



# **Oregon Government Ethics Commission**

Commission Meeting Materials

September 11, 2026

Public Session



## **OREGON GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION**

### Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Commission Chair Shenoa Payne, Commissioner Jonathan Thompson and Larry Givens were present in person. Commissioners Richard Burke, Alicia McAuley, Peter Janci, Ann Metler, and Cheri Helt were present via Teams. Commissioner Iván Resendiz Gutierrez was excused.

Executive Director Susan Myers, Compliance & Enforcement Coordinator Casey Fenstermaker, Curriculum & Training Coordinator Stephanie Heffner, Senior Operations Mgr. Becky Maison, Trainer Angela Nolan, and Investigators Sheetal Digari, Silas Patterson, Daniel Pacheco, and Josh Sullivan were present in person. Trainers Lex Tingey, Ruth Sylvester and Chris Brubaker were present via Teams.

Department of Justice (DOJ) Counsel Daniel Gilbert was present in person.

Members of the Press, present in-person: Shaanth Nanguneri, Oregon Capitol Chronicle; Anne Scheck, Trammart News; present via Teams: Dianne Lugo, Statesman Journal; Alex Baumhardt, Oregon Capitol Chronicle; Jonas Olson and Bjorn Dahlen, Oregon Aviation News; Justin Alderman, Western Media Group; Griffin Beach, Elkhorn Media.

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(File 1)

Chair Payne called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Roll call was completed by Chair Payne to confirm attendance of the Commissioners.

Public Session Item 1, Comments from the Chair. Payne noted that the Commissioners are currently using new equipment provided by OGEC and are struggling to adapt to the new technology and asked for grace as they adapt.

Public Session Item 2, Comments from the Commissioners. None.

Public Session Item 3, Approval of Minutes. Helt stated that she would like the minutes to reflect that she wanted more training focused on where the complaints originated and wanted educational meetings with those communities. Myers stated that she would update the minutes to reflect on her comment as she agreed that outreach to the communities on the backend after getting complaints or at the front end as a part of the training process is important. Helt expressed concerns about the Commission being weaponized and the importance of meeting minutes.

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission approve the minutes for the July 10, 2026 meeting as amended. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, abstain; Janci, abstain; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 6-0, 2 abstentions. (Note, admin stated 5-0, but it was 6-0).

Public Session Item 4, Work Session Re: Conversation with Association of Oregon Counties (AOC), League of Oregon Cities (LOC), Oregon Community College Association (OCCA), and Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO)

Representatives present for each association in person: Association of Oregon Counties (AOC): Gina Firman Nikkel, Executive Director, Justin Low, Legislative Affairs Manager, and Erin Skaar, President

League of Oregon Cities (LOC): Patty Mulvihill, Executive Director, Nicole Stingham, Legislative Director, and Carol MacInnes, President

Oregon Community College Association (OCCA): Abby Lee, Executive Director, and Pat Fahey, President

Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO): Scott Neufeld, Deputy Director, and Ben Stange, Immediate Past President

Director Myers stated she would like everyone to introduce themselves, then present for 5 minutes, then have an open conversation.

Erin Skaar introduced herself as a Tillamook County Commissioner and as the President of the Association of Oregon Counties.

Gina Nikkel introduced herself as the Executive Director of Association of Oregon Counties.

Scott Neufeld introduced himself as the Deputy Director of the Special Districts Association of Oregon.

Ben Stange introduced himself as a Fire Chief of PK (Polk County) Fire District 1 and the past President of Special Districts Association of Oregon.

Patty Mulvihill introduced herself as the Executive Director for the League of Oregon Cities.

Carol MacInnes introduced herself as the mayor of the city of Fossil and the League of Oregon Cities' President.

Abby Lee introduced herself as the Executive Director of the Oregon Community College Association.

Pat Fahey introduced himself as the President of the Oregon Community College Association.

Carol MacInness re-introduced herself and expressed her gratitude on behalf of the League (LOC) and fellow local government partners for the opportunity to follow up on their joint letter. She explained that the letter was not a spur of the moment action and understood the weight and significance of the letter. The letter was the direct result of many discussions between and within their respective organizations. They felt they had no recourse other than to write, approve and send the letter as a professional practical means to clearly bring their issues to the Commission's attention. She stated that enabling the issues to continue to fester doesn't benefit anyone, not OGE, not their organizations, and not the public.

MacInness stated that from their perspective, they collectively represent over 1,300 government entities and the work they perform and services they provide are foundational to a functional government. Thousands of volunteers who aid them in accomplishing their missions do so, because they are passionate about their communities, Oregon and public service.

MacInness stated they are grateful to be here representing every one of their members, volunteers, staff, and elected officials because addressing problems directly together is how our partnership is strengthened and how communication

channels are built. The collective Oregonians they serve benefit from ensuring the public's work is done in public, including this conversation. She stated that they recognize that overseeing an agency, guiding staff, and ensuring every decision stays aligned with the mission is a tremendous responsibility. She expressed that she too carries that responsibility as the mayor and board president. They have the same obligations to lead with purpose, encourage others, ask difficult questions when necessary, and provide meaningful oversight. The responsibilities aren't always comfortable but are part of the commitment when others place their trust in them to lead.

MacInness stated that they are bringing the Commission hard feedback, and the conversation may not feel comfortable at times, but they feel it is important to have a frank dialogue about the challenges so everyone can overcome them and create a collective path forward. As leaders, it is only natural to want to shelter our teams and highlight successes, but reasonable governments demand unvarnished looks at where things stand. Facing these hard realities together as leaders of our respective organizations is the only way to build that path forward.

MacInness stated that with that frame, she wanted to start with the challenges they faced with OGEC's interpretations. She recognizes that the law is almost never black and white and there are often multiple conflicting court decisions, different theories on legislative intent, and common-sense legal principles that can be applied. She stated on multiple occasions, the most restrictive interpretation becomes the rule and becomes notorious for LOC members. LOC calls it the "Hot Dog Opinion." She described an instance when LOC asked whether a governing body could provide hot dogs during training, and the opinion asserted that food and beverages provided at meetings were a financial gain. This became an administrative burden to many governing bodies that held long meetings well into the evenings. She stated that nothing in the statutory text

banned food or beverages at meetings. The interpretation provided stretched the broad prohibitions against using official positions for financial benefit to include a city providing a basic meal at a working meeting or training. She stated that the Commission may recall hearing this issue and OGEC's staff pushed for a decision that led to the need for legislation intervention, instead of working on issues directly related to critical needs like public safety, infrastructure funding, economic development, education, and more, organizations had to spend time passing House Bill 4161. She stated this is one of many examples.

