

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### MINUTES OF THE BOARD SESSION – Regular Session

Wednesday, July 9, 2025  
9:00 a.m.

Senator Hearing Room  
555 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

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

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Danielle Bethell and Jan Fritz, chief administrative officer

Commissioner Willis called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

*(Video Time 00:10:43)*

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cristina Gispert:

- Ms. Gispert works for RWE Clean Energy:
  - The headquarters are in Austin, Texas; and
  - Ms. Gispert lives in San Diego.
- Have two energy storage project in Marion County;
- Not notified of the battery storage ban that is being considered today:
  - Found out June 25<sup>th</sup> though the press.
- They have worked with the Planning Department regarding permits:
  - Blindsided by this action.
- Projects are done safely with no incidents in 16 operational projects:
  - There are eight under construction.
- The technology is emissions free;
- They are 10 feet tall and take up less than one percent of land compared to solar facilities;

- This is a good economic opportunity for landowners as rent is paid to use the land; and
- Asking the county to:
  - Delay or reject the ban; and
  - Provide notice of actions taken.
- Offered to provide battery safety expertise.

John Lewis:

- A sixth-generation Oregonian, third-generation tree grower;
- Business owner in Marion County for 27 years;
- Was not notified about the first or current public hearing;
- An email was sent with no response given;
- The land being used is poor soil and is not farmable;
- Discussed a specific energy storage project:
  - Located on poor soil near a substation;
  - Potential to support future power grid needs; and
  - Represents financial survival for his fourth-generation business.
- Bill 2548 was created to unionize agricultural labor:
  - Would be run by the government; and
  - Labor would increase.
- Hard to keep the farm going:
  - Throughout the years there have been many problems including recessions, crop failure, etc.; and
  - Trying to provide jobs and support his family.
- Requested commissioners to:
  - Postpone the vote; and
  - Ensure meaningful public participation.

***Board discussion:***

- Commissioner Cameron expressed that there is not a public hearing on today's agenda;
- This issue will be discussed later in the agenda;
- Commissioner Willis expressed the following:
  - Challenges in notifying all affected parties;
  - Existing approved projects will not be impacted; and

- Commit to create standards for energy storage systems with stakeholder input.

*(Video Time 00:21:31)*

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND JUVENILE DEPARTMENT**

1. Consider approval of a proclamation designating the week of July 20-26, 2025, as Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Supervision Week in Marion County. –

Lieutenant Anna Jefferson and Director Troy Gregg

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

Lieutenant Anna Jefferson, Marion County Sheriff's Office:

- This is the 24<sup>th</sup> annual celebration;
- Some highlights include the following:
  - Over 250 dedicated employees in Marion County;
  - Committed to public safety and offender integration; and
  - Introduced staff members present: Maria, Andrew, and Stephanie.

Director Troy Greg, Marion County Juvenile Department:

- The goal is to prevent individuals from going deeper into the system;
- Provide opportunities for change and growth;
- There are challenges such as budgetary issues and new laws; and
- Probation staff is the backbone of work done with kids and adults.

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

Commissioner Cameron expressed the following:

- Had experiences with ride-a longs in various units:
  - Retired officer Cleo;
  - Sex offender unit; and
  - Female probation officer Kelly Connie.
- Appreciated staff's approach of:
  - Treating individuals with respect; and
  - Maintaining accountability.
- Justice reinvestment is important; and
- Must support keeping people out of the prison system.

Commissioner Willis expressed the following:

- Expressed frustration with recent legislation that did not fully fund probation;
- Criticized the legislature for not valuing community corrections work;
- I am not sure what is going on and we are here and then
- Committed to protecting the program and its integrity; and
- Apologized for negative tone but the frustration is important to express.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cameron moved to approve a proclamation designating the week of July 20-26, 2025, as Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Supervision Week in Marion County. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

The commissioners read the proclamation.

*(Video Time 00:30:57)*

## **CONSENT**

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

#### Board Committee Appointment – Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee

2. Approve orders reappointing Kathy Schnebly as Chair with a term ending June 30, 2029, and Michelle Silbernagel as Vice-Chair with a term ending June 30, 2027, to the Marion County Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee (IDDAC).

