

Coos County Filing Cover Sheet

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INDEXING INFORMATION

Affected Parties Names:

Coos County

Subject of Document :   
minutes

Resolution or Order #:

Document Remarks:  
regular meeting minutes

Date of Meeting or of Document:  5/5/26

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**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**COOS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

May 5, 2026

**In Attendance:** Chair Drew Farmer, Commissioners Rod Taylor and John Sweet, County Counsel Colton Totland, Business Operations Manager Bobbi Brooks (see roster for others)

**EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF ORS 192.660**

This portion of the meeting took place in the small conference room. Chair Farmer read the statutory authority for the Board to meet in executive session; no media were present.

**1A. (2)(e) Real Property Transactions**

Mr. Totland and Commissioner Sweet gave updates on items that they have been working on, including possible property purchases and the pipeline agreement with Northwest Natural.

**1B. (2)(h) Consultation with Counsel**

Mr. Totland talked about a demand letter that his office received.

These sessions were informational only; no decisions were made during these sessions. At 9:30, the commissioners met in the large conference room, where Chair Farmer led the pledge of allegiance and the moment of silence, and then he opened the public portion of the meeting.

**2. 9:30 AM PUBLIC SESSION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**3A. Request Approval of Reclassification for Chelsea King- District Attorney**

Commissioner Taylor stated that this request is a response to a shift of duties for Ms. King, and she has taken on some of the duties of a Legal Support Specialist III.

*Commissioner Taylor moved to approve Resolution 26-04-040P, In the Matter of a Reclassification to Legal Support Specialist III for Chelsea King Effective May 1, 2026. Commissioner Sweet seconded the motion. Vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

**3B. Request Approval of Community Wildfire Protection Plan- Emergency Management**

Capt. Sean Sanborn and Emergency Coordinator Debbie Mueller presented the plan, and Cpt. Sanborn stated that the Emergency Management team worked diligently on this. Ms. Mueller said that they worked on this plan for a year and a half, and that the public comment period has ended. She then said that this plan identifies areas we might need to improve, and she said that the plan is dedicated to the memory of firefighters Randall Carpenter, Jeff Common and Chuck Hanners, who lost their lives in a fire in Coos Bay.

*Commissioner Taylor moved to approve the Coos County Community Wildfire Protection Plan as presented. Commissioner Sweet seconded the motion.*

Chair Farmer pointed out that on page 27 of the plan, they forgot to list Lakeside. Commissioner Sweet then said that he appreciates all of the work that went into this project.

*Vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

**3C. Request Approval to Purchase Fire Alarm System for Owen Building & Adopt Sole Source Findings- Maintenance**

Maintenance Operations Manager Kyla Foster said that when the fire marshal inspected county buildings a couple of months ago, he noticed the lack of a fire alarm system in the Owen Building. She said that she reviewed her budget, and there is money in the Major R&I line item to cover the costs for installation and monitoring of a Siemens addressable fire alarm system. Ms. Foster then explained that she is asking for this to be a sole source procurement because C&S Fire-Safe Services installed fire systems in the Courthouse and the Juvenile building, and they are currently monitoring and servicing those systems, so they are familiar with our operations.

*Commissioner Taylor moved to adopt sole source findings and to approve the installation and monitoring of a fire alarm system at the Owen Building from C&S Fire-Safe Systems LLC in the amount of \$25,075.74. Commissioner Sweet seconded the motion. Vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

**3D. Request Approval to Renew Cisco Duo License- IT**

IT Director Daris Bouthillier stated that this is an annual license renewal, and that Duo is a key tool to prevent hackers from getting into our system.

*Commissioner Taylor moved to approve renewing the Cisco Duo licenses in the amount of \$11,182.50. Commissioner Sweet seconded the motion. Vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

### **3E, Request Approval to Purchase SQL Server Licenses- IT**

Mr. Bouthillier explained that Helion is no longer supporting the data base server that holds their software and the Orcats program, so this upgrade is required.

*Commissioner Sweet moved to approve the purchase of 4 SQL server licenses from SHI in the amount of \$17,655.08. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion. Vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

### **5A. Request Approval to Purchase Switches- IT**

Mr. Bouthillier said that this is an end-of-life purchase, as some of these switches have been with the county longer than he had. He said that this purchase will put us in good shape for a few years.

*Commissioner Taylor moved to approve the purchase of 14 Cisco catalyst switches from SHI in the amount of \$31,418.24. Commissioner Sweet seconded the motion. Vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

### **5B. Request Approval of Resignation Agreement & Authorize Chair to Sign- Counsel**

Mr. Totland stated that this request is asking the Board to approve the resignation agreement with Mike Rowley and to authorize Chair Farmer to sign the agreement. Chair Farmer asked if this was the time for the Board to approve an Interim Director, and Mr. Totland replied that this would be up to the Board, but Mr. Rowley has up to a week to revoke his signature, so he would suggest waiting for that time to pass. Chair Farmer said that he knows that some of the staff are concerned, they would like some clear guidance. Commissioner Taylor suggested that the Board could just say that we will follow the current course, for now.

