

# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD SESSION – Regular Session

Wednesday, April 23, 2025  
9:00 a.m.

Senator Hearing Room  
555 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Danielle Bethell, Commissioner Colm Willis, and Commissioner Kevin Cameron. Also present were Steve Elzinga as county counsel and Brenda Koenig as recorder

**ABSENT:** Jan Fritz, chief administrative officer

Commissioner Bethell called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Commissioner Willis arrived at 9:11 a.m.

*(Video Time 00:00:49)*

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

*(Video Time 00:00:54)*

### **PRESENTATION**

1. Liberty House presentation. –Alison Kelley and Kameron Wolfer, Liberty House

#### ***Summary of presentation:***

Kameron Wolfer

- Mr. Wolfer is the Assistant Deputy Chief Executive Officer;
- Liberty House provides specialized services for children experiencing:
  - Physical abuse;
  - Sexual abuse;
  - Neglect;
  - Domestic violence witnessing;

- Trafficking; and
- Other trauma types.
- Liberty House was founded in April 1999:
  - There have been 15,000 children served in the last 26 years.
- Liberty House is one of 24 Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) in Oregon:
  - There are over 960 across the US.
- Some 2023-2024 Statistics:
  - Served over 1,000 children through clinic and therapy programs;
  - Provided prevention education for 1,500 people; and
  - Received 338 referrals from Marion County Sheriff's Office.

#### Alison Kelley

- Ms. Kelley is the Chief Executive Officer;
- Abuse and neglect allegation response involves multiple legal domains;
- Oregon policy requires District Attorneys to convene Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT);
- National accreditation standards are rigorous:
  - The National Children's Alliance runs the process;
  - Standards developed by national specialists in:
    - Medicine;
    - Social work; and
    - Mental health.
  - About half of Oregon's CAC's achieve national accreditation.
- Marion County DA's Office worked hard for several years to meet the standards:
  - Marion County Sheriff's Office is a great support as well; and
  - There were various other key agencies that were involved.
- Received national accreditation in January 2025:
  - Site reviewers ranked Marion County MDT in top five.
- Thankful for all the work done by Marion County; and
- There are various free trainings available for all in the community to help with the problem of child abuse.

#### District Attorney Paige Clarkson

- Thankful for the team that she and the Sheriff work with;

- Because of these individuals the work was done, and the accreditation was completed; and
- Everyone does their work and collaborates with one another.

Sheriff Nick Hunter

- The work done by various individuals and the standard set is great; and
- This was team effort and the work done has been difficult; and
- This is for the community.

Deputy District Attorney

- Thankful for the partnership and collaboration of those that work together every day.

***Board discussion:***

Commissioner Colm Willis

- All this was done to stand up for and speak for kids who were not able to speak for themselves.

Commissioner Kevin Cameron

- This is difficult work and thankful for the work being done;
- There is much work to be done to reduce child abuse; and
- Thankful for all the individuals that do this hard work.

Commissioner Danielle Bethell

- There are many in the Marion County community that are going through pain;
- Thankful for MDT and the work being done;
- The community as a whole can partake in the work as well; and
- The victims need to be recognized as well as the individuals that get the work done and help the victims.

*(Video Time 00:18:57)*

2. Travel Salem Quarterly Report. –Kelli Weese and Angie Villery, Travel Salem

***Summary of presentation:***

Kelli Weese:

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- The agreement is as follows:
  - It is a two year agreement;
  - Annually \$117,500 is allocated;
  - Funds come from the Economic Development Lottery Fund; and
  - The current agreement expires in June 2025.