MacInness re-introduced Erin Skaar, who addressed the Commission. Skaar thanked the Commission for having them and engaging in the conversation. She acknowledged their job as OGEC Commissioners is a very difficult one and she hoped the time spent today would be helpful as they move forward serving communities together.

Skaar stated that she appreciated the background shared by the mayor (MacInness) and stated she would jump into some of the examples from her work that she hoped would help the Commissioners understand the challenges faced putting the guidance into practice. She stated it is difficult following the guidance and do justice to what she has been elected to do. Her intention is to help OGEC see how the rules on the groundwork for a small rural county with a three-person board. Key challenges that they have include information sharing and information gathering on items, suddenly becoming governing body jurisdiction, accidental quorums, ability to meet our constituents where they are, media interactions, and information gathering as deliberation. These are the key things out of the rule that she finds herself struggling with.

She stated that as a County Commissioner, she has found that almost anything can end up in her jurisdiction. She received training on serial meetings and

deliberations recently, and the guidance given by the attorney there was, do not engage on anything you think might show up in front of you. As a County Commissioner, that's completely impractical because anything may end up in front of her.

Skaar referenced a storm from last year that tore a piece of the roof from the Tillamook Air Museum that was in the media. During the storm, photos started to circulate. She stated that she may have shared one with a fellow Commissioner saying "Wow, did you see that? That's going to be millions to fix." She then stated the building is owned by the port which is a special district. The county has no responsibility or authority. It is not in her jurisdiction in any way, shape or form. She stated that she feels saying that she thought all three of the Commissioners had conversations with the director of the port and board members of the port. They had conversations with constituents and each other as it was the talk of the County. It was a very huge action in Tillamook County. She stated that again, she felt safe as it was not their building, not their authority and not their jurisdiction. But then the Friends of the Air Museum got on their agenda to come ask them for money to fix the building. All the sudden, it was their jurisdiction. She stated that if a complaint was filed, it is very likely they would have a serial communication and would have information gathering as a deliberation. She further elaborated and said that she did not feel that it was OGEC intended but that is the reality for them.

Skaar mentioned that if someone becomes angry or upset with a decision, there is a risk of weaponization. She then mentioned her concerns about accidental quorums with only two people needed to make a quorum in their county. She stated that it is not always possible to track other Commissioners' movements and occasionally find themselves at the same locations or meetings. Skaar stated that it is impractical to know where everyone will be and the alternative is

noticing all of the events as meetings, which they do sometimes, is not practical. They don't always have time to check for accessibility or confirm if minutes will be kept, if it is a membership only meeting or open meeting, are they allowed to invite people?

Skaar addressed concerns about local charity fundraisers where they volunteer their time. Access is not open to the public without buying a ticket. There are presentations for the work of the organization or a project they may do in the future. They could show up on their agenda at a later date, asking for support or funding. She stated that she knows that is not the intent, but this is the filter that they are working through.

Skaar mentioned media and how they have two small papers and one radio station, that does their best to help get information out. They are a very long rural county, and it is hard to get to everyone. She stated that this means that the Commissioners share information on what is happening, including their thoughts and opinions, because they are trying to let their community members and constituents know what is happening in their government. The challenge is if fellow Commissioners read the paper or listen to the radio, they now hear her thoughts on perhaps budget priorities for an upcoming meeting, and they have serial communication. They can't ask everyone they talk to not to share the information, that is kind of hard to do with a newspaper or radio interview. Word of mouth is how most things circulate.

Skaar stated that if a community issue is coming up that they have to make a decision on, it is incumbent upon her as a commissioner to educate herself, and sometimes, that means talking to members of the community or the person who made a complaint. She is gathering information and so are her fellow commissioners. She stated it is a little chilling right now about who she can go

out and talk to and what information she can gather without crossing that line into deliberation. Skaar stated what concerns her is that they may not be making the best decisions possible with the best information possible because they are concerned about being out there gathering it and having it spread through the community as to what we were each asking and how we got there. She stated if there could be an intent standard that could be helpful with these challenges because they do not control who sees or hears information once it leaves their mouths and they don't know what item is going to fall under their jurisdiction that they may be engaging on now. Skaar stated that having a clear intent standard would provide clarity for public officials serving their communities and a threshold for OGEC could dismiss frivolous claims while still holding bad actors accountable.

Pat Fahey introduced himself and addressed the Commission. He summarized why he serves on the boards that he does and states that most people, such as himself, serve because they believe in their communities and want to make things better for their community. He stated they want to serve in a righteous and transparent manner. He stated he appreciated the discussion about the hot dog and that his board calls it the fig newton discussion as they like to serve fig newtons.

He wants the Commission to understand his role and tasks, and one of his tasks is to recruit others to serve. It is harder to recruit people, and the restrictions make it harder to recruit. He wants to reframe the relationship with the Commission, so that their neighbors have faith in their boards and commissions. He stated he thought about sharing a dad joke and that he would share it at the end.

Abby Lee introduced herself and stated that they care deeply about their members and making sure they follow ethics and public meetings law for more than 60 years. They invest lots of resources to ensure their members are educated and supported.

Lee stated that in 2007 and 2009, when OGE's ethics laws were substantially reviewed, OCCA along with other associations worked directly with OGE. She stated that partnership mattered and they have relied on it for years. She stated that they have shared goals and want to work together. She noted that OGE does not have the staffing to train 260,000 public officials, but they are ready and willing to help meet the mandate the legislature has given OGE.

