

BOARD ORDERS AND MINUTES

IN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STATE OF OREGON

FOR THE COUNTY OF YAMHILL

SITTING FOR THE TRANSACTION OF COUNTY BUSINESS

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF YAMHILL COUNTY (“the Board”) sat for the transaction of county business in formal session on November 6, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 32 of the Yamhill County courthouse, and in a virtual meeting via Zoom, Commissioners Kit Johnston, Mary Starrett and David “Bubba” King being present.

Also present were Ken Huffer, County Administrator; Kevin Perkins, Deputy County Administrator PIO; Kaleb Raever, Assistant County Counsel; Gioia Goodrum, Economic Development Manager; Patricia Rojas, HR Director; Ahsley Watkins, Solid Waste Coordinator and Paulette Alexandria, Treasurer. Christian Boenisch, County Counsel and Nohely Barajas Montalvo participated via Zoom.

Guests: Marvin Bernards, Beth Keyser, Melody McMaster, John Olson, Jason Fields and Hilary Malcomson. Rebecca Wallis – Yamhill County News, Sonda Martin, Leisha Adams, Lee Schrepel, Craig Markham – Yamhill Co., Goldberg Jones, Ms. Moon and No Kings (except Bubba) participated via Zoom.

***Welcome!** Thank you for attending today’s meeting. Public participation is encouraged. If you wish to address the Commissioners on any item not on the agenda, you may do so as part of the public comment period at the beginning of the meeting. If you desire to speak on any item, please raise your hand to be recognized after the Chair announces the agenda item. Please fill out a public comment card to indicate your intent to speak. NEW – Public participation also includes the ability to attend Formal Session via Zoom. For attendees that are attending the meeting via Zoom, the Chair will ask if any Zoom attendees wish to provide public comment in same manner as provided above. At that time, attendees will be asked to use the “raise hand” function in Zoom and staff will unmute the participant. Meetings will also continue to be available for view via a live stream on the Commissioners’ You Tube channel. Written public comments may be submitted via email at bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov by 5:00 p.m. Wednesday.*

- A. CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Johnston called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
- B. FLAG SALUTE**
- C. CALENDAR SESSION:** This time is reserved for the review of the commissioners’ joint schedule (if needed).

The Commissioners reviewed the joint schedule for the week of November 10 through November 16, 2025. No other county business was discussed.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT: This time is reserved for public comment on any topic other than: 1) agenda items, 2) A quasi-judicial land use matter, or 3) a topic scheduled for public hearing. The Chair may limit the length of individual comments.

Commissioners acknowledged written public comments submitted by Wei Quan Wang regarding police activity in China, Lisa Cole Miller, Margaret Talt, Jason Paladino, Micah Martinez and Charles Van Genderen in support of the Yamhelas-Westsider Trail, Troy, Jennifer and Thomas in opposition of the Yamhelas-Westsider Trail and Tarin Bickford and Valerie Blaha regarding SNAP benefits. Beth Keyser submitted public comment regarding the possible relationship between crime and immigration. Melody McMaster provided public comment regarding pedestrian safety in support of the Yamhelas-Westsider Trail. Sonda Martin provided a counterargument in response to Ms. Keyser virtually. Dawn Paulson and Rebecca Wallis provided written public comment and Ms. Wallis commented virtually regarding social media posts by Commissioner King about ICE activity. Tracy Moon provided public comment virtually regarding SNAP benefits and letters proposed during the October 30, 2025 formal session.

E. DEPARTMENT UPDATES: Human Resources – Patricia Rojas.

Patricia Rojas stated that one of the department’s priorities was fostering positivity for County employees. She stated that the 2025 Summer Benefit and Wellness Fair had increased participation and was no cost to the County. She said that in 2025 the message of the Wellness Fair was for employees to take their blood pressure, and the 2026 message would be for employees to familiarize themselves with their blood sugar counts because the top three reasons employees utilized benefits were diabetes, high blood pressure and anxiety. 15% of the County’s employees were on a Leave of Absence and half of those absences were processed through Paid Leave Oregon. She explained that recruitment and applicants had significantly increased, and most departments were fully staffed. She also stated that Risk Management was conducting defensive driver training to reduce traffic related work accidents. The Employee Safety Committee was effectively meeting and inspecting County buildings including the newly acquired Government Services Building. She summarized the support the department provided during the whole duration of an employee’s time with the County. Ms. Rojas concluded by informing the Board that two Collective Bargaining Acts (CBA) were being negotiated with objectivity and strong data, and that three other CBAs would be renegotiated in 2026.

