



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

BOCC MEETING MINUTES

1:00 PM

MONDAY August 25, 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; County Counsel David Doyle; 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: None

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Adair stated her appreciation for Zach Bennett from the Road Department and Deputy Ryan McNee from DCSO who worked alongside other first responders to fight the spread of the Flat Fire. She added that more juniper trees must be removed to help deter wildfires from spreading.

Commissioner Chang said 5,000 firefighters have made heroic efforts to combat this fast-moving fire in very difficult conditions. In particular, he expressed appreciation that crews successfully established fire lines to protect structures and critical infrastructure, without which the losses would have been much greater.

Commissioner DeBone acknowledged the Delegation of Authority document which requires action by the Board (see page 4), said resources started flowing to fight this complex incident last Friday, noted that he and Commissioner Adair had attended the coordination meeting on Friday, and announced a community meeting tonight at the high school in Sisters.

Commissioner Adair said the fire started at 4:29 pm on Thursday in Jefferson County and has thus far traveled six miles with 10,000 people being evacuated. She thanked Sheriff Rupert for all of his work.

Commissioner Chang added that although the Fair & Expo has historically accommodated livestock owners who must evacuate animals from their property, people were told that the Fairgrounds are not currently available for that purpose. Commissioner Adair said while the Fair has 400 stalls in its barns, animal owners were directed to Powell Butte which seemed inappropriate.

County Administrator Nick Lelack noted he had forwarded the Board an email from Fair Director Geoff Hinds regarding this situation.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Courthouse Expansion Update

Lee Randall, Facilities Director, introduced an update on the Courthouse expansion project. Eric Nielsen, Capital Improvement Manager, reviewed recently completed work, including the roof level concrete deck, and said crews are currently working to replace the existing roof, install masonry and exterior framing, and rough-in plumbing.

Kurt Schwabauer from Pence Contractors reviewed work to be addressed in the next four to six weeks, including exterior wall construction, interior walls and doorframes, and establishing the foundation area for the main lobby. The tower crane will be removed over the course of a few days starting on September 12th. Schwabauer further narrated the updated construction timeline which projects final completion in August of 2026.

Saying the construction work is about 40% complete at this point, Wayne Powderly from the Cumming Group reviewed the updated project budget.

Discussion ensued regarding the receipt of an additional \$800,000 from the Oregon Judicial Department for audio/visual systems.

Concluding that the Facility Project Review Committee will meet tomorrow and tour the site, Nielsen offered to arrange a tour for any Commissioner.

2. Work Session: Dark Skies Text Amendments

Tanya Saltzman, Senior Planner, summarized the proposed amendments to the outdoor lighting section of Deschutes County Code to support dark skies, which enable and enhance viewing of celestial objects at night. Saying that the Board will hold a public hearing this Wednesday, she reported on the process undertaken thus far and spoke to issues regarding implementation and enforcement. The amendments center on three main requirements, namely that all outdoor light fixtures must be fully shielded and aimed downward, and no outdoor light is permitted to trespass onto neighboring properties.

Following a public hearing, the Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the proposed changes. The Planning Commissioner further recommended that the County pursue Dark Sky certification.

In response to Commissioner DeBone, Saltzman said if the changes are adopted, all non-exempt properties would be required to come into compliance within three years.

Referring to the proposed allowed dates for outdoor holiday lighting, County Administrator Nick Lelack suggested allowing these starting the Saturday after Thanksgiving until January 15th.

Commissioner DeBone reminded that the County had first established outdoor lighting regulations in 1994, and those have remained unchanged since then.

3. Treasury Report for July 2025

Bill Kuhn, County Treasurer, presented the Treasury Report for July 2025, including a high-level economic overview.

On another matter, Kuhn presented proposed minor modifications to the County's Investment Policy, saying these have been reviewed and recommended by the Investment Advisory Committee. Kuhn explained the two proposed changes and said staff with the Oregon Short-Term Fund Board have characterized the changes as immaterial. The proposed changes will be reviewed by the Policy Advisory Committee and then come to the Board for formal action.

4. Finance Report for July 2025

Robert Tintle, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Finance Report for July 2025.

In response to Commissioner DeBone, Tintle said in order to receive \$1.25 million of matching PERS funds from the State, the County had to put up \$5 million in cash.

Commissioner Adair said although the Sheriff's Office spent less than \$58,000 on overtime in July, she expected that to change in August due to the resources needed to help fight the Flat Fire.

Responding to Commissioner Adair, Tintle confirmed that although the July Finance report shows the Health Services reserve fund with a balance of \$39.9 million, as of today it is actually \$37.0 million.

OTHER ITEMS:

- County Administrator Nick Lelack reminded that the 2025 County College sessions kick off tomorrow.
- Lelack announced that the District Mapping Advisory Committee will hold its first meeting on Thursday.
- County Counsel Dave Doyle presented a Delegation of Authority with regard to the Flat Fire burning northeast of Sisters.

ADAIR: Move approval of Document No. 2025-886, a Delegation of Authority assigning Ian Yocum as the incident commander for the Flat Fire within the legal jurisdiction of Deschutes County

CHANG: Second

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

Commissioner Chang added that last Friday, Governor Kotek signed a Conflagration Declaration which authorizes marshaling firefighting resources from across the state to address this emergency.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 2:35 pm, the Board entered Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2) (h) Litigation.

The Executive Session concluded at 2:58 pm with no action taken, and the public was invited to return to the room. Commissioners Adair and Chang exited the meeting.

ADJOURN:

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:01 pm.

DATED this 24th day of Sept. 2025 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.

ATTEST:


RECORDING SECRETARY


ANTHONY DEBONE, CHAIR


PATTI ADAIR, VICE CHAIR


PHIL CHANG, COMMISSIONER