Lee noted that since OGE's authority was broadened to include all aspects of Public Meetings Law from the mandatory training to expanded grievance procedures, they've increasingly felt that their role as partners has been diminished. Lee stated that the certification process for Public Meetings Law training is clear example, as several of the associations have gone through the onerous and highly rigid process. She stated her staff raised concerns about the extensive requirements in the training matrix and questioned whether such an all-encompassing approach is the most effective way to reach governing board members. She stated that they reached out with their concerns and offered to participate in a work group to explore better training modalities but were not included.

Lee stated their training was certified in September 2025 after a lengthy period and that OGE has paused any additional new application. She stated that there has been no outreach, no requests for feedback, and no information about how trainings will be re-certified. She stated that yesterday, they were informed their training would be certified for another year, which gives them a lot of relief

because they want to make sure they are helping their board members comply, but this is just another example of how they can improve this partnership.

She stated that they were not asked to assist in the revision of the Ethics Guide and would have appreciated being involved in the updates. She stated that she was told there would be a rule making session but has not received any updates and would like to be included in that process. She stated that they really want to be partners and that collaboration and transparency are fundamental to every strong relationship.

Ben Stange introduced himself and addressed the Commission, he noted that they represent many very small districts across Oregon. He stated that some of the districts are so small and rural that their budgets are less than \$100,000 and have no paid staff, and without routine access to legal counsel. They are looking for clear, simple instructions on how to follow Public Meetings Law.

Stange wanted to highlight three asks:

1. Improvements to the training.
  - a. Their conferences are bursting at the seams, and they are running out of meeting spaces in the State to host. These are almost entirely volunteer public servants who are giving up days to sit through days and days of classes, learning about how to be good public officials. Delays in the training causes confusion and a lack of confidence. The timeliness of it is important. The board members are reflective of the communities they've serving, not having access to legal counsel, and for that reason, it is really important that they are educating these members, these elected members throughout our state on the principles of what is expected of them and not spending time

worrying about legal citations and those sorts of exhausted notations within trainings.

2. Reasonable purpose interpretation by the staff.

- a. Stange stated that their missions are essential to their communities. He provided an example of a fatal motorcycle crash as the medics were wrapping up the difficult scene, they were called to another 911 call. Someone across town was choking and no longer breathing. They got in their ambulance, turned on the lights and siren and they were driving code 3 to this other emergency. As they crossed the highway, they got in a crash and rolled the ambulance. They had members of the public and staff in ambulances go to emergency rooms and had an ambulance that was no longer operable.

Stange stated a reasonable person would expect a fire chief to be able to tell their board members that they have members of our staff in the hospital and an ambulance out of service and we may not be able to comply with state and county mandates. A reasonable person would think those are reasonable calls to make, and a reasonable person wouldn't expect that those volunteer board members to be faced and personally liable for a serial meeting that they didn't know they were a part of and that was never their intent. Stange stated that an evaluation of that sort of situation should really focus on whether that official acted in good faith to carry out the basic public function or if they were intentionally trying to evade transparency.

3. Time on a quarterly basis for collaboration.
  - a. Stange discussed the importance of a shared mission and Friday morning coffee with his team, and how collaboration helps bypass roadblocks. He stated that he had all sorts of great policies and procedures that look great on his desk and sees fantastic research, studies, strategies and tactics but sometimes those don't work the same in the front seat of the fire engine as they when he's looking at them from his desk. The Friday morning coffees give a chance look at their shared mission and what they want to accomplish, how to get to that point together and collaborate early on so they don't hit roadblocks. He stated this helps ensure they're giving line staff who are carrying out the mission all the tools they need so they can be mutually successful.

Stange recapped the three asks: reasonable purpose standard, quarterly time to talk, and improvements in training.

Myers thanked the associations for coming and that she is more than willing to work with any of them. She stated she wanted to highlight one example of working with an organization. Senate Bill 983 was proposed by the Oregon School Board Association where OGEC worked with them on the language, which permits governing body members to participate and vote on budgets that include their own compensation or compensation for a relative. It requires the governing body member to announce their conflict of interest but then participate in the discussion and the vote. She stated that there was no needless law of necessity for this bill which is why it was codified, when school boards got the authority to award stipends or adopt their own stipends and it was brought to OGEC's attention. She stated that she thinks OGEC's LC (legislative concept) included adding household members because as the time of the legislative they

were not a part of the conflicts of interest, but they are not and clarifying that it includes all parts of the budget adoption, not just the final vote. She stated that OGEC stands ready to work with them for any issues that come up. She stated that LOC requested a Commission Advisory Opinion about food and beverages which was since resolved with House Bill 4161.

She stated addressed the misunderstanding around the expression of concern that they were not invited to provide feedback or were not given notice of the updates to the Government Ethics Law Guide. She stated that for the record the project was announced months in advance and on February 6, 2026, a complete draft was published, and, in the April meeting, a work session was held. She stated the guide was not finalized or adopted for another two months. She stated that the guide is required to be updated every 4 years. She stated that if they have any errors they have found, they are welcome to share those with her, so they can be corrected.

Myers stated that Stephanie is the Training & Curriculum Coordinator and will make comments about the training assessment process. Myers stated it has been a fast-moving target, and that a new legislative work group is working on the issues raised. She stated it is difficult to make sure that the training is keeping up with the changes either are going to be, what they could be. We are tasked with ensuring that the trainings are correctly presenting the entirety of the law, not just what one wants to say, but all the parts of public meetings law, which is why the rubric was created. The rubric is very detailed and very difficult, and the process has been very difficult and drawn out.

Stephanie Heffner addressed the Commission and advised that they were equating the approval process to a Staff Advisory Opinion which is 30 days, which seemed at the time a very reasonable expectation. She stated that they

quickly learned it was not the same as a Staff Advisory Opinion only looks at a few statutes whereas the training looks at ALL the statutes and provisions. She stated that the training tried to align with any decisions the Commission has made previously, any guidance issued, any Commission Advisory Opinions and be a more conservative approach, because at the end of the day, it has OGEC's stamp of approval on it. She stated that they didn't take into account that the process would be so involved and were training to be as consistent as possible and tried to involve staff from both training and investigations. She stated that OGEC can't do the training without the associations and that she has worked with many of the associations and would like to collaborate and work with them all. She would like to solicit feedback to improve the process. She stated each association had a different focus so there may have been gaps, but if the training was coming from OGEC had to include all the requirements. She apologized to OCCA about the delay on their training renewal approval as OGEC was waiting to see if House Bill 4177 was getting vetoed or approved by the Governor earlier this year. She mentioned that the Port of Portland had requested to have their training approved which had triggered her to check to see who else's expirations were upcoming, which is just coincidence that it all happened yesterday. She stated that if any of the Commissioners have any questions, she is happy to answer any of them.

