

# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD SESSION – Regular Session

Wednesday, May 7, 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 Jan Fritz, chief administrative officer, Steve Elzinga as county counsel, and Brenda Koenig as recorder.

Commissioner Bethell called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.  
Commissioner Willis arrived at 9:06 a.m.

*(Video Time 00:00:45)*

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Matt Sulesky:

- Neighbor playing music so loud that the windows were rattling;
- Everyone in the Cul De Sac could hear the noise and it could also be heard from Hayesville Drive;
- He called the Sheriff's Office and was informed that 10:00 p.m. was the cut-off time:
  - A patrol deputy did not come to the site.
- He tried talking to the neighbor, but they just shrugged it off.

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

Commissioner Bethell:

- Encourage healthy livability but it does not mean to be disruptive;
- There are rules and ordinances in place; and
- The Sheriff will talk to Mr. Sulesky about the situation.

*(Video Time 00:06:22)*

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## PROCLAMATIONS

### HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1. Consider approval of a proclamation designating the week of May 6-12, 2025, as Nurses Week in Marion County. –Carol Heard, Heath Barker, Dina Young, Julie Minton, Madison Spellman, and Debra Harris

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

Carol Heard:

- Health and Human Services Departmental Division Director;
- This is an annual celebration that expresses gratitude for the contributions of nurses;
- National Nurses Week was first recognized in 1974;
- This year's theme is the "Power of Nurses"; and
- Recognized nurses serving in Marion County's various spheres:
  - Public Health;
  - Behavioral Health; and
  - Substance use disorder treatment programs.
- Compassionate care is given to the most vulnerable individuals in the county.

Heath Barker:

- Adult Behavioral Health Nurse Program Manager;
- Grateful to be able to serve the community;
- There has been dramatic patient outcome improvements; and
- Work with a great group of staff that care.

Dina Young:

- Addiction Services Nurse;
- Mentorship for Addiction Problems (MAP) program operates since the late 1980s:
  - Serves approximately 150 clients aged 18 and up;
  - Helps those with opioid use disorders;
  - Provide medication-assisted treatment and support services;
  - Offers mentoring, court advocacy, and referral programs;
  - Offer rural and bilingual services; and
  - Collaborate with community partner to help clients.

Julie Minton:

- Public Health Nurse.
- Works in early childhood development:
  - Helps connect families to community programs; and
  - Supports parents in learning positive parenting techniques.

Madison Spellman:

- Public Health Nurse;
- Focuses on vaccinating children and immigrants:
  - Provides Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) services and education; and
  - Connects patients with community resources.

Debra Harris:

- Tuberculosis Case Manager Nurse;
- Manages daily tuberculosis medication:
  - Provides observed medication treatment; and
  - Assists with child vaccinations.
- Ms. Harris is in a rewarding work environment.

***Board discussion:***

- Commissioner Colm Willis stated the following:
  - Potential conflict of interest as his mother, mother-in-law, wife and potential future children are nurses.
- Commissioner Kevin Cameron:
  - Thankful to the nurses for keeping the public safe and healthy; and
  - Nurses partake in public safety.
- Commissioner Danielle Bethell:
  - Appreciation of the dedication and community services of nurses; and
  - Their important work in various healthcare settings done by nurses is recognized.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Willis moved to approve a proclamation designating the week of May 6-12, 2025, as Nurses Week in Marion

County. Seconded by Commissioner Cameron; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous

The commissioners read the proclamation.

*(Video Time 00:22:45)*

2. Consider approval of a proclamation designating the month of May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Marion County. –Laura Sprouse, Kelly Martin,; Kami Brack and students from Claggett Creek Middle School

***Summary of presentation:***

- The mental health of Marion County utilizing community health assessment data:
  - Poor mental health was reported by 42% of adults in the last month;
  - There are 1 in 4 adults diagnosed with depression; and
  - About 30-38% of 11th graders had depression symptoms in the last year.
- Power of Social Connection events:
  - These are for older adults done at senior centers;
  - Addresses loneliness and social connection;
  - These events help build relationships; and
  - There are 1 in 3 adults that feel lonely once a week or more.
- Mental Health Action Day is on May 15<sup>th</sup>:
  - Encouraging people to wear green; and
  - Coordinating with schools and community partners for participation.
- Host several QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) courses throughout the month for Marion County Staff:
  - Offered a training in Spanish for Marion County staff.
  - They are also offered to Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) foster home providers; and
  - Other trainings happen throughout the county.
- Signs of Hope is continuing this year:
  - Over 70 community partners are participating this year.
- Provide more intensive training to the Sheriff's Office so they can better serve the individuals that they come in contact with;
- Sensory kits were provided last year in some schools:

- These help with calming the nervous system.
- If you need help please reach out.