*Commissioner Taylor moved to approve the agreement with Mike Rowley, authorized Chair Farmer to sign and to approve posting/filling the position under the county's HR Department. Commissioner Sweet seconded the motion.*

Commissioner Taylor then stated that he always had positive interactions with Mr. Rowley, and that he appreciated his help as a person and as a colleague. Commissioner Sweet seconded the sentiment.

*Vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

### **5C. Request Approval of MOU & Letter of Support for Legislation by Coquille Indian Tribe- Counsel**

Mr. Totland read from the agenda coversheet: "The county and Coquille Indian Tribe are looking to enter into an MOU regarding the Tribe's proposed management of the Coos Bay Wagon Road lands. The MOU would call for cooperation on the federal legislation, specifically a letter of support from the county, and development of a management agreement between the county and the Tribe."

*Commissioner Sweet moved to approve signing the MOU and the letter of support for legislation. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion.*

Commissioner Sweet then said that he would like to hear comments from the public before the Board discusses this matter.

Phil Thompson first complained that the agenda title doesn't say much of anything about what this MOU is about. He then said that he spoke with Rep. Val Hoyle when she was here and she said that there would be no legislation without the citizens having a say, so someone is lying. He went on to say that the public said before that they don't want the Tribe to manage these lands, and he concluded by saying that there shouldn't be a vote on this matter without a public hearing.

John Brimhall warned the Board to expect turbulence on this, and that people have asked him to speak on this matter. He then started speaking about various crimes around the county. Chair Farmer told Mr. Brimhall that now is the time to speak on the agenda item at hand; there will be time for citizen comments later in the meeting. Mr. Brimhall then said that he has given the Board every opportunity to do the right thing, and that he will go to the highest court if something doesn't happen soon.

David Jennings stated that he agrees with Mr. Thompson about the agenda item doesn't describe what the MOU is and what the discussion is about. He said that there is a lot to talk about before an agreement is approved. Commissioner Sweet said that we're telling the public that we are in the process of developing an MOU, and we are asking Rep. Val Hoyle to present the necessary legislation. Chair Farmer suggested that maybe we should read the letter, so that people understand better what we are asking for. Commissioner Taylor said that the window for legislation is closing rapidly, and he then read the letter. Mr. Jennings thanked Commissioner Taylor for reading the letter, and then he said that the public still wants more detail about the MOU.

Mr. Totland stated that he played a big part in drafting the legislation, and that the county is happy with it, and he added that the MOU should be ready soon. Chair Farmer then noted that the public will have 60 days to comment on the MOU. Mr. Totland then said that it's important to note that this is not a transfer of ownership, but it's just moving management from one federal agency to another.

Commissioner Sweet stated that there is a lot going on with federal timber right now, after President Trump's executive order to increase timber harvests. He said that we have been trying for years to transfer the lands to the county, but it's easier to do it this way. He said that currently, we only get what is spelled out in the Coos Bay Wagon Road Act, which are PILT payments of around \$300,000 per year, and this won't go on forever. Commissioner Sweet said that BLM's goal is to make it all old growth, which means that there is little to no harvest, so there is no money for the PILT payment. He said that what the Tribe has proposed is to give us 50% of the profit, which should be \$2-3 million per year. He then said that this will mean local jobs, and the Tribe has assured us that the lands would remain open to the public.

Mr. Totland said that what we are really talking about is a change in the formula for our payments; even if the Tribe logged like BLM has, we would still get increased revenue. Commissioner Sweet added that whoever manages these lands would need to have a Forest Management Plan, and the Tribe already has on that has been federally approved.

Dwayne Smith asked how the railroad developed the road, and Commissioner Taylor replied that it was established by the US government, not the railroad. Mr. Smith then asked if the county was talking with Douglas County, and Commissioner Taylor said that we have nothing to do with that, that it's between BLM and the Tribe to speak with Douglas County.

Chair Farmer said that CCD can work with the timber companies for milling the larger trees, most of which have a higher value. He stated that we have heard from people who are opposed to this idea, but the Board has an obligation to look out for the best interest of the county. He said that this proposal provides more revenue to the general fund without raising taxes, and then he said that it's not accurate to say that we can't take action against the Tribe, should there be a contractual dispute. Commissioner Sweet then said that we do have mills in the area that could handle this timber, but where it goes will depend on the market. Commissioner Taylor noted that we have been struggling financially for years, and we made 3 attempts at a public safety levy that all failed. He said that we've got to do something or this county will die because we can't sustain services without an increase in revenue.