Payne stated that she would like to second some of the comments that Myers stated, especially considering the involvement of the processes, such as the Guide, where things were transparent, as it was posted on the agenda. She stated she understands that they want a different level of participation and collaboration. Payne stated that OGEC is not trying to hide anything or do anything in secret. She stated that just as they have difficulty and logistic problems with staffing, OGEC does too.

She stated that as public meeting laws have been shifting, and they are confusing, OGEC is working with the legislature to make them clearer, as they have been frustrating for everyone. Payne stated the serial communications laws are difficult to understand, and they are trying to apply them as consistently as possible. It is clear that there are improvements to be made, such as Ben Stange's example about calling a council about an accident and concerns about violating serial communications. She said it does concern her that people would think it would be a violation of serial communications. She noted that there has to be a deliberation towards a decision, not just a discussion about anything. She stated that she is hearing the fear that boards may come in front of the Commission for discussions that aren't deliberations, and additional training that needs to happen. Payne stated that they do consider situations and do have compassion and do consider weaponization of the Commission. She stated that the Commission is not their enemy.

Thompson stated that he is enjoying the discussion and would like to address things directly as he can. He stated that the Commission responds to complaints as they come in. He is a policy geek and he loves it, but he does not watch others' meetings looking for violations. The Commission responds to complaints that comes from members and constituents of the people you represent. He stated that he appreciates their on-the-ground comments. He stated that as his experience as a various committee member, he understands and appreciates their experience. He stated the food issue (whether it was hot dogs or fig newtons) is resolved by the Legislature, which was the easiest way forward, as he doesn't agree that it was as clear as some people made it out to be. There were two conflicting statutes. Our counsel looked at it and your counsel looked at it, and they couldn't agree, so he agrees that the legislature solving it was quite possibly the easiest way possible, as onerous as it was.

He stated that Public Meetings Law and serial communications, serial communications continue to evolve, but it is important that decisions are made in public. He stated to consider in the 70's when Public Meetings Law was passed, text messaging was not a thing. He stated that he understands the quorum issue that some governing bodies experience due to size, as he grew up in Polk County where there are three commissioners and they used to put out press releases when they all flew back to DC to lobby. He understands the quorum issue, it is not new, and it is something that needs to continue to be worked on, especially on boards and commissions with three people because two people become a quorum. He stated that he took OGEC's Public Meeting Law training, and it states that public officials are allowed to talk to the media. He stated the intent issue is with ethics law and not with Public Meetings Law and should be very careful there. If there is an intent to enrich yourself, that becomes a whole other issue, which can go beyond this commission, and become criminal. He stated that if there are frivolous complaints, he would love to be able to dismiss those complaints legally, he would support that process, but they have to be careful.

Thompson stated he would like to address the three asks. He would love to work on training and certification process and said our training coordinator is working on that. He stated he was happy to look at reasonable purpose. He stated that he would use the fire chief's example and thought that if the chief was calling to advise board members about an accident, it shouldn't be an issue. He added that if the fire chief talked to four board members and reported what they all said, that would be an issue. A safeguard would be to call an emergency or special meeting to comply with the law. He added if there was something they could do on that reasonable purpose again with the intent, he is happy to look into it but he did not want to get tripped up, as he did clarify that he is not a lawyer. And finally, he would not be opposed to a quarterly check-in, and thought it was a wonderful

idea. He thanked everyone for being there and hoped this was the start of many more conversations like this as he is a public policy geek and could go on for hours.

Helt stated that she wanted to thank everyone for their service to their communities and recognize how hard it can be, just by the nature of where life is at the moment. She appreciates their thoughtfulness and going back to that moment to serving communities ethically and transparently. She stated what she heard today was beautiful. She added that having so much fear is not great around serving but the thought process of making sure that you're serving correctly and worrying about what you're talking about is not the problem we're trying to solve. She said that is an important reminder to make sure that they are clear and that you can serve your communities well. She wanted to send her condolences to your community, for when the talk of the first responders being sent to the hospital, her heart broke for the community. She stated that while they were talking about the destruction in the community and worrying about talking to someone about it, it broke her heart and something that struck her as having a standard and holding the standard to show other people that while the world is very polarized right now, there is a lot of good work going on in communities.

Helt stated she wanted to focus on transparency and courage and thought it was very courageous to bring these things forward and put some of them to rest, as some of them have been festering. She stated that it is important to have an open discussion and that they have an opportunity to lead with good governance. It is not the Commission's role to always agree but it is important to always listen and come from the best intentions. It is very dangerous not to have transparent meetings.

Helt stated that now is the time to lead together. She liked the three asks by Ben Stange and would like to have a quarterly training meeting with all the organizations together, but keep in mind that OGEC may not always agree. OGEC has to hold the standard for all the elected officials and we may not agree on what that looks like, but it is important that OGEC is always listening to how to get to the best place and how to make sure we can be transparent.

Helt stated that serial meetings are always going to be really hard for people that have really good intention and are doing the work really well, but it is also a very dangerous slope to have meetings not be transparent because that's not good government. She stated one of the most important things that we make sure that we're upholding is that there is public discourse so that people have a way to hear it, and she holds transparency dear to her heart.

Helt stated that she wanted to respond to the three asks. She stated that she felt we had a really good listening session and everyone was able to hear how everyone felt but moving forward, she felt it was our time to lead. She stated that she felt we should lead together and show what bringing different opinions together looks like. She proposed a quarterly training meeting among the staff of all the organizations but stated to keep in mind that it doesn't mean we will always agree. She stated that reasonable purpose can be addressed in those meetings. She thanked them for their time.

