



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

BOCC MEETING MINUTES

9:00 AM

WEDNESDAY October 29, 2025

Barnes Sawyer Rooms
Live Streamed Video

Present were Commissioners Anthony DeBone, Patti Adair and Phil Chang. Also present were Acting 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 website www.deschutes.org/meetings.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair DeBone called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZEN INPUT:

- Steve Dennison, County Clerk, presented a response to the Elections Audit Report recently issued by the Internal Auditor, saying the report is flawed and that the Auditor took liberties by marking some items as deficient although they exceed State standards. Dennison stressed the need to address the report's inaccuracies especially in light of current challenges facing election offices such as federal funding reductions, widespread false narratives, threats to election workers, and increasingly sophisticated cybersecurity risks. Saying that the Auditor's findings are misleading and amount to misinformation, he further objected that although he had brought the identified inaccuracies to the Auditor's attention, those were not corrected before the report was released.

Commissioner Chang agreed that assertions which call the integrity of the County's election system into question are grave and must be addressed.

- Ron Boozell called for leadership to facilitate rational conversations in the political sphere. Noting that the federal government may not extend SNAP benefits after the end of this month due to the weeks-long shutdown, he advocated for understanding how this will affect people such as himself and said SNAP should not be a federal program.

Explaining that the County does not have the resources to replace SNAP benefits, Commissioner Chang said many local organizations such as the High Desert Food and Farm Alliance are doing what they can to address the gap in benefits by offering food to those who need it.

- Emily Brown stated her belief in representative democracy and said all areas of the County must have adequate representation. She said to guard against impropriety, the work of the District Map Advisory Committee should be done in a much slower, more thorough and considered manner.

Saying that any claim of impropriety would amount to nothing more than an accusation at this point, Commissioner DeBone offered to talk with Ms. Brown about the process to develop a district map.

Commissioner Chang said DMAC's efforts have encountered substantial problems to date, including the use of registered voter numbers instead of total population as the beginning basis on which to establish district boundaries. He projected a gap of thousands between the largest and smallest district and said this would disenfranchise those who live in larger districts.

Saying that Los Angeles County has over ten million people and just five supervisors, Commissioner Adair reminded that Deschutes County's proposed district map will be put to the voters for them to approve or reject.

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Adair attended yesterday's ACT and Modal Advisory Committee meeting in Salem where the Oregon Department of Transportation announced that no field stations such as the one in Sisters will be closed this winter; rather, these will remain open and conduct regular seasonal maintenance such as snow removal on the passes.

Commissioner Chang explained that ODOT is drawing on its reserves to fund seasonal maintenance and keep its field stations open this winter, but if HB 3991 is repealed,

those reserves will not be replenished. In that case, ODOT would have to enact much more severe cuts next winter than were projected this year.

Referring to the 710 Project which is intended to make food bank programs sustainable, Commissioner Adair expressed concern about the availability of food for persons who need assistance. She suggested that the County consider allocating funds to The Giving Plate and NeighborImpact to address this situation.

CONSENT AGENDA: Before the Board was consideration of the Consent Agenda.

1. ~~Approval of Document No. 2025-944, amending the contract with Oregon Beverage Services for liquor operations at the Fair & Expo Center~~
(removed for action at a later date)
2. Consideration of Board Approval of Order No. 2025-048, an Order Authorizing the ORS 311.392 Advance of Taxes, Assessments and Charges to Small Tax Districts
3. Consideration of Purchase Agreement, Document No. 2025-979 and Dedication Deed, Document No. 2025-980 from the Pettit Family Trust for Right of Way for the Tumalo Reservoir Road Improvement Project
4. Release deed restriction encumbering real property currently owned by the Opportunity Foundation
5. Deschutes County Adult Parole and Probation Justice Reinvestment Funding for the 25-27 Biennium
6. Consideration of Board Signature on letters reappointing Renee Alexander, Daniel Ledesma, Bruce Barton, and Phil Henderson for service on the Facility Project Review Committee
7. Approval of the minutes of the October 6 and 8, 2025 BOCC meetings

ADAIR: Move Board approval of the Consent Agenda as presented after removing item #1 for action at a later date

CHANG: Second

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

Commissioner DeBone acknowledged that every fall, the County advances tax proceeds to various small districts on behalf of which it collects property taxes.