Mr. Smith then said that the county could get the Jail inmates out to do the work, but Capt. Sanborn explained why this is prohibited by state law.

Mr. Thompson said that the commissioners have said that they can trust the Tribe, but Governor Hatfield awarded them 1,500 acres in order to make them self-sufficient so they shouldn't need more. He said that possession is always 9/10's of the law, whoever is in possession wins, and we will never get that land back once it's in the Tribe's possession. He then said that that land belongs to all of us.

Mr. Jennings asked if exporting the logs would be allowed, if this transfer were to happen, and Commissioner Sweet replied no, it would still be federal timber so exporting is not allowed.

Eldon Rollins stated that the commissioners are responsible for finding the waste within the budget, and Commissioner Sweet replied that we've done everything that we can, and have worked really hard cut where we can while still providing services. He said that he doesn't know where else we could cut, and then he noted that our tax rate is 1/3 of what the other counties in the state get.

Don Gurney stated that he lives next to BLM and Tribal property on Middle Creek, and he said that he understands the county's financial situation. He said that PILT payments began in 1976, due to the lack of harvest. He then said that there is \$15 million in the fund and he wondered what will happen to this money if this transfer is approved. Mr.

Totland replied that the money will remain in the fund and will roll into the Treasury every 10 years, just as it always has. Mr. Gurney then said that he would like to know what the harvest plan is, and what the county is going to do for the residents who live in the area. Commissioner Sweet said that existing arrangements will be honored.

Chair Farmer said that we have to do something, and Mr. Totland said that congress has to do this. He said that there is support in congress now to make this happen.

*Vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

*Commissioner Taylor moved to approve adding a late, late agenda item from County Counsel. Commissioner Sweet seconded the motion. Vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

#### **5. Request Approval to File Validation/Declaratory Judgement Action Against Kindred LLC- Counsel**

Mr. Totland read from the agenda coversheet: "On April 22, the county received a demand letter from Kindred LLC threatening legal action if the county does not sell back an individual's tax foreclosed property to the business. The county's position is that we must comply with the state's new tax foreclosure process under HB 2089. It is advisable to seek a validation or declaratory judgement action in Circuit Court to confirm that our position is correct."

*Commissioner Sweet moved to authorize County Counsel to file a validation and/or declaratory judgement action in Circuit Court against Kindred LLC. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion. Vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

#### **4. CONSENT CALENDAR- administrative matters not up for discussion**

- A. Approval of Minutes**
  - I. Worksession- Priorities for Federal Funding- December 17, 2025
  - II. Worksession- Budget March 11, 2026
  - III. Budget Committee- March 30, 2026
  - IV. Compensation Committee- March 30, 2026
  - V. Budget Committee- March 31, 2026
  - VI. Budget Committee- April 1, 2026
  - VII. Worksession- Addendum to Fairgrounds Pavilion Construction Contract- April 9, 2026
  - VIII. Worksession- Possible Regulations to Address Kratom/Nitrous Abuse- April 15, 2026
  - IX. Regular Meeting Minutes- April 21, 2026
  
- B. Ratification of All Routine Expenditures, Tax Overpayments and Adjustments and Transfer of Funds Within the Budget**
  - I. Transfer of Appropriation Within Department- Jail- replace rolling security doors
  - II. Transfer of Appropriation Within Department- Road- support truck
  - III. Transfer of Appropriation Within Department- Solid Waste- leachate hauling
  
- C. Orders & Resolutions**
  - I. Resolution 26-04-039P, In the Matter of Granting Salary Merit Step Increases for Various Employees Effective May 1, 2026
  - II. Resolution 26-04-041P, In the Matter of Classifying and Placement of Various Employees on the Regular Coos County Payroll Effective Their Hire Date
  - III. Resolution 26-04-042P, In the Matter of Granting a Longevity Increase for Heather Sanborn Effective May 1, 2026
  - IV. Resolution 26-04-043P, In the Matter of Granting a 25 Year Longevity Increase for Tammy Dalton Effective May 1, 2026
  - V. Resolution 26-04-044P, In the Matter of Granting a Longevity Salary Increase for Brian Kent Effective May 1, 2026
  
- D. Post-Action Notifications Pursuant to County Rule 10.043 (5)**
  - I. Contract Amendment with BLM- Sheriff- de-obligating funds not used

*Commissioner Sweet moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion. Vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

#### **6. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

Commissioner Taylor reported that he attended the Friends of the Fair meeting, and that the volunteers are working

on the event stage.

Commissioner Sweet said that the pavilion at the Fairgrounds is gorgeous, with the timbers being made locally and donated to us. He said that all of the departments are doing great, even though some of them have had to cut employees. He then thanked everyone for being here today.