Givens stated that he related to their positions as he has been in their situation and can understand their frustration as it can be very difficult. He stated that yes, you can discuss things, talk about things, gather facts, but you cannot make decisions. He brought up the three asks and stated that it is extremely important to have a meeting. Quarterly discussions are reasonable. He stated that he does believe that there is too much weaponization of people using the law when they

are angry or upset about a decision, even when it is legal. He would like to curb weaponization. He would like to look at the intent of the person filing a complaint.

Patty Mulville brought up serial communications and giving information. She used the fire chief example that when the fire chief is giving their council information, there is the concern about a serial communication, and they are afraid of the rules and how they are being interpreted, as information gathering is a part of the decision-making process.

Thompson and Payne stated that facts being relayed are not serial communication as it is not deliberation, and that the fire chief is not subject to public meetings law, but the training could be updated and made clearer.

Mulville stated that the rules are having a chilling effect on what Commission Skaar is willing to do, what the fire chief is willing to do, what the mayor is willing to do and they are being chilled from acting because of the administrative rule and because of the interpretations from both the staff and the Commission. She stated that what they are asking is the reasonable purpose standard is to take into consideration as the chief described. What you put on paper may make sense, but when you are asking individuals who are not lawyers make the decision every day, that is the standard they are asking for.

Thompson interjected that he is not a lawyer.

Mulville stated that she has members who are legitimately afraid of the rules enacted and the way the staff have trained on the rules.

Payne stated that she understands and stated that what she thinks she is hearing is that OGEC can do a better job at training as to what information

gathering toward a deliberation means versus information that is a meeting, versus someone has been hurt. That is not information gathering toward a deliberation, that is just information. She stated it is definitely nuanced.

Mulville stated that it is important to hear them say whether it is in the letter or the comments today that the collaboration needs to happen more direction than just public notice. She referenced the fire chief and how he will have to buy a new ambulance so when he is telling his board members that they no longer have an ambulance, at some point he will have to go to his board to purchase a new ambulance. And the question is, where is the line? She stated because is what he shared simply information gathering or is it logical to assume that it was information that started the deliberative process on which ambulance to purchase? That is the type of clarification their members would like to see.

Helt stated that this conversation could be one of the first things to collaborate on and the staff could have a meeting as it appears to be low hanging fruit. She stated concerns as the ambulance scenario touched on serial meetings. It is a safety issue as people should not be worrying about serial communications when it comes to safety. She wanted to know if the staff could discuss this issue in the next month.

Myers stated that there is an ongoing legislative workgroup that is addressing serial communications, among other issues such as training, enforcement, and when deliberation becomes decision making.

Payne stated the workgroup is going to take time to change the statute, and the law is what the law is. There should be guidance on what the law currently is. She stated everything should not be put on pause while the workgroup is in session as she does not want the public officials to be floundering. She would like OGEC to be their best job and provide additional guidance.

Myers stated that they can go over the issued guidance together and decide what needs additional clarification and see about moving the needle.

Helt stated that she feels that this is a public safety issue and an easy issue to fix. She stated that the work group and law passage is 7 months away. She stated that it is a reasonable ask to have clarification now instead of having to wait.

Givens asked when they could meet again with the associations again. Payne suggested October or November. Myers confirmed that September will be a long meeting. Payne stated that she would love to continue this collaboration with open minds.

The Commission recessed for a break from 10:25 a.m. to 10:35 a.m.

Chair Payne read the executive session script authorizing the executive sessions.

To consider information relating to whether the Commission should proceed to open cases on its own motion, per ORS 244.260(1)(b), ORS 244.260(2)(d) and ORS 192.660(2)(f), and

To consider Preliminary Reviews pursuant to the following authorities:

- ORS 192.660(2)(f) to consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection;
- ORS 244.260(4)(c) and (d), requiring Preliminary Reviews to be kept confidential and requiring the Commission to consider Preliminary Reviews in executive session; and

- ORS 192.685(1), requiring public meetings law complaints to be considered as provided in ORS 244.260, which includes the confidentiality and executive session requirements of ORS 244.260(4)(c) and (d).

Helt stated that she would be abstaining from the case with Ben West as she considers him a friend. Burke stated that he also knows Ben West but has not been to his house or had any financial arrangements with him. After discussing with Myers, there is nothing that would qualify as a conflict. He would not be recusing himself but wanted on record for an abundance of caution.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Commission convened into Executive Session at 10:44 a.m.

(File 2)

**Executive Session Consent Calendar - None**

## **Reports of Preliminary Review**

Facilitated by Investigators

Executive Session Item 1, Ivory Mathews – 26-243ESP – Multnomah County  
Recommendation: Move to Investigate Possible Violations of ORS 244.040(1) and ORS 244.120(1)(c)

Investigator: Silas Patterson

The respondent was not present. Investigator Patterson summarized the case and recommendation to move to investigation. Patterson stated that Mathews used her position to obtain financial benefit on travel and lodging, which is inconsistent with Home Forward's travel policy. She was also faced with a conflict of interest when she authorized her own travel.

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Ivory Mathews may have violated ORS 244.040(1) and ORS 244.120(1)(c) and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

Executive Session Item 2, Ben West – 26-257EJS – Clackamas County  
Recommendation: Move to Investigate Possible Violations of ORS 244.120(2) and 244.040(1)

Investigator: Silas Patterson

Respondent was not present. Attorney Julie Parrish was present via telephone. Investigator Patterson summarized the case and recommendation to move to investigation as it appears that West used his position to secure employment for his father. It appears that West created a temporary maintenance specialist for his father and did not post the position publicly. It also appears that West violated Board policy and conflict of interest disclosures law, but not nepotism laws.

Attorney Parrish addressed the Commission and stated that they sent a letter on June 2<sup>nd</sup> in the board packet and a supplemental letter to the Commission stating the published policies are not current internal county practice. She stated that the supporting letters sent in are reason enough to not move forward with the investigation.

Givens asked how long has the Clackamas County had the County Administrator position? Parrish stated at least since 2010.

McAuley asked what the investigator would be looking for if moved forward to investigation. Patterson stated that he would review the policies in question and if the new policy is on the books and was the one used. He stated he would also

review the position, when it was created and the recruitment process behind it. Parrish stated that she felt the letter from Schmidt addressed that there was a full time position, with similar requirements that could not be filled, available.

