance teams.
- Approved to move forward on consent.

2. Darling Street Vacation

-Kent Inman

Summary of Presentation:

- Proposal to vacate two strips of public right-of-way on Darling Street:
 - Between 77th and 78th Avenues.
- Petition filed by adjacent property owner seeking to build on the land.
- 15-foot-wide strip deeded to the county in 1985 and another strip within a subdivision plat:
 - Private easement from 1906 remains unaffected.
- Easement documents prepared in conjunction with the vacation process:
 - In coordination with PGE.
- Upon vacation, the land will revert to adjacent property owners, who will then be responsible for property taxes.

Board Direction:

- Ensure property owners are informed about tax implications.
- Approved to move forward on consent.

3. Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Amendment #15 with Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for Financing of Community Mental Health, Addiction, Treatment, Recovery, & Prevention, and Problem Gambling Services

-Ryan Matthews, Steve Elzinga

Summary of Presentation:

- Ongoing negotiations with OHA to the program agreement.
- Key issues include language about local plan guidelines and the statutory authority of the local mental health authority.
- Concern with the proposed language:
 - Could undermine local authority and may not comply with state statute.
- Little progress in negotiations:
 - Board is considering a collective response with other counties if necessary.
- Possibility of drafting language to reaffirm local authority:
 - If rejected, considering legal action or further negotiation.

Board Direction:

- Draft and propose contract language reaffirming local authority:
 - If rejected, schedule executive session to discuss next steps.
- Do not delay process by requiring additional board signatures:
 - Proceed administratively.

4. Public Health Data Science Team Training Opportunity

-Wendy Zieker, Ryan Matthews

Summary of Presentation:

- Removed from agenda.

Board Direction:

- Removed from agenda.

5. Consider Appointment of Director's Designee's to Authorize Emergency

-Ryan Matthews, Debbie Wells

Summary of Presentation:

- Draft order to designate specific staff as director's designees:
 - Grant authority to place emergency holds and hospital holds related to civil commitment and behavioral health crises.
- Designees are primarily crisis screeners (Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP) and Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)) at the behavioral health crisis center:
 - Not management staff.
- Staff must have at least six months of training, be qualified mental health professionals, and pass an exam with a perfect score.
- Designee list is updated approximately every two years due to staff turnover:
 - Ensuring adequate coverage for emergency functions.
- Potential need to add new designees as new facilities (like Secure Residential Treatment Facility (SRTF) open):
 - Logistics of providing authority to staff from other organizations.
- Formalized through a board order:
 - Preferred mechanism for transparency and oversight.
- Important to know who holds authority and maintain an up-to-date list.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.
- Continue to update the list every two years or as needed.
- Maintain current process for designating and authorizing staff:
 - Consider future needs as new programs or facilities are added.

6. International Volunteer Manager Day - November 5, 2025

-Sherry Linter

Summary of Presentation:

- Request to recognize International Volunteer Manager Day and distribute commemorative pennants to county volunteer managers.
- Number of items, signature preferences (wet or dry), and cost coverage by Human Resources (HR).
- Distribution logistics and plan to order items for future volunteer recognition events in April.
- The pennants are small and suitable for mailing or display in offices.

Board Direction:

- Approve to move forward.
- Use wet signatures as preferred.
- Human Resources to cover costs and manage logistics.

7. Request for Private Sale of Tax Accounts 516497 & 540010

-John Carlson

Summary of Presentation:

- Proposal to sell two foreclosed properties by private sale to adjacent property owners.
- The properties are legacy holdings:
 - Foreclosed in the 1990s.

- Interest from neighbors seeking to consolidate land or facilitate development.
- Minimum bid for each property was calculated based on estimated back taxes, interest, and fees:
 - There are no current tax documents.

Board Direction:

- Approve to move forward.
- Use calculated minimum bid as starting price.
- Keep proceeds in tax title fund until further guidance.

8. Shelter Rescue Partnerships & Release Agreement

-Lauren Thielke, Melissa Holmes

- County's process for transferring dogs to rescue partners:
 - Need greater oversight and compliance with county code and zoning.
- Concerns about adequacy of current screening, frequency of state inspections, and potential for rescue partners to exceed capacity or violate land use regulations.
- Consider developing master contract for rescue partners:
 - Enforceable expectations for capacity.
 - Land use compliance.
 - Right to inspect facilities.
- County should go beyond state minimum requirements to ensure animal welfare and public confidence.
- Pausing transfers to specific partners pending review.
- Need a more formal application and evaluation process.

Board Direction:

- Develop a master contract for rescue partners:
 - Including inspection and land use provisions.
- Pause transfers to specific partners as needed pending review.
- Explore additional evaluation and monitoring processes.