Commissioner Chang commented on yesterday's first-round interviews for the Fair and Expo Director position.

ACTION ITEMS:

8. Recognition of staff and presentation of the Triple Crown Designation from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024

Robert Tintle, Chief Financial Officer, announced that the County's Finance Department has, for the sixth straight year, received the prestigious Triple Crown Designation from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) after receiving all three GFOA awards: the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, the Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award, and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

Tintle presented individual certificates of recognition to Management Analyst Laura Skundrick, Budget & Financial Planning Manager Cam Sparks, Controller Jana Cain, Senior Budget & Financial Planning Analyst Dan Kieffer, and Accountant Spencer Eldevik in appreciation of their contributions towards the County's receipt of these awards.

The Commissioners expressed their appreciation for the high-caliber work of the Finance staff and the positive impacts on the County's operations.

9. PacificSource Health Related Social Needs Capacity Building Grant Agreement

Trevor Stephens, Community Justice Business Manager, sought Board approval to accept \$253,900.33 in grant funds from PacificSource to support establishing a program by which Adult Parole & Probation (P&P) clients will be able to access housing benefits offered by the State under the Oregon Health Plan (OHP).

Stephens described efforts by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to eliminate health inequities by focusing on health-related social needs such as housing and nutrition and said Adult P&P will use the grant funds to assist clients in accessing stable housing, which is essential to public safety, client stabilization, and successful community integration.

Noting that Treasurer Bill Kuhn had reported earlier this week that the apartment vacancy rate in Bend and Redmond is 11%, Commissioner Adair said this vacancy rate may facilitate negotiating lower rents for some units.

In response to Commissioner Chang, Stephens confirmed that the County expects to access OHP funds in the future. The PacificSource capacity building grant will be used to establish a process for Medicaid reimbursables through November 2027.

Responding again to Commissioner Chang, Stephens said each P&P client would be able to access up to six months of housing through the waiver under health-related social needs. Between 80% and 90% of Adult P&P clients—about 1,000—would be eligible.

Commissioner DeBone said this program represents an exciting opportunity.

CHANG: Move approval of the grant agreement with PacificSource for Health- Related Social Needs Capacity Building funds

ADAIR: Second

VOTE: ADAIR: Yes

CHANG: Yes

DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried 3 – 0

10. Allocation of funds to support homeless initiatives

Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator, reminded that staff had presented a matrix showing available funding sources and possible appropriations for homeless initiatives to the Board on October 15th. At that time, it was not yet known if the City of Redmond would contribute towards the identified additional cost of constructing the managed camp in Redmond. Since then, the City has formally agreed to cover half of the identified overage cost for managed camp construction.

Kropp reviewed other changes made to the matrix since October 15th, including increasing the use of Economic Development funds from \$100,000 to \$200,000 and allocating funds to Mountain View Community Development for its safe parking programs as requested.

Saying that many people are food insecure and she did not want people to be hungry, Commissioner Adair advocated for allocating up to \$100,000 to the Giving Plate to address this emergency situation. She noted that the Giving Plate has been recognized for having the highest level of financial transparency and is able to provide 2.5 meals for every dollar donated.

Budget & Financial Planning Manager Cam Sparks shared that EDCO has indicated its need for \$95,000 of the \$369,000 remaining in Economic Development funds. If the Board allocates \$200,00 of that balance to homeless initiatives as recommended, approximately \$74,000 would remain available for other appropriations.

Commissioner Chang said as a result of federal decisions, more people will experience food and housing insecurity and lose their health care coverage. He agreed it would be reasonable to use some of the remaining Economic Development funds to address food insecurity at this time.