Payne stated that she would find it helpful to move the investigation on to clarify some questions and is happy to hear Commissioners' thoughts on it. Thompson stated that he agrees and it would be good to have the investigator dig into it. Burke stated that his feeling is it never a good look when a public official makes an inquiry on behalf of a family member, but he does not see a clear violation because of the way Clackamas County handles things. He stated he is smelling a nothing burger.

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Ben West may have violated ORS 244.120(2) and 244.040(1) and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, abstain; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 7-0, 1 abstention.

Executive Session Item 3, Wendy Adams – 26-291EDP – City of Phoenix

Recommendation: Move to Investigation Possible Violations of ORS 244.040(1) and ORS 244.120(2)

Investigator: Daniel Pacheco

Respondent was not present. Investigator Pacheco summarized the case and the recommendation to move to investigation as it appears Adams was faced with a conflict of interest whenever there was a discussion concerning property and zoning as it would affect her property value. He stated there may be a class exception but would need to move forward to determine such. It appears that she may have used her position as she utilized the City's staff and attorney. The

investigator would need additional time to determine such. It appears Adams may have tried to avoid a financial detriment due to communications with BJC and DEQ but would need additional time to determine as well.

Givens asked if there was undue influence on her part with communications. Pacheco stated that he would need to move to investigation to determine that. Payne asked that it appears that the respondent asked for advice and then appears to have ignored the advice. Pacheco stated yes.

Payne stated that she appreciates when someone self-reports, but it is interesting that she asked for advice but disregarded the advice and then self-reported.

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Wendy Adams may have violated ORS 244.040(1) and ORS 244.120(2) and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

Executive Session Item 4, Larry Magill – 26-363ESP – Wamic Rural Fire Protection District

Recommendation: Move to investigate possible violations of ORS 244.120(1)(c) and ORS 244.040

Investigator: Silas Patterson

Respondent Magill was not present. Attorney Bob Steringer was present via Teams. Investigator Patterson summarized the case and recommendation to move to investigation as it appears Magill as he applied for a service capacity grant and he signed off on funding for his wife's and his positions. He also did not declare a conflict of interest when applying for a grant or signing off on the

funding. Magill and his wife resigned from their positions, but it does appear that he got a new position based on his previously existing position. He does not appear he appointed or supervised his wife.

Givens asked if there was an aggregate amount of financial gain. Patterson stated that the grant funding changed their positions from volunteer to permanent but there is no aggregate amount known.

Helt stated that she is really struggling with the direct line with a public bond and having a public vote on it and then creating a position from it. She stated this is the least effective way to go about it and that he was trying to make his community better and should not be punished.

Steringer addressed the Commission. He stated that he was just retained this week so was not able to provide written comments earlier. He understands why the conclusion was reached with the conflict of interest with the securing of funding with the previously volunteer positions. He stated that he hasn't had the opportunity to thoroughly dig into it but would like to provide context. He stated that the district was aware of what they were doing and the Board asked Magill for his assistance. He stated the irony is not lost on him as Magill is not here because he is fighting the Grasshopper fire right now. He stated that even if Magill had declared a conflict of interest, the Board would have advised him to do the same steps that Magill took. The Board has since reached out to SDAO for future training and Magill has reached out for additional ethics trainings as well, including conflicts of interest.

Givens asked Steringer if the grant funding was specifically for general fund or for personnel positions. Steringer stated the grant funding was tied specifically to personnel. The tax base was for general fund which came later.

Burke stated he wanted to thank the respondent for fighting the Grasshopper fire and wanted to go on record for being grateful for that service. He stated that his time on the Commission is coming short and wanted to let Steringer know that he appreciates his work. He stated taxes are not voluntary and things are needing to be done right. He stated that the times are tough and money is tight with communities. He stated that for the public good, we do need to look a little deeper into the case, and he would support moving to investigation.

Helt stated she would be a no for moving the case forward as he was trying very hard to get money to keep his community safe. She stated he was under the board's direction and he did not declare a conflict of interest. She struggles with a conflict of interest as he is doing it for the community and that is what the community needed to stay safe.

Payne stated that the general tax issue is a non-starter, but the grant is more of an issue as it would fund his position. She fails to see it as an improper use of office as he was directed by the board, but he should have declared a potential conflict of interest. She would be okay with dismissing the use of office provision and move forward with the conflict of interest with the grant issue. She stated that education has occurred and a letter of education will likely occur and be appropriate. She agrees with what people have said and appreciates his service. She does not think there was ill intent, but it is still important to declare a conflict.

Thompson stated that he would like to know more about the timeline and he was concerned about his wife's position and how their resignations played into everything.

Burke, Thompson and Payne discussed the process of which statute to declare while making a motion.

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Larry Magill may have violated ORS 244.120(1)(c) and ORS 244.040 and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, nay; Helt, nay; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 6-2.

Executive Session Item 5, Elana Pirtle-Guiney – 26-285ESP – City of Portland  
Recommendation: Move to Dismiss  
Investigator: Silas Patterson

Respondent was present via Teams. Investigator Patterson summarized the case and the recommendation to dismiss as it appears that she did not violate the gift provisions in ORS 244 as she purchased a ticket for her child to attend a basketball game and performing ceremonial duties.

Pirtle-Guiney addressed the Commission, and she appreciates Investigator Patterson's work. She understands the concerns that were brought up by the complainant, but she does not feel that she violated the law as she checked in frequently with the City's attorney for guidance. She stated that she will take care to follow the laws and uphold the public's trust.

Payne stated that it was unclear about the game ball delivery for ceremonial purposes, and the report does not state how she participated. Pirtle-Guiney stated that at the start of a game, at the top of the arena, the Blazers will have someone start the delivery of a ball through the area going down from the top. She helped hand the ball down as a part of the tradition.

Thompson stated that he appreciated that an old letter of advice of OGE's that was referenced in the report.