Deputy Derek Hayman, Marion County Sheriff's Office:

- Collaborating with Health and Human Services for many years with crisis intervention trainings:
  - The relationship continues to improve with each collaboration.
- Trained 162 of their employees in one week.

Kami Brack, Claggett Creek Middle School:

- Sources of Strength program:
  - Focuses on building student strengths in various life aspects; and
  - This is an early prevention/intervention method.
- Leftover sensory kits are used by counselors for kids in need; and
- Students meet every week and build off last year's work.

Students from Claggett Creek Middle School shared what Mental Health Awareness Week means to them.

***Board discussion:***

- Thankful and appreciative of all the work that is being done.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cameron moved to approve a proclamation designating the month of May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Marion County. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous

The commissioners read the proclamation.

*(Video Time 00:47:12)*

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

3. Consider approval of a proclamation designating the week of May 11-17, 2025, as National Police Week in Marion County. –Commander Jason Bernards

***Summary of presentation:***

- In 1962 President John F. Kennedy's proclaimed May 15<sup>th</sup> as National Police Week;
- Honored to serve alongside the men and women of law enforcement;
- Every uniformed officer is a community leader on and off work:
  - Volunteering at nonprofit organizations; and
  - Coaching youth sports.
- Personal sacrifices made by law enforcement officers:
  - There are 12-hour shifts;
  - Uncertainty of returning home safely; and
  - Missing holidays, birthdays, and kid's events.
- Significant sacrifices made by officers' and their families need to be recognized;
- Appreciate the boards' consistent support during hard times (fires, COVID, natural disasters).

***Board discussion:***

- Thankful for the officers and the work they do;
- There is cooperation between local and national agencies;
- Law enforcement works everyday navigating bad policy;
- Law enforcement's service goes beyond the traditional sense; and
- Appreciate for all the work done.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Willis moved to approve of a proclamation designating the week of May 11-17, 2025, as National Police Week in Marion County. Seconded by Commissioner Cameron; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

The commissioners read the proclamation.

*(Video Time 01:01:42)*

4. Consider approval of a proclamation designating the week of May 6-12, 2025, as Nurses Appreciation Week in Marion County. –Commander Jacob Ramsey and Cynthia Gage

***Summary of presentation:***

- Specifically recognizing nurses working in Marion County Jail;

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- Contributions of jail nurses often go unnoticed;
- Cindy Gage has served the Marion County jail for 21 years:
  - She has seen and taken care of many things.
- A recent life-saving incident involving two nurses:
  - They performed emergency medical intervention for an overdose; and
  - Professional response of relatively new nurses.
- Grateful for all the work done by Ms. Gage and her team.

***Board discussion:***

- Not many in the community know about the work done by jail nurses;
- Marion County Jail is a hard space to work in;
- Adults in custody deserve good health care too; and
- Those in custody are not the healthiest.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cameron moved to approve a proclamation designating the week of May 6-12, 2025, as Nurses Appreciation Week in the Marion County Jail. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous

The commissioners read the proclamation.

*(Video Time 01:10:37)*

**CONSENT**

**BUSINESS SERVICES**

5. Approve the Public Improvement Agreement with Trane Oregon in the amount of \$319,000 for the installation of HVAC control equipment at the Marion County Courthouse through June 30, 2026.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

6. Approve the incoming funds Grant Agreement with Western Oregon University for the Future Ready Oregon (FRO), Bilingual Behavioral Health Initiative Subaward in the amount of \$503,793.79 for an earn to learn opportunity as a temporary Qualified Mental Health Associate (QMHA) to increase access to mental health service delivery through June 30, 2026.

## TAX OFFICE

7. Approve an order for the cancellation of three uncollectible personal property tax accounts as referenced in “Exhibit A”, in the total amount of \$28,860.05, for Tax ID’s 125522, Duane Hagemann; 128699, Lucille A. Lund; and 130988, Richard Wagner.

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

*(Video Time 01:11:53)*

## **ACTION**

### BUSINESS SERVICES

8. Consider approval of the Public Improvement Agreement with Garland/DBS, Inc. in the amount of \$471.004 for the Marion County Health and Human Services (MCHHS) Behavioral Health Crisis Center roof replacement through December 30, 2025. –Tamra Goettsch and Wesley Miller

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

- This is a project that is part of an ongoing remodel;
- Roof replacement was not in original construction plans:
  - This allows for the replacement to be done during the remodel to minimize the time of disruption.
- Key details include the following:
  - The goal is to preserve services; and
  - Secure a minimum 30-year warranty.
- The project evaluation revealed existing leaks:
  - Address issues before completing interior finishes; and
- Procurement process details include the following:
  - Received four bids;
  - McDonald & Wetle Inc selected as lowest bidder; and
  - Company has previous experience with county projects.
- Project timeline is as follows:
  - Construction to start in a few weeks;
  - Will not push out completion date of the overall project; and
  - Expected move-in by December 2025.



