



MARION COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BOC/CAO Issues Coordination

February 11, 2026  
10:30am to 11:30am  
Courthouse Square  
Commissioner's Boardroom  
Salem, Oregon

**Meeting Minutes**

**AGENDA**

**1. Welcome**

Chair Willis

Chair Willis called the meeting to order at 10:35am

Chair Willis, Commissioner Bethell, CAO Fritz, DCAO Eppley, County Ops Manager Layer, and County Counsel Elzinga were present

**2. Discussion**

- a. Communications Policy** – Commissioner Willis led a discussion on a communication that occurred on the Street Vendor Ordinance the Board recently adopted. The item was discussed at a Salem City Council meeting and was characterized as the County going after small businesses as opposed to protecting the health and welfare of County residents by cracking down on unlicensed and unregulated vendors who sell food, fruit, and trinkets in County Rights of way and on private property without permission. Even though County procedure states that external facing communications and interviews with news media need must be coordinated with the County Communications Officer in the Board's Office to verify alignment with current Board direction, a HHS Department employee who is familiar with the communications procedures provided an interview with local media on the topic on their own without having cleared the discussion with the Board's Office. The Board asked the County Counsel to provide language for adoption into the Draft Communications Policy that provides for personnel consequences for violating the policy and procedure.
- b. Valor Mentoring** - Commissioner Bethell asked for verification that Valor Mentoring, who the County has provided grant funds to, is a valid and currently registered 501c3 non-profit organization. County Counsel was able to look Valor Mentoring up in the federal system and verified that they are indeed properly registered.

DCAO Eppley was directed to verify that Valor Mentoring provided the correct non-profit identification data to the County on any and all applications for grant funds they have applied for.

### **3. Other**

All

- a.** Commissioner Bethell asked County Counsel to verify an opinion provided by the attorney for Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) that law enforcement currently has the right to transport individuals to the State Hospital who are civilly committed due to being a risk to themselves or others. Steve Elzinga discussed that he is not convinced that any 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court cases provide this clarity. Commissioner Bethell asked Steve to contact the legal director for the trial attorneys association to discuss the Bill she is working on during the short session that would clarify this issue and see if they can support the position.

### **4. Adjourn**

- a.** Chair Willis adjourned the meeting at 11:01am.