### BUSINESS SERVICES

3. Approve Amendment #1 to the Public Improvement Agreement with Woodburn Construction CM/GC, LLC to add \$375,001.68 for change orders for unknown conditions encountered during the construction phase for the Marion County Health and Human Services, Behavioral Health Crisis Center New Location Remodel project, for a new agreement total of \$1,659,321.68 through February 28, 2026.

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

4. Approve Amendment #2 to the Standard Professional Services Contract with Maul Foster and Alongi, Inc. to add American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding in the amount of \$360,288 for a new contract total of \$581,842 to add scope for bidding and construction assistance for Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the Detroit Marinas Excavation and Resiliency Project through December 31, 2026.

### HUMAN RESOURCES

5. Approve the recommendation to update the classification and adjust the pay grade upward for class codes #023, Office Manager; #221, Group Worker 3; #300, Weighmaster; #407, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, #562, Developmental Disabilities Associate 2; and #563, Developmental Disabilities Specialist 1; and update the classification and uphold the pay grade for class codes #018, Office Manager Senior; #020, Administrative Services Manager Senior; #021, Administrative Services Manager, #302, Engineering Technician 1; #303, Engineering Technician 2; #304, Engineering Technician Senior; #564, Developmental Disabilities Specialist 2; #629, Support Enforcement Agent; #648, Support Technician; #650, Support Specialist (IT); and #652, Support Specialist (Non-IT).

### PUBLIC WORKS

6. Approve the Purchase Order with Frontier Precision in the amount of \$125,880.63 for the purchase of land surveying equipment to replace outdated equipment that is at end of life through June 30, 2026.

### SHERIFF'S OFFICE

7. Approve the State Work Order Contract with DPI Security, Inc., in the amount of \$412,963.20 to provide unarmed security services for Marion County Courts retroactive to July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

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

*(Video Time 00:35:47)*

## ACTION

### SHERIFF'S OFFICE

8. Consider approval of the incoming funds Intergovernmental Agreement with the Oregon State Marion Board (OSMB) in the amount of \$304,395 to provide law enforcement services related to recreational boating on Oregon waterways through June 30, 2027. –Commander Jason Bernards and Lieutenant Matt Wilkinson

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

Commander Jason Bernards:

- Key points are as follows:
  - A 30% decrease in statewide marine program funding;
  - Polk County removed their marine patrol program;
  - Marion County now responsible for additional river patrol:
    - Previously had an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with them to patrol the Willamette River.
- Current marine patrol resources:
  - A 2003 North River 21' Aluminum Jet Drive;
  - A 2007 Boulton 22' RIGID hull Jet Drive;
  - A 2019 Yamaha jet skis;
  - A 2022 Rogue Jet 22' Jet Drive;
  - Current team includes:
    - Deputy Corey Larned;
    - Deputy Dave Zahn;
    - Two seasonal Marine Safety Cadets; and
    - Supervisor Sergeant Garrett Olson.
- Patrol responsibilities:
  - Enforcing boating laws;
  - Mitigating and/or mark waterway hazards;
  - Investigating boating incidents to OSMB; and
  - Providing water safety presentations.
- Current waterways covered:
  - Detroit Lake;
  - Big Cliff;
  - Santiam River;
  - Elk Lake;
  - Dunlap Lake;
  - Olallie D

- Silverton Reservoir; and
- Turner Lake.
- New addition of the Willamette River:
  - From Wheatland Ferry to Santiam and Willamette Rivers confluence; and
  - Previously Polk County covered the area from Memorial Day to Labor Day.
- Projected contribution was \$148,888 each year;
- Due to federal cuts, it is reduced to \$105,206 each year:
  - Polk County's Willamette River portion will add \$46,991.50 each year;
  - The new total will be \$152,197.50 each year; and
  - With the biennium total being \$304,395.
- Due to cuts will not move forward with purchasing a new boat this fiscal year:
  - Will take possession of a 2022 22' River Wild Jet Drive patrol boat from Polk County.

Lieutenant Matt Wilkinson:

- Due to cuts will not move forward with purchasing a boat that would have replaced the 22 year old North River;
- Will get Polk County's 2022 boat:
- Will look into buying a striker through a state marine board amendment:
  - Will help in the Willamette and Santiam rivers where the water gets low.

