

**Board of Commissioners Meeting  
October 15, 2025  
Don Adams Conference Room, Irrigon Government Center  
Irrigon, Oregon**

**Present In-Person** Chair David Sykes, Commissioner Jeff Wenholz, Commissioner Gus Peterson, Valerie Ballard, Matthew Jensen, Justin Nelson, Vince Guerrero, Steven Davis, Christy Kenny, Brian Snyder, Glen Diehl, Liz Andrade, Chelsey Grover-Price; non-staff: Karie Walchli

**Present Via Zoom** Sabrina Bailey-Cave, Robin Canaday, Raymi Cain, Mike Gorman, Kevin Ince, Sandi Pointer, Bobbi Childers, Rose Kylo, Sarah Rea, Yvonne Morter; non-staff: Andrea Di Salvo, Griffin Beach, Julie Jensen

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

9:00 a.m.

**Public Comment**

No comments

**Consideration and Adoption of Agenda**

*Commissioner Wenholz motioned to adopt the agenda, removing items 6a (ERP Update) and 6b (CREZ Funds) from business items. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval*

**Department Reports**

The Tourism report was presented by Karie Walchli

The Juvenile Department report was presented by Christy Kenny

The Justice Court report was presented by Glen Diehl

The Sheriff's Office report was presented by Brian Snyder

The Planning Department report was presented by Tamra Mabbott and Kaitlyn Kennedy

The Public Transit report was presented by Steven Davis

The Treasurer's report and Cultural Trust presentations were postponed to a later meeting

The Accounts Payable report was provided by Kevin Ince

The County Administrator's report was presented by Matthew Jensen

**Consent Agenda**

- a. Minutes: October 1, 2025
- b. Property Tax Refund Request

*Commissioner Wenholz motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval,*

**Recess**

10:28 a.m.

## **Resume**

10:31 a.m.

## **Business Items**

### Third Amendment to OHA IGA 185824

Robin Canaday, Public Health Director

Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) with Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and their amendments are usually items for the consent agenda, however due to the nature of the amendment, the item was brought before the Board as a business item. This amendment funds a new staff position in the County to assist with nitrate water related outreach and well testing.

*Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve amendment 3 to IGA 185824 and to sign the necessary documents. Commissioner Wenholz seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

### Agriculture Mitigation Fund Agreement Advisory Committee

David Sykes, Commission Chair

In 2024, as part of the solar citing process, Pinegate Renewables and its subsidiary Sunstone Solar agreed to funding an Agriculture Mitigation Plan to offset negative impacts to the local agriculture community from losing farmland to the Sunstone Solar project. As part of the mitigation agreement, an advisory committee including a member of the Board of Commissioners will oversee the mitigation plan and the Board must appoint a member to the committee.

Commissioner Wenholz shared concerns over his participation in the committee due to a potential conflict of interest as a member of the Umatilla Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors and asked Commissioner Peterson if he felt he had the potential for a conflict of interest as a local wheat farmer. Commissioner Peterson said he would like to be a part of the committee and would recuse himself from applying for mitigation funds to participate.

*Commissioner Wenholz motioned to appoint Commissioner Peterson to the Sunstone Solar agriculture mitigation committee. Chair Sykes seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.*

### West Glen Community Project Report

Matthew Jensen, County Administrator

Funded through a technical grant by Business Oregon, the feasibility study of the West Glen neighborhood explored various possible solutions for providing clean drinking water to the community. Of the solutions studied, connecting to the City of Boardman's public water system appears to be the most feasible. This conclusion is not meant to be a decision, but to provide direction and guidance for planning.

## **Correspondence**

A letter from the Black Mountain Water District was addressed.

## **Commissioner Reports**

Brief reports on Commissioner activity were provided.

**Executive Session**

11: a.m.

The Board met in Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e), to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

**Return to Open Session**

11:10 a.m.

*Commissioner Peterson motioned to authorize the County Administrator to purchase property to facilitate proper access for the County Courthouse project. Commissioner Wenholz seconded.  
Vote: Unanimous approval.*

**Adjourn**

11:11 a.m.