Angie Villery:

- This is the third quarter report (January to March);
- Willamette Valley Ornament Hunt:
  - In the Willamette National Forest during November to December;
  - There are ornaments hidden;
  - Over 18,000 views on homepage; and
  - There were 27 stories published reaching 23 million people.
- Public Relations and Social Media:
  - Various free highlights and articles on Marion County destinations:
    - Take Root Magazine;
    - The Oregonian;
    - NW Travel; and
    - Seabright Gardens.
  - Produced 20 videos:
    - Which had 250,000 video views.
  - Highlighted various Marion County attractions; and
  - The Enchanted Forest video received nearly 20,000 views.
- Digital Marketing:
  - Able to see how many go from an ad to booking an experience;
  - The return on ad spend is a 1:16 ratio;
  - Expedia and Travel Oregon work together:
    - Travel Salem has a partnership with Travel Oregon.
  - Drove \$2 million in hotel revenue during July to March.
- Visitor Guide:
  - There were 120,000 guides published;
  - Distributed across 800 locations; and
  - Covers Oregon, California, Washington, British Columbia and more.
- Economic Development Consortium:
  - Discussed proposed Oregon legislation and its impacts on the tourism and hospitality industries.

- Airline Services:
  - Avelo route to Las Vegas relaunching May 1:
    - Marketing efforts in the Salem and Portland regions.
  - Raised \$350,000 from local community for airline support;
  - Avelo's decision to do deportation flights is not impacting or relating to this region; and
  - Communicating with another airline to service Phoenix, San Francisco, and Seattle.

***Board discussion:***

- Communities raise funds to entice an airline to come into their market:
  - There is a Minimum Revenue Guarantee (MRG) which if not reached is balanced out by these funds; and
  - Over a total of 1.2 million was raised for MRG:
    - Local businesses raised \$350,000.
- The Sonoma Valley flight was cancelled:
  - Several hubs cancelled this route.
- Currently there are flights to Burbank:
  - Las Vegas was pulled back as it is less busy in the springtime; and
  - Burbank is busy year round.
- Time Magazine mentioned in 2023 that the Willamette Valley as one of the best places to visit.

*(Video Time 00:33:43)*

**CONSENT**

**ASSESSOR'S OFFICE**

3. Approve Amendment #3 to the Contract for Services with Retail Lockbox, Inc. to add \$200,000 for a new contract total of \$465,000 and extend the term date to June 30, 2027, for lockbox services to support the Treasurer's Office and the tax services.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

4. Approve Amendment #1 to the Engineering and Related Services Contract with AKS Engineering and Forestry, LLC to add \$59,995 in Oregon Watershed

Enhancement Board (OWEB) grant funding for a new contract total of \$217,015 to provide topographic surveying and geo-technical alternatives for Niagara Park as part of the Santiam Canyon Parks Recovery Project through December 31, 2027.

5. Approve Amendment #1 to the Construction Contract with Farline Bridge, Inc. to add \$199,500 of which an estimated \$179,011.35 will utilize federal funding and an estimated \$20,488.65 will utilize county funds for change orders related to decking, mobilization, and timber stringers, for a new contract total of \$3,542,409.73 for the Rambler Drive SE: Little Pudding River Bridge project through August 21, 2025.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Willis moved for approval of the consent agenda. Seconded Commissioner Cameron; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

*(Video Time 00:35:23)*

## **ACTION**

### **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

#### **Board Appointments – Marion Water Quality Advisory Committee**

6. Consider approval of orders appointing Richard Walker and Lyle Schellenberg as At-Large members; Brent Stevenson as the Agriculture Industry representative; and Angela Plowhead as the Soil and Water Conservation District representative to the Marion Water Quality Advisory Committee (MWQAC) with terms ending December 31, 2028. –Stephanie Pulvers

#### ***Summary of presentation:***

Stephanie Pulvers:

- Currently there are 10 members with one vacant position;
- The committee meets quarterly;
- The committee is made up of industry experts and at-large members;
- They help with some of the following:
  - Implement regulations;
  - Review new proposals; and
  - Assess community impacts.
  -

Brent Stevenson

- Manages Santiam Water Control District;
- This is his third term on the commission;
- Agricultural community representative;
- Mr. Stevenson has 30 years' experience in agricultural irrigation:
  - Of those 30 years were in Marion County.
- Represents agricultural sector's interests.

