



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

BOCC MEETING MINUTES

9:00 AM

WEDNESDAY October 8, 2025

Barnes Sawyer Rooms
Live Streamed Video

Present were Commissioners Anthony DeBone, Patti Adair and Phil Chang. Also present were County Administrator Nick Lelack; 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: None

- Ron Boozell asked that as the County works to establish Commissioner districts, it consider creating a precinct for homeless persons who comprise the County's most unrepresented population.
- Sunriver Fire Chief Bill Boos and Sunriver Service District Board Chair Jim Fister recognized Senior Assistant Legal Counsel Kim Riley for her excellent assistance in assuring fair and balanced negotiations during recent bargaining sessions with IAFF Local 4262. Chief Boos and Fister presented Riley with a letter of recognition and a Sunriver Fire Department challenge coin.

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

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

1. Approval of an amendment to an intergovernmental agreement with the Oregon Health Authority for the funding of Community Navigator Pilot and Jail Diversion programming
2. Approval of an intergovernmental agreement with Bend-La Pine Schools to continue the Healthy Schools program collaboration
3. Consideration of Board Signature on letter reappointing Susan Waddell for service on the Black Butte Ranch Service District Managing Board
4. Approval of the BOCC minutes of September 17, 2025

ADAIR: Move Board approval of the Consent Agenda as presented

CHANG: Second

VOTE:

ADAIR: Yes

CHANG: Yes

DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried 3 – 0

Commissioner Chang remarked on the Healthy Schools Program done in partnership with Bend-La Pine Schools and the demonstrated improvements in youth mental health over the past three years.

Commissioner Adair shared that she has talked with Health Services Director Holly Harris about negotiating with the School District on a possible pilot program to remove chocolate milk from the items offered to students during meal services.

ACTION ITEMS:

5. Consideration of a Collective Bargaining Agreement between Deschutes County and the Deschutes County Sheriff Employees Association

Deschutes County Sheriff Ty Rupert stated his appreciation of the support from the union and its leadership as the new contract with DCSEA was negotiated, saying this represented a tremendous group effort reflecting a highly productive work relationship.

Deputy Rob Lindsey, DCSEA Vice President, spoke to the tenor of the negotiations and stated his appreciation with the resulting new one-year contract.

Whitney Hale, Deputy County Administrator, said the contract will provide for cost-of-living adjustments ranging between 1-4%, dependent on the Consumer Price Index. Other adjustments involve K9 and FTO premium pay, tuition reimbursement, and pay for military leave.

Hale thanked Controller Jana Cain and Senior Assistant Legal Counsel Chris Bell for their participation and contributions to the negotiations.

Commissioner Chang appreciated the unified effort to reach a solid contract that works for DCSEA and DCSO.

Commissioner Adair expressed appreciation for law enforcement and its strong responsiveness.

Commissioner DeBone noted that the contract is effective retroactive to July 1, 2025.

ADAIR: Move approval of Contract No. 2025-968, a Collective Bargaining Agreement between Deschutes County and the Deschutes County Sheriff Employees Association

CHANG: Second

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

6. Public Hearing and consideration of Order 2025-044 approving the annexation of 54 acres on NW Oak Avenue into the Redmond Fire & Rescue District

Dave Doyle, County Counsel, explained that a petition submitted by Daniel Weaver seeks the annexation of 54 acres on NW Oak Avenue into the Redmond Fire & Rescue District. The Assessor's Office and County Clerk certified the petition and Community Development reviewed it. The Redmond Fire & Rescue District has agreed to the annexation.

The public hearing was opened at 9:18 am. There being no one who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed at 9:18 am.

CHANG: Move approval of Board Order No. 2025-044 approving the annexation of 54 acres on NW Oak Avenue into the Redmond Fire & Rescue District

ADAIR: Second

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

7. Bend Fire and Rescue Proposed Contract with Alfalfa Fire District

Tom Kuhn, Health Services Project Manager, explained the proposal to authorize Ambulance Service Area (ASA) franchisee Bend Fire & Rescue to enter into a contract with Alfalfa Fire District for the provision of basic life support emergency transport services within the boundaries of Alfalfa Fire District's fire protection area. Kuhn said Deschutes County Code allows franchisees to subcontract for such services.

Bend Fire Chief Drew Norris said the service area will remain Bend Fire & Rescue's official service area, with Alfalfa Fire District providing transport services only within its own district. He estimated this would be done for 20 to 30 calls per year on average.

Alfalfa Fire Chief Chad Lavallee said the aim is to make sure Alfalfa's constituents are well-served by speeding up emergency transport of persons who need that.

In response to Commissioner DeBone, Chief Lavallee confirmed that Alfalfa's ambulance crew will be staffed on a full-time basis. Adding that the department has nine EMTs and two paramedics, Chief Lavallee said the proposed contract with Bend would generate revenue to support service delivery.

Responding to Commissioner Adair, Chief Lavallee said transport to St. Charles takes about 20 minutes.

In response to Commissioner Chang, Kuhn said he advised the County's Ambulance Services Advisory Committee of this proposal and received no objections in response.

ADAIR: Move to authorize Bend Fire & Rescue to enter into a contract with Alfalfa Fire District for the provision of basic life support emergency transport services.
CHANG: Second

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

8. Respiratory Season Update

Public Health Director Heather Kaisner introduced Immunization Program Coordinator Sarah Van Meter and Public Health Officer Richard Fawcett, who presented an overview of the respiratory season for 2025–26, covering influenza, RSV, and COVID-19. Dr. Fawcett and Van Meter summarized local testing trends from the 2024–25 season and described how flu activity typically peaks in late winter with RSV cases rising earlier in the season. In contrast, COVID-19 shows periodic resurgences throughout the year rather than a fixed winter peak.

Van Meter and Dr. Fawcett reviewed current vaccination recommendations by age and risk group and noted that updated COVID-19 vaccines target Omicron-lineage subvariants, with studies showing approximately 30–60% protection against urgent care visits or hospitalization compared to those who did not receive the most recent updated vaccine. They discussed recent policy developments including the formation of the West Coast Health Alliance and its recommendations for 2025–26 respiratory virus immunizations.

In response to Commissioner Chang, Van Meter said “shared clinical decision-making” refers to collaborative efforts of health care providers and pharmacists to develop and issue recommendations on vaccinations. She further explained the work of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP).

Discussion ensued of the weekly updates issued on the number of respiratory illnesses reported in Central Oregon for ongoing local situational awareness.

OTHER ITEMS:

- County Administrator Nick Lelack announced the hiring of Holly Harris as the County’s next Health Services Director, effective Monday. Lelack summarized Harris’s background and said she will oversee 400 of the County’s 1,200 staff.

Commissioner DeBone extended congratulations to Harris and expressed appreciation for her willingness to serve.

Commissioner Chang praised the County’s Health Services Department for its pioneering work in many service areas.

Commissioner Adair complimented Harris as a great choice for this position and looked forward to working with her.

- Commissioner DeBone announced the Board will hold a joint meeting with the City of La Pine tonight.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURN:

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:23 am.

DATED this 29th Day of October, 2025 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.

ATTEST:


RECORDING SECRETARY


ANTHONY DEBONE, CHAIR


PATTI ADAIR, VICE CHAIR


PHIL CHANG, COMMISSIONER