***Board discussion:***

- Boat purchase that was cancelled was to be purchased with marine board funds:
  - Through a contract amendment.
- Marion County will be responsible for the area now;
- Salem Fire has a boat stationed in West Salem:
  - They handle a significant amount of rescues on the Willamette River.
- Short staffed and workload is growing;
- Able to store boat closer for a quicker response;
- There is no specific amount of hours that the area needs to be patrolled;

G:\BOARD SESSIONS\BOARD SESSION MINUTES\2025\7-9-2025

- Detroit Lake is a high priority as it is a popular destination;
- The Willamette River is popular during the week after work hours;
- Maintaining marine safety is important; and
- Polk County is still responsible for the search and rescue aspect on their side of the river.

**Motion:** Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the incoming funds Intergovernmental Agreement with the Oregon State Marion Board (OSMB) in the amount of \$304,395 to provide law enforcement services related to recreational boating on Oregon waterways through June 30, 2027. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

*(Video Time 00:47:15)*

## PUBLIC WORKS

9. Consider approval of an administrative ordinance adopting amendments to clarify the applicability of existing code provisions related to battery energy storage systems in the Marion County Urban and Rural Zone Codes, Chapters 16 and 17, as referenced in Exhibit A and Exhibit B. –Brandon Reich

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

- Current zoning code does not expressly address these systems;
- Background on Battery Energy Storage Systems:
  - April 15: Work session to discuss BESS;
  - May 14: Initiated process to consider code amendments;
  - June 11: Board approved amendments; and
  - June 25: Scheduled adoption of ordinance.
- Property owners with approved battery systems will not be impacted by this ordinance;
- Applications submitted to date will not be impacted by this ordinance;
- Amendments apply to future applications.
- Next steps:
  - Develop standards for BESS projects;
  - Verify state regulations for rural land use; and
  - Engage stakeholders in standard development process.



***Board discussion:***

- A single existing project approved can be built by 2028;
- Another project applied for recently:
  - A decision has not been made yet.
- The state did not create standards, so the county is stepping in to do so;
- Need to ensure stakeholder engagement;
- No additional projects until standards are established;
- Need to ensure that farmland is protected;
- Standards development will include the following:
  - Experts in the field;
  - Farming property representatives;
  - Neighborhood groups; and
  - Potentially affected property owners.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cameron moved to approve an administrative ordinance adopting amendments to clarify the applicability of existing code provisions related to battery energy storage systems in the Marion County Urban and Rural Zone Codes, Chapters 16 and 17, as referenced in Exhibit A and Exhibit B. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

*(Video Time 00:52:29)*

10. Consider approval of Early Work Amendment #1 to the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) contract with Slayden Constructors, Inc., to add federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in the amount of \$581,348 for a new contract total of \$762,596 to procure long lead time equipment required for the Marion County Brooks-Hopmere Water and Wastewater Improvement project through December 31, 2026. –Brian Nicholas

***Summary of presentation:***

- Project Details:
  - Building water campus for Brooks Community Service District; and
  - Will provide storage, treatment, and distribution of potable water.
- ARPA funds must be used by the end of next year;
- Procurement Strategy:

G:\BOARD SESSIONS\BOARD SESSION MINUTES\2025\7-9-2025

- Approaching 90% design completion;
- Purchasing long lead time equipment early;
- Equipment includes:
  - Booster station pumps;
  - Backup generator;
  - Electrical switchgear;
  - Chlorination components; and
  - Miscellaneous equipment.
- The design is complete enough to know what type of equipment is needed;
- Competitive bidding process for equipment was done:
  - Slayden Constructors to competitively;
  - Pricing reviewed and established; and
  - Similar approach used in Canyon Sewer project.