Angela Plowhead

- Member of Marion Water and Soil Conservation Board;
- Represents soil and water conservation district;
- Ms. Plowhead is filling a long-vacant position; and
- Committed to serving Marion County constituents.

Lyle Schellenberg

- Mr. Schellenberg has background in utility infrastructure;
- Experience working for clean water rights in several states; and
- Mr. Schellenberg worked in Salem for five states:

Richard Walker

- Has been a member since 2014 and works for AKS Engineering;
- He represents the land development perspective; and
- He provides contractor insights.

***Board discussion:***

- None.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cameron moved to approve orders appointing Richard Walker and Lyle Schellenberg as At-Large members; Brent Stevenson as the Agriculture Industry representative; and Angela Plowhead as the Soil and Water Conservation District representative to the Marion Water Quality Advisory Committee (MWQAC) with terms ending December 31, 2028. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

*(Video Time 00:42:05)*

## PUBLIC WORKS

7. Consider approval of the incoming funds Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Mill City to receive \$2,500,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for the North Santiam Canyon Sewer Project through September 30, 2026. –Chris Einmo

### ***Summary of presentation:***

- There were two legislative awards for sewer improvements in Mill City and Gates:
  - Award of \$50 million to Marion County for North Santiam Canyon sewer project:
    - Of this \$40 million was for Mill City wastewater treatment construction
  - Award of \$2.5 million to Mill City for collection system improvements from Business Oregon:
    - Instead, these funds will be used for the construction of the Mill City treatment center; and
  - Consulted with Business Oregon.
- The original plan was to convey flows from Gates to Mill City.

### ***Board discussion:***

- None.

**Motion:** Commissioner Willis moved to approve the incoming funds Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Mill City to receive \$2,500,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for the North Santiam Canyon Sewer Project through September 30, 2026. Seconded by Commissioner Cameron; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

*(Video Time 00:44:56)*

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS 9:30 A.M.**

## PUBLIC WORKS

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A. Public hearing to receive testimony on the use of a proposed alternative competitive solicitation process to procure design-build contract services for the Marion County Canyon Alerts Project. –Ryan Crowther

***Summary of presentation:***

- Constructing emergency alert system for Santiam Canyon areas;
- Alert include audible sirens and notifications during time of no cell service and power outages;
- A grant of \$1.8 million from the Community Oriented Policing Services Office Technology and Equipment program:
  - The grant must be completed by March 31, 2026.
- Marion County Public Works exemption request:
  - To certain Marion County public contracting rules;
  - Alternative contracting procedures; and
  - Marion County rules and Oregon Revised Statutes allow for exemptions.
- Some benefits include the following:
  - Allowing supplier-specific system designs;
  - Allow manufacturer competition;
  - Accelerated project timeline;
  - Performance-based selection criteria; and
  - Performance prioritized over lowest cost.
- Public hearing notice was issued on April 4, 2025:
  - No public comments received during notification period.

***Board discussion:***

- None.

Commissioner Bethell closed the public hearing.

*(Video Time 00:49:17)*

***Recess as Board of Commissioners.***

***Convene as Contract Review Board.***

**CONTRACT REVIEW BOARD  
ACTION**

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## PUBLIC WORKS

1. Consider approval of an order granting an exemption to allow for the use of an alternative competitive solicitation process for the Marion County Canyon Alerts Project pursuant to the Marion County Public Contracting Rules for public improvement. –Ryan Crowther

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cameron moved to approve an order granting an exemption to allow for the use of an alternative competitive solicitation process for the Marion County Canyon Alerts Project pursuant to the Marion County Public Contracting Rules for public improvement. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

***Adjourn as Contract Review Board.  
Reconvene as Board of Commissioners.***

*(Video Time 00:50:06)*

Commissioner Cameron adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

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CHAIR

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COMMISSIONER

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COMMISSIONER

**Board Sessions can be viewed on-line at**

**<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSUQ1gg6M78UsBE3q6w4rdf59Z5rXkEi5>**