

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE BOARD SESSION – Regular Session

Wednesday, June 11, 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, John Pettifer as county counsel, and Brenda Koenig as recorder.

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

(Video Time 00:06:14)

MOTION: Commissioner Willis moved to remove a contract for item #8 under the Consent Agenda for the Sheriff's Office. An incoming funds Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Aurora to provide law enforcement services. Seconded by Commissioner Cameron; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 00:06:37)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

(Video Time 00:06:44)

PRESENTATION

1. Introduction to K9 Otis, Marion County Sheriff's Office. –Commander Jason Bernards and Deputy Dane Wright

Summary of presentation:

- Deputy Wright was selected to be Otis's handler after a vigorous interview process:
 - Written test;
 - Scenario test; and
 - Physical test.
- Other dogs the sheriff's office has cannot be used to track missing and endangered people:
 - For liability reasons.
- The bloodhound program began to locate missing and endangered people;

G:\BOARD SESSIONS\BOARD SESSION MINUTES\2025\6-11-2025

- Otis is certified through the Bloodhound Association of California; and
- Deputy Wright and Otis are almost done with his certification.

Deputy Dane Wright:

- Otis is a 3-year-old bloodhound;
- He is one of five police bloodhounds in Oregon;
- Focused on tracking and search and rescue;
- Can track missing people, endangered individuals, and criminals;
- He is bred for tracking, so he is better suited for this work than bite dogs; and
- Otis is rewarded with tuna when finding someone.

Board discussion:

- He is currently doing tracking for missing kids:
 - Certification proves he is more proficient and ready to search for dangerous individuals.
- Lives with Deputy Wright and his family, gets along well with his one-year-old child and family lab;
- He is a surprisingly athletic dog despite his appearance; and
- Thankful for the service being done by Deputy Wright and Otis.

(Video Time 00:13:09)

CONSENT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

2. OLCC Applications – Recommended Approval

- Guest Services Management, LLC, dba, Big Leaf Grill – Sublimity, Oregon; and
- Guest Services Management, LLC, dba, South Falls Cafe – Sublimity, Oregon.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

3. Approve Amendment #18 to the incoming funds Intergovernmental Agreement with the Oregon Health Authority to decrease funding for Program Element (PE) 36-01, OSTPR (Opioid Settlement Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery), Board Primary Prevention Funding, in the amount of \$625,874 for a new contract total of \$16,616,712.84 through June 30, 2025.

4. Approve Amendment #1 to the Contract for Services with Linguava Interpreters Inc., to add \$85,000 for a new contract total of \$155,000 to provide interpretation and translation services through December 31, 2026.

PUBLIC WORKS

5. Approve the Purchase Order with Sabre Communications Corporation in the amount of \$1,075,684.65 for the purchase and delivery of radio towers for six sites for the Marion County Radio Project through June 30, 2026.

6. Approve the Purchase Order with Shelter One in the amount of \$803,646 for the purchase and delivery of seven radio equipment and two generator shelters for nine sites for the Marion County Radio Project through December 31, 2026.

7. Approve Amendment #2 to the Standard Professional Services Contract with Don Cushing Associates, Inc., to add \$142,928 for a new not-to-exceed contract total of \$1,139,403 to provide design, engineering, permitting, and construction oversight of civil site improvements for the Marion County Radio Project through December 31, 2027.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

8. Approve the incoming funds Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the following cities to provide law enforcement services effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026:

- The City of Aurora in the not-to-exceed amount of \$268,063 for one deputy; and
- The City of Jefferson in the not-to-exceed amount of \$757,521 for three deputies.

Motion made and approved to remove the IGA with the City of Aurora from the agenda.

9. Approve Amendment #2 to the Contract for Services with Bridgeway Community Health to add \$416,156 in projected Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) grant funds for a new contract total of \$832,312 to continue to provide treatment services for clients who commit non-violent drug and property crimes through June 30, 2027.

10. Approve Amendment #2 to the Contract for Services with Bridgeway Community Health to add \$489,960 in projected Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) grant funds for a new contract total of \$834,920 to continue to provide substance use treatment services to community corrections clients through June 30, 2027.

11. Approve Amendment #2 to the Contract for Services with the Center for Hope and Safety to add \$289,129.68 in projected Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) grant funds for a new contract total of \$578,259.36 to continue to provide assessments, counseling, and support services for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and human trafficking through June 30, 2027.

12. Approve Amendment #2 to the Contract for Services with Liberty House to add \$289,129.38 in projected Oregon Criminal Justice Commission grant funds (CJC) for a new contract total of \$578,258.76 to continue to provide assessments, counseling, and support services to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence through June 30, 2027.