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission to dismiss the complaint against Elana Pirtle-Guiney. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

Executive Session Item 6, Sameer Kanal – 26-286ESP – City of Portland  
Recommendation: Move to Dismiss  
Investigator: Silas Patterson

The respondent was not present. Patterson summarized the case and recommendation to dismiss. The complaint alleged that Kanal may have violated Ethics Law by accepting gifts from Rip City Management that exceeded the \$50 gift limitation, that included complimentary tickets for attending and participating in an Asian American Pacific Islander Night Event, a game ball delivery ceremony, and meetings with Blazers executives and the NBA Commissioner. Kanal's acceptance of complimentary tickets and participation in meetings with Blazers executives and the NBA Commissioner appear to fall under the gift exceptions set forth in ORS 244.020(7)(b). It appears that Kanal did not violate Ethics Law.

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission to dismiss the complaint against Sameer Kanal. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

Executive Session Item 7, Angelita Morillo – 26-289ESP – City of Portland

Recommendation: Move to Dismiss

Investigator: Silas Patterson

The respondent was not present. Patterson summarized the case and recommendation to dismiss. The complaint alleged that Kanal may have violated Ethics Law by accepting gifts from Rip City Management that exceeded the \$50 gift limitation, that included complimentary tickets for attending and participating in a Women's History Night Event and meetings with Blazers executives. Morillo's acceptance of complimentary tickets and participation in meetings with Blazers executives and the NBA Commissioner appear to fall under the gift exceptions set forth in ORS 244.020(7)(b). It appears that Morillo did not violate Ethics Law.

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission to dismiss the complaint against Angelita Morillo. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

Executive Session Item 8, Tiffany Koyama Lane – 26-290ESP – City of Portland

Recommendation: Move to Dismiss

Investigator: Silas Patterson

The respondent was not present. Patterson summarized the case and recommendation to dismiss. The complaint alleged that Koyama Lane may have violated Ethics Law by accepting gifts from Rip City Management that exceeded the \$50 gift limitation, that included complimentary tickets for attending and participating in Asian American Pacific Islander Event and meetings with Blazers executives. Koyama Lane's acceptance of complimentary tickets and participation in meetings with Blazers executives and the NBA Commissioner

appear to fall under the gift exceptions set forth in ORS 244.020(7)(b). It appears that Koyama Lane did not violate Ethics Law.

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission to dismiss the complaint against Tiffany Koyama Lane. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

Executive Session Item 9, Amber Langworthy – 26-354EDP – Lane County School District

Recommendation: Move to Dismiss

Investigator: Daniel Pacheco

Respondent was not present. Investigator Pacheco summarized the case and the recommendation to dismiss as it appears she did not financially gain or share confidential information.

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission to dismiss the complaint against Amber Langworthy. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

Executive Session Item 10, Chad LaVallee – 26-362EJS – Alfalfa Fire District

Recommendation: Move to Dismiss

Investigator: Josh Sullivan

Respondent was not present. Sullivan summarized the case and the recommendation to dismiss. It appears that LaValle did not use his position to pay for a private investigator or attempt to obtain fire district funds to fund a lawsuit.

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission to dismiss the complaint against Chad LaValle. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

The Commission recessed for a break from 11:50 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.

### **City of Creswell**

Recommendation: Move to Investigate Possible Violations of ORS 192.660(2) and ORS 192.660(4)

Investigator: Josh Sullivan

Executive Session Item 11, Alonzo Costilla – 26-263XJS

Executive Session Item 12, Joan Morris – 26-276XJS

Executive Session Item 13, Mark Kremer – 26-277XJS

Executive Session Item 14, Clark Kent – 26-278XJS

Executive Session Item 15, Alan Dukes – 26-279XJS

Executive Session Item 16, Staci Holt – 26-280XJS

Executive Session Item 17, Nicholas Smith – 26-281XJS

Respondents were not present. Investigator Sullivan summarized the cases and the recommendation to move to investigation. It appears that the City of Creswell excluded members of the media from two executive sessions on March 16, 2026, and may have violated Public Meetings Law. The meeting minutes do not reflect the details of the session, but it appears they may have authorized the Mayor and City Manager to negotiate agreements with two selected candidates for positions.

Givens asked if the media was forced to leave or just not notified. Sullivan explained that they were never let into the meeting.

Payne asked if OGEC had provided an opinion or complaint about this issue previously. Myers stated that the City of Creswell called and spoke with her before the meeting as they were concerned to meet with a city attorney about ongoing litigation and breach of contract at the airport and the media representatives, at the breach of contract time, were tenants. There is an exception where if the media is a party of the litigation, which the media representatives were not, they could be excluded. Myers provided the City of Creswell the Department of Justice opinion concerning media. She advised they contact their attorney or contact the courts that are having litigation for a protective order.

Payne asked if the media were a party of litigation, they would only be excluded to one of the executive sessions. Sullivan confirmed that yes, as only one was for litigation and one was for hiring.

Payne stated that she would like clarification on the media's role in the litigation due to corporation individually versus a CEO or somehow related, not a party.

Givens asked DOJ Gilbert to confirm that the media is not allowed to report on the contents of an executive session, so it wouldn't matter if the media was allowed into the litigation executive session. Gilbert confirmed yes but does not apply to the media or members of the public. Myers stated that if an opposing member of the litigation was permitted in an executive session and would not really want to receive advice at that time.

Helt asked if City of Creswell has a method of determining what media is and the relevance. Sullivan stated that the City of Creswell did not have a policy but did request a variety of documentation and advice.

Myers stated that the Attorney General's Opinion is that OGEC cannot determine what media is but is charged with enforcing Public Meetings Law and ensuring media is let in when required, which is not a great position to be in. Myers stated it is safe to say that a public body cannot create procedures, policies, and guidelines to prevent media from entering executive sessions. Myers listed several of the guidelines from the Attorney General's Opinion.

Helt asked when the opinion was issued and if it was still relevant based on modern methods of dissemination of information. Myers stated it was issued in 2016. Helt stated that a new opinion should be requested as news media is different today than from 2016.