***Board discussion:***

- None.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the Public Improvement Agreement with Garland/DBS, Inc. in the amount of \$471,004 for the Marion County Health and Human Services (MCHHS) Behavioral Health Crisis Center roof replacement through December 30, 2025. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

*(Video Time 01:15:02)*

**PUBLIC WORKS**

9. Consider whether to accept or deny an appeal of the hearings officer's decision denying Conditional Use (CU) Case #24-028/Marvin Klopfenstein.

–Brandon Reich and Cody Waltermann

***Summary of presentation:***

Brandon Reich:

- Staff recommended the board deny the appeal;
- Application involves:
  - Commercial Use and Farm Use for a mulching service operation;
  - A 9-acre parcel in exclusive farm use zone; and
  - Located at 5711 Brook Lake Road Northeast.
- Permit application history:
  - Planning director initially approved application;
  - Application subsequently appealed;
  - Hearings officer held hearing on January 30;
  - Issued decision on March 28 denying the request; and
  - Applicants appealed.
- Staff recommendation:
  - No new evidence or arguments presented;
  - Potential for additional conditions of approval but the applicant did not apply for them; and
  - Recommend not accepting the appeal.

***Board discussion:***

- Hearing's Officer found there was potential for disease vectors to spread:
  - A case was cited in Multnomah County.
- If the Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) is not commercial anything can be done in the area;
- An approval could resolve the code enforcement case:
  - The case involves how the property is used and noise complaints.

Cody Waltermann:

- There is a previous code enforcement issue:
  - Noted a stipulated judgment was likely reached; and
  - There are two separate issues:
    - Code enforcement violations; and
    - Noise concerns came from hearings officer's decision.
- Potential for resolving issues through conditional use permit.

***Board discussion:***

- Commissioner Kevin Cameron:
  - Suggest accepting the appeal;
  - Recommend a hearing to gather more information; and
  - Want to understand specific details of code enforcement.
- Commissioner Colm Willis:
  - Hesitate moving forward with active code enforcement;
  - Want more information on the code enforcement issues; and
  - Concern about resolving violations before permit approval.

Commissioner Willis read a portion of the appeal document and stated the following for the record:

- Mr. Goffin is a fair and impartial person;
- His testimony and knowledge related to the property is relevant; and
- He would like Mr. Goffin to be present for the public hearing.

**Motion:** Commissioner Cameron moved to accept the appeal and hold a public hearing on the matter with a date to be determined. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 01:26:02)

10. Consider approval of an order accepting 22 existing roads as identified in “Exhibit A” into the Marion County Road System in accordance with Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 368.016. –Max Hepburn

***Summary of presentation:***

- Defined key terms per Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 368.001:
  - County road: A public road under the jurisdiction of a county that has been designated as a county road under ORS 368.016:
    - This is a road that the county has accepted for maintenance.
  - Local access road: A public road not a county, state, highway or federal road:
    - Also known as a Non-County Road (NCR).
- History of Road Acceptance:
  - Last road acceptance was in 2008 (17 years ago);
  - Started investigating unaccepted roads in September 2023:
    - Board requested a 10-year road acceptance plan; and
    - The goal is alleviating maintenance burden on property owners.
  - August 2024 a 10-year plan was presented:
    - The board gave direction to move forward with Phase One; and
    - Phase One has 35 roads.
  - May 2025 of the 35 roads 22 are ready to accept:
    - The others needs more research and there will be a work session for further discussion.
- The roads are as follows:
  - There are 12 privately developed roads:
    - Great Plains Drive NE;
    - Helton Way SE;
    - Julia Lane SE;
    - Blackhawk Court SE;
    - Fontana Street SE;
    - Whispering Pines Loop SE;
    - Snoopy Lane NE;
    - Linus Court NE;
    - Bronco Drive SE;

- Felicity Court NE;
- Elma Avenue NE; and
- Barry Lane SE.
- There are 10 additional roads:
  - Adams Street SE;
  - Eider Street SE;
  - Fenmere Way SE;
  - Maple Street SE;
  - Pine Street SE;
  - Radell Drive SE;
  - Terrance Lane SE;
  - Barbara Way NE;
  - Edith Street NE; and
  - Draper Street NE.

***Board discussion:***

- Thankful for the work done by staff; and
- It is important for the public to understand the road acceptance process.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Willis moved to approve an order accepting 22 existing roads as identified in “Exhibit A” into the Marion County Road System in accordance with Oregon Revised Statue (ORS) 368.016. Seconded by Commissioner Cameron; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

*(Video Time 01:32:31)*

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

None.

Commissioner Bethell adjourned the meeting at 10:33 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>**