13. Approve Amendment #2 to the Contract for Services with Lance Loberg, MD, to add \$192,000 of which an estimated \$54,000 will be utilized for the Marion County Juvenile Department and an estimated \$138,000 will be utilized for the Marion County Jail for a new not-to-exceed contract total of \$732,000 to continue to provide supervising physician services through June 30, 2026.

14. Approve Amendment #7 to the Purchase Order (PO) with Correct RX Pharmacy Services, Inc. to add \$447,304.44 for a new PO total of \$2,383,475.54 to continue to provide pharmaceutical services for the Marion County Jail through June 30, 2026.

Board discussion:

- Budgeting funds that legislature has not yet decided to give to the county:
 - Funds may change; and
 - The programs help reduce recidivism.
- Marion County takes 10 percent of the Justice Reinvestment Award and gives it to Liberty House and Center for Hope and Safety:
 - The funds are used for victims' assistance.

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

(Video Time 00:22:13)

ACTION

BUSINESS SERVICES

15. Consider approval of the Public Improvement Agreement with Robinson Construction Company in the amount of \$6,957,000 for the construction of the new Marion County Sheriff's Office Evidence Building through June 30, 2026. –Tamra Goettsch, Undersheriff Jay Bergmann, Geoff Bonney, and Wesly Miller

Summary of presentation:

Tamra Goettsch:

- The building's purpose is to provide a dedicated space for receiving, cataloging, storing, and maintaining collected evidence;
- Located at 4040 Aumsville Highway SE Salem, Oregon;
- This is a 10,000 square foot facility;
- The total project cost is \$9,785,678;
- The construction contract is \$6,957,000:
 - Awarded to Robinson Construction Company.
- Worked with Mackenzie Engineering during the design phase;
- Staff performed detailed research to ensure new facility will meet current and future needs; and

- Projected construction timeline from June 2025 to May 2026.

Jay Bergmann, Marion County Undersheriff:

- Current evidence building is antiquated and undersized;
- Current facility requires renting a trailer for staff office space;
- New building will:
 - Meet current and future needs;
 - Be more energy efficient; and
 - Help comply with state and legal accreditation standards.

Geoff Bonney:

- Set up so there is no contact when handling evidence;
- Highlighted key facility features:
 - High-density moving storage shelves;
 - Climate-controlled storage rooms;
 - Separate intake areas for deputies and technicians;
 - Redundant storage systems; and
 - Vehicle storage bays.
- Design modeled after the Marion County Public Safety Building for a uniform look;
- The site will be located next to the current evidence building;
- The site will have a secure perimeter;
- The current car storage will remain with additional car storage added:
 - Some vehicles must be kept for 99 years.
- The evidence area is large and will not be filled up immediately;
- There will be a deputy processing area;
- Vehicles bays will be included enough for two vehicles:
 - In addition, there will also be long term vehicle bay.
- Specialized storage areas that are temperature controlled are included;
- Staff will have office space;
- There will be a secure area for public use; and
- The building will have a back up generator that will run 100 percent of the building in case of an outage.

Wesley Miller:

- Construction timeline:
 - Robinson Construction to mobilize June 23rd;
 - Groundbreaking set for July 2nd; and
 - Anticipated one-year construction period.

Board discussion:

- There are three staff members working in the building currently:

G:\BOARD SESSIONS\BOARD SESSION MINUTES\2025\6-11-2025

- They are not sworn officers.
- The space allows us to add more staff:
 - Addition of new staff is not forecasted as current staff is doing well.
- Working on a statewide plan on how to take care of seized weapons and other items from the street;
- This has been a long process and the team working on this has done a great job;
- All current projects are on existing facilities/buildings:
 - This is the only full construction project.
- Thankful to Jan Fritz (CAO) and the finance team who ensure projects are done in a strategic and efficient timeline.

MOTION: Commissioner Willis moved to approve the Public Improvement Agreement with Robinson Construction Company in the amount of \$6,957,000 for the construction of the new Marion County Sheriff's Office Evidence Building through June 30, 2026. Seconded by Commissioner Cameron; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 00:40:45)

PUBLIC WORKS

16. Consider approval of the Construction Contract with HP Civil, Inc. in the amount of \$264,085.55 to provide reconstruction of the east approach and guardrail replacement for the Nusom Road: Pudding River Bridge Approach project through September 30, 2026.

—Ryan Crowther

Summary of presentation:

- Project Location:
 - Northeast of Silverton; and
 - Near intersection of Torvend Road and Nussom Road.
- Project Scope:
 - Replace east settling approach slab;
 - Construct slab footing to prevent future settling;
 - Widen shoulders; and
 - Install approach guardrail to meet current standards.
- Project Budget and Schedule:
 - Low bid received from HP Civil at \$264,085.55;
 - Complete all work by September 30, 2025; and
 - Contract is to be completed September 30, 2026:
 - For paperwork and punch list items.
- Road Closure:
 - A single 45-day road closure is allowed;
 - Necessary for concrete pouring and curing; and

G:\BOARD SESSIONS\BOARD SESSION MINUTES\2025\6-11-2025

- Will work to minimize disruption to traveling public.
- Construction is required to be completed by September 30, 2025.