9. Capital Futbol Club Grand Agreement

-Kelli Weese

Summary of Presentation:

- Funding for left turn lane improvements:
 - Previously discussed in an August work session.
- \$749,999 to be distributed in a one-time payment upon execution of the agreement.
- Term to expire on September 30, 2028.
- The club is required to submit a report and presentation to the board upon or before completion:
 - Detail activities and budget.
- Discussion if the club has secured all necessary funding for the project.
- County's grant covers a significant portion.
- Seeking additional funds from other sources (NW Natural, contractor donations).
- Important to present publicly about project:
 - Transparency and potential further community support or donations.

Board Direction

- Approve to move forward.
- Require public presentation by recipient organization.

10. United Way Fundraiser

-Gary White

Summary of Presentation:

- Annual United Way campaign, with a focus on education and local impact.
- Donors can direct contributions to specific agencies within the United Way network.
- Plans for campaign kickoff events:
 - BOC breakfast, floor-by-floor outreach of snacks, and fun activities to encourage participation.
- Important to have clear messaging about donor options and the local retention of funds.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.

11. Legislative Update

-Alvin Klausen

Summary of Presentation:

- Willamette National Cemetery:
 - Federal Veterans Administration is considering purchasing 300 acres of farmland in Marion County to expand the Willamette National Cemetery.
 - Loss of fertile farmland, infrastructure needs, and potential impacts on nearby residents (e.g., funeral traffic, 21-gun salutes).
 - Support for honoring veterans, but desire to protect farmland and ensure transparency.
- Cherriots Payroll Tax Opposition:
 - Letter opposing the Cherriots payroll tax had already been signed.
 - Discuss whether to issue press release or otherwise publicize opposition.

Board Direction:

- Willamette National Cemetery:
 - Inform public about the proposal and public comment opportunity.
- Cherriots Payroll Tax Opposition:
 - Make opposition public.
 - Possibility of testifying at a public meeting

12. Board Session Agenda Review

-Commissioner Danielle Bethell

Summary of Presentation:

- Overview of board session agenda:

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS and UPDATE

Commissioner Danielle Bethell

- Attended Rail Heritage Caboose exhibit:
 - Funding gap for the exhibit.
 - Plan to meet stakeholders to address shortfall.
 - Plan to schedule work session.

- Homeless Encampments on Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) property:
 - Communicating with City of Salem.
 - Frustrated with the lack of communication from ODOT.
 - Aggressive behavior from individuals.
 - Market street and Hawthorne Avenue.
 - Sunnyview Avenue and Hawthorne Avenue.
 - Asking for meeting with all involved parties.

Commissioner Kevin Cameron

- Attended Rail Heritage Caboose exhibit
- Spoke with Fire Chief regarding work with Marion County Health and Human Services.
- Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments is having financial trouble:
 - They are losing contracts.
 - Made motion to freeze hiring.
 - Organization is a big deal for small cities.

Commissioner Colm Willis

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Other

CFM Legislative Services Contract Renewal

Gary White

Summary of Presentation:

- Results of a recent Request for Proposal (RFP) for legislative services:
 - Selecting CFM as the preferred vendor.
 - Chosen for experience and local connections.
- Selection process included evaluation of several applicants.
- Need effective legislative representation and rationale for the selection.
- Five responded and only CFM had a strong Oregon connection.

Board Direction:

- Approved to move forward on consent.

Various Events Marion County Reentry Initiate (MCRI)

Jon Heynen

Summary of Presentation:

- Marion County Reentry Initiate (MCRI):
 - Fully registered.
 - Draft videos available for program selection.
- Jan Rae Neighborhood Association meeting:
 - Rescheduled to October to allow for broader participation:
 - Sheriff, public works, and potentially the district attorney.
 - The sheriff to discuss gun safety and other public safety topics.
 - Public Works will participate to discuss relevant issues.
 - Need to ensure all key participants can attend.

Board Direction:

- Need a focused agenda for the Jan Rae meeting.

City of Hubbard Urban Renewal District

Jon Heynen

Summary of Presentation:

- Hubbard is developing a new urban renewal district:
 - Requires consultation with the county but not approval.
 - Unless a public building project is included.
- District has a 30-year end date (anticipated to be 2054) and an estimated \$2,052,000 fiscal impact to the county over that period.
- Recent changes in the law regarding urban renewal districts and the process for amendments versus new districts.

Board Direction:

- Legal counsel to review the relevant statutes (ORS 457) and report back on the county's role and authority.
- Monitor the process and coordinate with the assessor's office and City of Hubbard for further discussion.

Inquiry about New Rules for Solar

Commissioner Colm Willis

- Question about if the county is considering new rules for solar energy projects.
- No new rules are being developed for solar at this time.
- Decision regarding battery storage facilities and the process for grandfathering existing applications.

Board Direction:

- No new solar rules are being developed.

Adjourned – time: 11:01 a.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White