Chair Farmer stated that folks in Lakeside are putting together a group to clean up the USFS land. He then said that he has been getting phone calls about tax foreclosures, and he wants everyone to know that we will start moving forward on those soon.

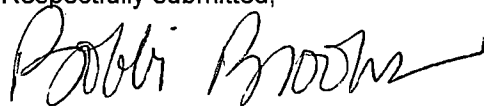
#### 7. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Thompson said that he wants the Board to know that he is not anti-logging, but his thing is that the people decided that they didn't want the Tribe to have those lands. He then said that he believes that Commissioner Sweet has been instrumental in keeping the county afloat. Mr. Thompson then said that he has nothing against the Tribe.

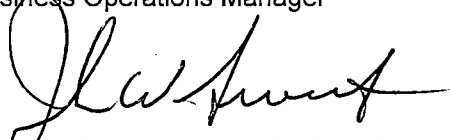
Scott Cooper said that he wanted to report to the Board that the contractor is at Belloni Ranch right now, and that everything is moving forward with his plans for the property. Commissioner Sweet thanked Mr. Cooper for being a champion for housing and training for youth.

Chair Farmer adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Bobbi Brooks  
Business Operations Manager



Commissioners Approval for Submission to the Board

# ROSTER

Meeting: Pal Meeting

Date: 5/5/26

Name:

Address:

John B Binhall 47823 Gage Rd Creole in Coos County

without accountability

Davi P Jennings

Logville

Phil Thompson

B.B.

Ethan Rollins

Coquille, OR

Megan Simms

Finance

Kayla Foster

Maintenance

Sean Sanborn

S.O.

Debbie Muller

E.M.

Chad

Bandana

Susan Knight

Myrtle Point

# REVISED AGENDA

COOS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Owen Building Large Conference Room, 201 N. Adams, Coquille  
or Virtually at <https://meet.goto.com/865921461>

May 5, 2026

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF ORS 192.660- small conference room- the public is excluded from this portion of the meeting**
  - A. (2)(e) Real Property Transactions
  - B. (2)(f) Information or Records Exempt from Public Inspection
  - C. (2)(h) Consultation with Counsel
2. **9:30 AM PUBLIC SESSION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE**
3. **DEPARTMENT HEADS**
  - A. Request Approval of Reclassification for Chelsea King- District Attorney
  - B. Request Approval of Community Wildfire Protection Plan- Emergency Management
  - C. Request Approval to Purchase Fire Alarm System for Owen Building & Adopt Sole Source Findings- Maintenance
  - D. Request Approval to Renew Cisco Duo License- IT
  - E. Request Approval to Purchase SQL Server Licenses- IT
4. **CONSENT CALENDAR- administrative matters not up for discussion**
  - A. **Approval of Minutes**
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    - iv. Resolution 26-04-043P, In the Matter of Granting a 25 Year Longevity Increase for Tammy Dalton Effective May 1, 2026
    - v. Resolution 26-04-044P, In the Matter of Granting a Longevity Salary Increase for Brian Kent Effective May 1, 2026
  - D. **Post-Action Notifications Pursuant to County Rule 10.043 (5)**
    - i. Contract Amendment with BLM- Sheriff- de-obligating funds not used

This agenda does not limit the ability of the Commissioners to consider additional subjects. The Board reserves the right to place a time limit on public testimony on any matter. The meeting place is handicapped accessible; if special accommodation is needed, please contact the office at least 24 prior to the meeting.

**5. LATE AGENDA ITEMS**

A. Request Approval to Purchase Switched- IT

B. Request Approval of Resignation Agreement & Authorize Chair to Sign- Counsel

C. Request Approval of MOU & Letter of Support for Legislation by Coquille Indian Tribe- Counsel

**6. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

**7. CITIZEN COMMENTS**



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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**DREW FARMER**

**ROD TAYLOR**

**JOHN SWEET**

May 5, 2026

The Honorable Val Hoyle  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1620 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Val Hoyle,

The purpose of this letter is to confirm Coos County's interest in legislation that will transfer the management of some 60,000 acres of the Coos Bay Wagon Road Lands from the Bureau of Land Management to the Coquille Indian Tribe, through the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The County and Tribe are committed to entering into a management agreement that will govern the Tribe's management of the Forest, one that will set reasonable management costs and address future harvest goals. This intent is memorialized in the attached memorandum of understanding from May 5, 2026. The parties understand that time is of the essence to introduce this legislation and will finalize the terms of this agreement while the legislative process plays out.

We share the Tribe's interest in local management of the lands, creation of family wage jobs, added raw materials for manufacture of housing supplies, and revenue for crucial public services. Make no mistake — a healthy and balanced partnership with the Tribe will benefit each one of the County's 65,000 residents.

Sincerely,

Drew Farmer  
Chair

Rod Taylor  
Commissioner

John W. Sweet  
Commissioner