Board discussion:

- None.

Motion: Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the Construction Contract with HP Civil, Inc. in the amount of \$264,085.55 to provide reconstruction of the east approach and guardrail replacement for the Nusom Road: Pudding River Bridge Approach project through September 30, 2026. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 00:43:50)

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

17. Consider approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Marion County and the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (MWVCAA), Inc., to document the shared goal of helping to shelter individuals experiencing a non-emergency crisis at the Salem Navigation Center. –Undersheriff Jay Bergmann and Commander Jason Bernards

Summary of presentation:

Undersheriff Jay Bergmann:

- The county has been working for the last few years to get the navigation center running;
- Ongoing discussions with Jimmy Jones from MWVCAA;
- There are fifteen beds reserved for law enforcement; and
- Key Details:
 - 15 beds for emergency law enforcement-assisted diversion;
 - Additional beds for short-term housing for homeless individuals; and
 - Goal is to provide housing for people with behavioral health issues.

Commander Jason Bernards:

- Patrol Perspective Highlights:
 - Goal is to connect individuals with resources;
 - Narrow window of opportunity to help people;
 - Emergency beds provide safe space for follow-up; and
 - Allows law enforcement to focus on more critical emergencies.
- The expectation for staff is to document everyone individual that comes in.

Board discussion:

Commissioner Bethell expressed the following:

- Discuss the pre-screening process to use Qualified Mental Health Professionals (QMHP):
 - Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT).

G:\BOARD SESSIONS\BOARD SESSION MINUTES\2025\6-11-2025

- Would like to know about denials and the circumstances of why;
- Previous delays in partnership have been frustrating;
- Thankful to Jimmy Jones and the willingness for a partnership;
- This is a \$3 million county investment;
- It is important to support vulnerable community members; and
- She is hopeful that soon all 75 beds will be full.

Commissioner Willis expressed the following:

- Acknowledged \$3 million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money investment;
- Frustration when initial conversations did not materialize;
- He appreciates the efforts to finalize the partnership; and
- Interested in seeing how the program will work.

Undersheriff Jay Bergmann expressed the following:

- Negotiations have gone on for a long period of time; and
- There is a plan that both organizations agree with.

MOTION: Commissioner Willis moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Marion County and the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (MWVCAA), Inc., to document the shared goal of helping to shelter individuals experiencing a non-emergency crisis at the Salem Navigation Center. Seconded by Commissioner Cameron; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 00:54:14)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

9:30 A.M.

PUBLIC WORKS

A. Public hearing to consider amendments to clarify existing code provisions related to battery energy storage systems in the Marion County Urban and Rural Zone Codes, Chapters 16 and 17.
–Brandon Reich

Commissioner Bethell read the public hearing opening statement for Marion County Code into the record.

Summary of presentation:

- Purpose of Amendments:
 - Clarify applicability of existing code provisions; and
 - Determine if battery energy storage systems are permitted uses.
- Battery energy storage systems use batteries to store electrical energy;

G:\BOARD SESSIONS\BOARD SESSION MINUTES\2025\6-11-2025

- Battery Energy Storage Systems:
 - Currently not explicitly referenced in county code;
 - Potential classification considerations:
 - Utility facility:
 - Cell towers, city wells, etc.
 - Power generation facility.
- Battery systems are connected to electrical grid:
 - Appear ancillary to grid/substation;
 - Store existing electrical power rather than generating new power; and
 - Can be considered a power generation facility.
- No existing zoning provisions in Oregon statutes or administrative rules;
- Potential Impacts:
 - Fire hazards;
 - Chemical, gas, and metal release risks;
 - Air, water, and soil pollution potential;
 - Farmland preservation concerns; and
 - Increased emergency response demands.
- Commercial battery systems are currently not permitted;
- Future code amendments need to establish:
 - Comprehensive development standards;
 - Setback requirements;
 - Farmland protection protocols;
 - Fire safety systems;
 - Emergency response planning;
 - Facility monitoring procedures; and
 - Decommissioning plans.

Board discussion:

Commissioner Willis:

- If approved this would become an ordinance; and
- These systems are not allowed in urban or rural zones:
 - This can be changed in the future.

Commissioner Cameron:

- A PGE battery storage facility exists within Salem city limits.

Motion: Commissioner Cameron moved to approve amendments to clarify existing code provisions related to battery energy storage systems in the Marion County Urban and Rural Zone Codes, Chapters 16 and 17. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Bethell closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Bethell adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Board Sessions can be viewed on-line at

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