Commissioner Adair proposed allocating \$35,000 each to the Giving Plate and NeighborImpact for a total of \$70,000.

With respect to possible funding sources, Chief Financial Officer Robert Tintle suggested that allocations to the Giving Plate and NeighborImpact be funded with as much as allowable to come out of Economic Development funds and the remainder to come out of the reallocated ARPA funds.

With regard to the request from Mountain View Community Development for additional funds for its safe parking program, Commissioner DeBone said while that is a good program, it requires resources, and the current lack of State funding puts pressure on the County.

Discussion ensued of the government's role in providing services and funding programs to address homelessness, the positive or possibly destabilizing impacts of such services and programs, and the factor of personal responsibility.

Saying it is not yet known who will operate the managed camp in Redmond, Commissioner DeBone said he would have rather donated the County-owned land to the City so the camp would have been an initiative of Redmond instead of a partnership between the City and the County.

CHANG: Move to allocate funds for homeless initiative projects as follows:

- 1) Reallocated ARPA funds of \$567,963
- 2) Up to \$270,000 of unused Economic Development funds
- 3) Project Development funds from Fund 090 of \$108,597

ADAIR: Second

VOTE:	ADAIR:	Yes
	CHANG:	Yes
	DEBONE:	Chair votes no. Motion Carried 2 – 1

Commissioner DeBone explained that while he supports many of the efforts these allocations will fund, his vote against these appropriations reflected his philosophy regarding the need for coordinated efforts to address homelessness and how those efforts would best be funded.

ADAIR: Move to allocate \$35,000 to the Giving Plate and \$35,000 to NeighborImpact as discussed

CHANG: Second

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

11. Notice of Intent to Award a contract to Taylor NW LLC to construct the Deschutes County East Redmond Managed Camp

Deputy County Administrator Erik Kropp said six bids were received for this project, with Taylor NW LLC submitting the responsive low bid.

Noting the majority decision of the Board to fund this work, Commissioner DeBone said as the funds have been made available, he will support the will of the Board with regard to awarding the contract.

Commissioner Adair stated her appreciation that the City of Redmond agreed to help fund the higher than expected cost of this work, and acknowledged Taylor NW for its low bid which was less than the engineer's estimate.

ADAIR: Move approval of Document No. 2025-977, a Notice of Intent to Award a contract to Taylor NW LLC to construct the Deschutes County East Redmond Managed Camp

CHANG: Second

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

OTHER ITEMS:

- Commissioner DeBone reported on yesterday's legislative outreach effort hosted by CORE3 yesterday in Redmond, saying it was well-attended.
- Commissioner DeBone noted a Stroke Awareness event yesterday in addition to the graduation of this year's County College attendees and the "Building a Better Bend" event at OSU Cascades.

- Commissioner Adair noted an AOC Board of Directors meeting this morning and said Health Services Director Holly Harris will meet with Commissioners at the end of this week.
- With regard to the information shared by County Clerk Steve Dennison about the internal audit of the Elections division, Commissioner DeBone said he wants the Auditor to be empowered to ensure that County operations are being performed to the best of staff's ability.

Commissioner Adair suggested that Commissioners DeBone and Chang watch the video from the Audit Committee meeting where this was discussed before further discussing this matter in public in the interest of fairness and balance. She stressed that the County needs an independent auditor.

Saying that County Clerk Dennison's remarks mirror concerns that he is also hearing from other departments, Commissioner Chang stressed his support for the function of the performance auditor and suggested evaluating whether it would be appropriate to change County Code to clarify the desired functions of the Internal Audit department and possibly extend oversight of the Auditor to the Audit Committee to ensure accountability. He said possible benefits of such oversight would include the Auditor receiving guidance from others who have experience and expertise in the field of auditing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURN:

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:21 pm.

DATED this 12th day of November 2025 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.

ATTEST:


RECORDING SECRETARY


ANTHONY DEBONE, CHAIR


PATTI ADAIR, VICE CHAIR


PHIL CHANG, COMMISSIONER