***Board discussion:***

- The project is close to completion; and
- This project has been in the works for five years.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cameron moved to approve Early Work Amendment #1 to the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) contract with Slayden Constructors, Inc., to add federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in the amount of \$581,348 for a new contract total of \$762,596 to procure long lead time equipment required for the Marion County Brooks-Hopmire Water and Wastewater Improvement project through December 31, 2026. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

*(Video Time 00:56:45)*

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

11. Consider approval of the Subrecipient Agreement with the Santiam Memorial Hospital to reallocate Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding in the amount of \$250,000 to help support pre-construction costs for the building of climate-controlled housing for ambulances retroactive to July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2028. –Steve Dickey

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

Steve Dickey:

- Project Background:
  - Originally part of a larger Resiliency Center project;
  - Location changed to ensure quickest ambulance response times; and
  - Critical for serving communities of Stayton and Sublimity.
- Funding Details:
  - A \$250,000 CDBG funding grant;
  - Combined with state of Oregon award; and
  - Will enable immediate project start.
- Project Significance:
  - Addresses current ambulance facility limitations; and
  - Improves emergency response capabilities.

Eric Pritchard, Santiam Memorial Hospital:

- Project Context:
  - Current facility hasn't been used for ambulances in 40 years;
  - Existing bays too small for modern ambulances;
  - Located in a neighborhood; and
  - Current makeshift ready room not ideal for 24/7 staffing.
- Current Challenges:
  - Medical equipment must be moved in bad weather during emergency calls;
  - Loses critical response time; and
  - Extreme weather impacts equipment storage.

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

- Commissioner Willis stated for the record a potential conflict because he lives in the City of Stayton;
- The land is in Sublimity with improved highway 22 access; and
- A \$4.75 million grant will cover most project costs.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the Subrecipient Agreement with the Santiam Memorial Hospital to reallocate Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding in the amount of \$250,000 to help support pre-construction costs for the

building of climate-controlled housing for ambulances retroactive to July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

*(Video Time 01:02:18)*

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

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

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

A. Public hearing to consider the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnerships Programs 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan.

–Steve Dickey

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

- US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires an annual action plan from grantees;
- Documents the following:
  - Number of individuals served;
  - Types of services; and
  - And other required details.
- Funding Allocations:
  - CDBG: \$1,420,109;
  - HOME Investment Partnerships: \$494,534; and
  - Additional \$150,000 from opioid settlement funding.
- CDBG Fund Allocation:
  - Program Administration: \$284,023;
  - Catholic Community Services (Commercial Kitchen and Vocational Training Center): \$225,000;
  - Marion Polk Food Share (Facility Purchase): \$300,000;
  - Marion County Homeowner Residential Rehabilitation: \$398,070;
  - Family Building Blocks (Service Expansion): \$100,000;
  - Liberty House (Service Expansion): \$113,016; and
  - Valor Mentoring - Youth Mentoring Program Expansion: \$150,000.
- HOME Investment Partnerships Fund Allocation:
  - Community Housing Development Organization Set-Aside (HUD requirement): \$74,180;

- Home Buyer Assistance Program: \$370,820; and
- Program Administration: \$49,504.

Ian Dixon-McDonald and Rick Gaupo Representatives of Marion Polk Food Share

- Current funding:
  - A \$6 million grant from state; and
  - About \$7 million from local community donations.
- Gathering funds for a larger facility to be used for the next 30 to 50 years;
  - Seeking additional \$7 million but will move forward with the project;
  - There are some problems with the timeline of some funds;
  - Total project budget is \$25 million;
  - Includes acquisition and remodeling; and
  - Will consolidate food banking and Meals on Wheels operations:
    - This will help with staffing; and
    - It will help the community as well.
  - Currently half of the meal is made in one kitchen and the other half in another kitchen:
    - Which then have to be consolidated.

***Board discussion:***

- Thankful for the work being done; and
- Commissioner Cameron stated he is a monthly contributor since 2009.

Commissioner Willis closed the public hearing.

*(Video Time 01:11:25)*

**ACTION**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

12. Consider approval of a resolution to adopt the Program Year 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investments Partnership Program. **(TO BE ACTED ON FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING)** –Steve Dickey

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cameron moved to approve a resolution to adopt the Program Year 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan under the

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investments Partnership Program. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Willis adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

**NOT PRESENT AT MEETING**

---

CHAIR

---

COMMISSIONER

---

COMMISSIONER

**Board Sessions can be viewed on-line at**  
**<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSUQ1gg6M78UsBE3q6w4rdf59Z5rXkEi5>**