



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1300 NW Wall Street, Bend, Oregon
(541) 388-6570

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

BOCC MEETING MINUTES

1:00 PM

MONDAY November 24, 2025

Allen Room
Live Streamed Video

Present were Commissioners Anthony DeBone, Patti Adair and Phil Chang. Also present were County Administrator Nick Lelack; Deputy County Administrator Erik Kropp; Senior Assistant Legal Counsel Kim Riley; and BOCC Executive Assistant Brenda Fritsvold.

This meeting was audio and video recorded and can be accessed at the Deschutes County Meeting Portal: www.deschutes.org/meetings.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair DeBone called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

CITIZEN INPUT:

- Al Shirk spoke to the potential acquisition by the County of 40 acres of federal land outside of La Pine and asked that the Board postpone any decision on this proposal until its two added positions are filled, saying that after the BOCC has been expanded from three to five Commissioners, all of them can see for themselves how large his quarry is and further come to understand its potential to grow. Shirk characterized the proposal that the County acquire these acres as a means to bail out a private business.
- Stephanie Alvstad from J Bar J described the services provided by the organization, shared information on recent staffing changes, and declared the intent to continue advocacy efforts to prevent youth from becoming homeless as adults. She reviewed historical funding sources and indicated that several of these are expected to be reduced. In response to a question from Commissioner Adair, Alvstad estimated the shortfall will be approximately \$150,000.

CHANG: Yes
DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried 3 – 0

AGENDA ITEMS:

9. Courthouse Expansion Update

Lee Randall, Facilities Director, introduced the monthly update of the Courthouse expansion project.

Eric Nielsen, Capital Improvements Manager, reviewed recently completed and in-progress work. Cory Loomis from Pence Contractors reviewed a list of upcoming work over the next four to six weeks.

In response to Commissioner DeBone, Loomis said pedestrian access to the sidewalk in front of the building will be restored in the spring.

Wayne Powderly from the Cumming Group provided an update on the project budget to date.

Randall reported that additional costs will be incurred related to infrastructure changes along Bond Street, with specific amounts not yet determined. County Administrator Nick Lelack shared that currently, the cost to construct or expand courthouse facilities in Oregon ranges from \$1,400 to \$2,000 per square foot. Randall noted that in comparison, the County's courthouse is being expanded at a cost of approximately \$850 to \$875 per square foot.

10. Distribution of Remaining Grant Funds - Wolf Depredation and Financial Committee

Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager, reminded that the Oregon Department of Agriculture awarded Deschutes County \$50,000 in the current 2025 grant cycle to be used for preventative measures to reduce conflict between wolves and livestock. Thus far, \$46,128.66 of those funds have been distributed; all of the funds must be expended by January 2026.

The Wolf Depredation Committee met on November 17th and recommended the following final distributions for Board consideration:

1. Grant an additional \$3,000 to the Hatfield Hyde Land Trust to use for preventative measures; and
2. Allocate \$871.34 to the Carcass Removal Program.

Commissioner Adair shared that the cattle pregnancy rate is down to 82%, with the result that herds are becoming smaller. She spoke to her concern for ranchers, particularly in Wallowa County, and said wolf packs are becoming more brazen.

Commissioner Chang said installing and utilizing a calving pen will help protect newborn/young calves from predation.

In response to Commissioner Chang, Patterson confirmed that any distributed funds not expended by a recipient will be required to be returned to the County.

ADAIR: Move approval of the distribution of remaining grant funds from the 2025 funding cycle as recommended by the Wolf Depredation and Financial Compensation Committee

CHANG: Second

VOTE: ADAIR: Yes
 CHANG: Yes
 DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried 3 – 0

11. Treasury Report for October 2025

Bill Kuhn, County Treasurer, provided the Treasury Report for October 2025, noting his expectation that the LGIP rate will continue to trend downwards.

12. Finance Report for October 2025

Robert Tintle, Chief Financial Officer, provided the Finance Report for October 2025, noting in part that Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) revenues are outpacing projections by \$600,000 in the current fiscal year, in part due to the fact that October collections were up by 7.9% over October 2024.

Tintle reminded that the new \$150 TLT certificate-of-authority fee took effect in September and said has thus far generated \$60,000. He added that the previous full-year revenue estimate of this fee may be lowered because many short-term rental renewals were completed before the fee took effect. In response to a question, Tintle said the revenue generated by this fee is not subject to State restrictions on the use of TLT revenues. He added that about \$500,000 of the certificate fee collections will be used to cover administrative costs of implementing the fee.

Tintle reminded that after revenues are received and transfers are made to funded programs, any remaining balance in the TLT fund stays within the County's general reserve, subject to budget appropriation.

OTHER ITEMS:

- Commissioner DeBone referred to the annual statewide conference of the Association of Oregon Counties last week in Eugene and announced that he has been selected to co-chair AOC's Public Safety Committee.
- County Administrator Nick Lelack shared that he will serve as president of the County Administrator's Association next year.
- Commissioner Adair expressed concern about the decreasing number of employers and employees in Oregon and said this must be reversed.
- Commissioner Chang spoke to the recommendation from the District Map Advisory Committee that the Board of County Commissioners consider putting forward a particular draft district map to the voters, and asked that all written comments submitted on this topic be made available for public review.
Discussion also ensued regarding emailed public comments for any other matter before the Board.
- Bill Kuhn, County Treasurer, requested that the Board co-sponsor a table at the St Charles Foundation Gala event on Saturday February 21st in the interest of demonstrating support for public health.

County Administrator Nick Lelack shared that the balance remaining of video lottery funds appropriated specifically for fundraising efforts is \$2,900 for FY 2026.

Commissioner Chang suggested that the Board consider allocating an additional \$5,000 from video lottery fund reserves to fundraising requests. Commissioner DeBone agreed that the Board has some limited flexibility with respect to those reserves and that can be reviewed if necessary in the future.

CHANG: Move to allocate \$1,500 from video lottery funds set aside to support fundraising efforts towards sponsorship of a table at the St Charles Foundation gala on February 21, 2026

ADAIR: Second

VOTE:	ADAIR:	Yes
	CHANG:	Yes
	DEBONE:	Chair votes yes. Motion Carried 3 – 0

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:

At 2:45 pm, the Board entered Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2) (h) Litigation.

The Board exited Executive Session at 2:54 pm and took the following action:

ADAIR: Move that the Board deny the tender request from Joseph DeLance

CHANG: Second

VOTE: ADAIR: Yes

CHANG: Yes

DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried 3 – 0

At 2:55 pm, the Board re-entered Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2) (a) Employment of a Public Employee. The Board exited Executive Session at 3:03 pm and directed staff to proceed as discussed.

ADJOURN:

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:03 pm.

DATED this 17th day of December 2025 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.

ATTEST:


RECORDING SECRETARY


ANTHONY DEBONE, CHAIR


PATTI ADAIR, VICE CHAIR


PHIL CHANG, COMMISSIONER