F. WORK SESSION: This time is reserved for topics of discussion scheduled for the Commissioners in advance.

1. None.

G. CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Johnston moved approval of the consent agenda. The motion passed. Commissioners Johnston, Starrett and King voting aye.

Minutes

1. **B.O. 25-359** - Approval of Formal Session minutes from October 23, 2025.

Committees

2. **B.O. 25-360** - Approval to appoint Chris Mercier to the Parkway Committee for a term to expire on September 15, 2026.

H. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Consideration of approval to submit a letter in support of Oregon Governor, Tina Kotek, utilizing state resources to backpay SNAP benefits amidst the federal shutdown. *[Continued from October 30, 2025.]*

Commissioner Starrett summarized a proposal that she would walk on as item I4 as well as governmental support that had been announced. Commissioners Starrett and King had submitted individual letters to the Governor on October 30, 2025. Commissioner King reiterated his preference to send a group letter, but the consensus of the Board was not to take any action.

I. OTHER BUSINESS (Add-ons and non-consent items):

1. **B.O. 25-361** - Consideration of approval of a Memorandum of Understanding clarifying the anniversary date for step increases language for staff represented under the 2024-2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement between Yamhill County and Teamsters Local 223, through June 30, 2027.

Commissioner Starrett moved approval of item I1. The motion passed. Commissioners Johnston, Starrett and King voting aye.

2. **B.O. 25-362** - Consideration of approval of Amendment #4 to Intergovernmental Agreement #168-20 between Yamhill County and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) (B.O. 20-246) extending the term dates through September 30, 2026. Oracle #SW260003IGA.

Commissioner Johnston moved approval of item I2. The motion passed. Commissioners Johnston, Starrett and King voting aye.

3. **B.O. 25-363** - Consideration of approval of a Notice of Intent to Award construction of the North Hill Road Bridge Maintenance Project to Bent LLC in the amount of \$176,675.

Commissioner Johnston moved approval of item I3. The motion passed. Commissioners Johnston, Starrett and King voting aye.

4. **B.O. 25-364** - Consideration of approval to authorize \$100,000 of Economic Development funds for direct grants to 17 food banks (listed on YCCO), with requirements for funds to be used for current SNAP participants and for Yamhill County residents, and to authorize County Administrator to sign agreements to release the funds. *(Commissioner Starrett.)*

Ken Huffer explained that about \$200,000 of the Video Lottery fund had been appropriated for grants in fiscal year 2025-26. Commissioner Starrett explained that the federal government had reduced SNAP benefits, and the Oregon State Governor's office had released \$5,000,000 to supplement the benefits. She proposed granting \$100,000 to local food banks. Gioia Goodrum stated that there were 17 food banks in the county listed on the Yamhill Community Care Office (YCCO) website. Ken Huffer recommended drafting an agreement to

offer to eligible food banks and, after a verification process to ensure compliance with restrictions, 17 individual agreements for \$5,882 could be processed. Commissioner King added that the proposed amount per organization would cover approximately one month of operations for the Grand Sheramina Food Bank. Ken Huffer suggested minimal reporting requirements to reduce the administrative burden for grantees. Commissioner Starrett proposed restrictions that the grant funds would not be used for community meals, that the food banks would provide food rather than financial assistance, and that the funds would serve Yamhill County residents who were already SNAP recipients.

Commissioner Starrett moved approval of item I4. The motion passed. Commissioners Johnston, Starrett and King voting aye.

J. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

THE RECORDS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS CAN BE FOUND AT:

<https://www.yamhillcounty.gov/1190/Public-Hearing-Notices>

K. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. For information on county advisory committee vacancies, please refer to the county’s website, <https://www.yamhillcounty.gov/765/Boards-and-Committees>, or call the Board of Commissioners’ office at 503-434-7501 or 503-554-7801 (toll-free from Newberg).

2. For questions regarding accessibility or to request an accommodation contact the Board of Commissioners’ office at (503)-434-7501 or (503)-554-7801 (toll-free from Newberg) or email at bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov

3. Electronic versions of all meeting agendas and meeting information packets can be found at the county’s website: <https://www.yamhillcounty.gov/AgendaCenter>

Following Commissioner announcements, the meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Bailey Barnhart
Secretary

YAMHILL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Chair

KIT JOHNSTON



Commissioner

MARY STARRETT



Commissioner

DAVID “BUBBA” KING