Executive Session Item 11, Alonzo Costilla – 26-263XJS

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Alonzo Costilla may have violated ORS 244.120(1)(c) and ORS 244.040 and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

Executive Session Item 12, Joan Morris – 26-276XJS

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Joan Morris may have violated ORS 244.120(1)(c) and ORS 244.040 and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

Executive Session Item 13, Mark Kremer – 26-277XJS

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Mark Kremer may have violated ORS 244.120(1)(c) and ORS 244.040 and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

Executive Session Item 14, Clark Kent – 26-278XJS

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Clark Kent may have violated ORS 244.120(1)(c) and ORS 244.040 and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

Executive Session Item 15, Alan Dukes – 26-279XJS

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Alan Dukes may have violated ORS 244.120(1)(c) and ORS 244.040 and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

Executive Session Item 16, Staci Holt – 26-280XJS

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Staci Holt may have violated ORS 244.120(1)(c) and ORS 244.040 and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke,

aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

**Executive Session Item 17, Nicholas Smith – 26-281XJS**

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Nicholas Smith may have violated ORS 244.120(1)(c) and ORS 244.040 and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

**City of Creswell**

Recommendation: Move to Investigate Possible Violations of ORS 192.650 and ORS 192.670

Investigator: Casey Fenstermaker

Executive Session Item 18, Alonzo Costilla – 26-275PCF

Executive Session Item 19, Joan Morris – 26-296PCF

Executive Session Item 20, Mark Kremer – 26-297PCF

Executive Session Item 21, Clark Kent – 26-298PCF

Executive Session Item 22, Alan Dukes – 26-299PCF

Executive Session Item 23, Staci Holt – 26-300PCF

Executive Session Item 24, Nicholas Smith – 26-301PCF

Respondents were not present. Fenstermaker summarized the cases and the recommendation to move to investigate as it appears the City of Creswell violated Public Meetings Law. It does not appear the City participated in serial communications but did have limited access to the meeting as the virtual access ended after 3 hours and continued for 8 minutes before they realized the issue. They restored access and the Mayor made a quick statement summarizing what was missed during the 8 minutes. The meeting minutes did not reflect the time

when the recording was not available to the public. Meeting minutes are not required to note recesses or show technological failures.

Thompson asked what Fenstermaker would look for if moved forward.

Fenstermaker stated she would look for an audio recording to address the 8 minutes missing and also noted the minutes do not reflect the 8 minutes missing.

Payne asked if the 8 minutes conversation has information that would be information that is actually required to be captured in the minutes. Fenstermaker agreed.

Helt asked if the Commission should have an interpretation for a technical glitch and she feels that the Commission is holding people accountable for things that they do not have control over. She does not feel that those issues should move forward. She feels that these cases could be dismissed due to a technical glitch and fix.

Metler asked if the cases were dismissed, could a letter of education be sent?

Myers explained that if the cases moved to investigation, a letter of education would be part of stipulated final order. Myers stated that the Commission could dismiss and issue a letter of advice or invitation to public meeting trainings.

Payne stated that this was not a technical glitch as it appears that they set their meeting to end at 3 hours, it was not their technology simply crashing. She stated this was not something outside of their control and a letter of education would be acceptable due to the fact that it was an error that could have been avoided.

Givens asked Fenstermaker about the 8 minutes and if it was recorded.

Fenstermaker stated that there are two video recordings and there was a fifteen-minute gap between the two videos. The City stated there is an audio recording

that captures the entirety of the meeting including the missing 8 minutes and the recess.

Thompson asked if the audio recording means they are in the clear.

Fenstermaker stated that if there is a complete audio recording or video recording then written minutes are not needed. There would still be the issue that in the moment, people could not access the meeting for those 8 minutes.

Helt asked if they said why the meeting ended at 3 hours. Fenstermaker stated that she was told the meeting was set at 3 hours due to previous meeting length history.

Thompson stated that the recording should be listened to and cases moved forward.

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Alonzo Costilla may have violated ORS 192.650 and ORS 192.670(4) and that the Commission should investigate accordingly.

Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, nay; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 7-1.

Executive Session Item 19, Joan Morris – 26-296PCF

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Joan Morris may have violated ORS 192.650 and ORS 192.670 and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, nay; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 7-1.

Item #18 was done twice as Vice Chair Thompson stated ORS 192.670 sub 4 for the first vote. Vote was redone.

Executive Session Item 18, Alonzo Costilla – 26-275PCF

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Alonzo Costilla may have violated ORS 192.650 and ORS 192.670 and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, nay; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 7-1.

Executive Session Item 20, Mark Kremer – 26-297PCF

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Mark Kremer may have violated ORS 192.650 and ORS 192.670 and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, nay; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 7-1.

Givens left the room and did not vote for the last four items in the City of Creswell group.

Executive Session Item 21, Clark Kent – 26-298PCF

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Clark Kent may have violated ORS 192.650 and ORS 192.670 and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, absent; Helt, nay; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 6-1.

Executive Session Item 22, Alan Dukes – 26-299PCF

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Alan Dukes may have violated ORS 192.650 and ORS 192.670 and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll

call was taken as follows: Givens, absent; Helt, nay; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 6-1.

**Executive Session Item 23, Staci Holt – 26-300PCF**

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Staci Holt may have violated ORS 192.650 and ORS 192.670 and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, absent; Helt, nay; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 6-1.

**Executive Session Item 24, Nicholas Smith – 26-301PCF**

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Nicholas Smith may have violated ORS 192.650 and ORS 192.670 and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, absent; Helt, nay; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 6-1.

**City of Lakeside**

Recommendation: Move to Investigate Possible Violations of 192.630(1), ORS 192.640(1), ORS 192.650(1), and OAR 199-050-0070(3)

Investigator: Josh Sullivan

Executive Session Item 25, Elaine Armstrong – 26-315PJS

Executive Session Item 26, Alan Pointer – 26-316PJS

Executive Session Item 27, Terlyn Macduff – 26-317PJS

Elaine Armstrong and Terlyn Macduff were present via telephone. Respondent Pointer was not present. Sullivan summarized the cases and the recommendation to move to investigation as it appears the Hiring Committee for the City of Lakeside may be a governing body and is subject to Public Meetings

Law. The Hiring Committee did not post their meetings or provide public access to the meetings. The Hiring Committee did not post the grievance process information on their website.

Armstrong addressed the Commission and stated that they acted in good faith. She regularly calls the Commission for advice. She stated their attorney advised them that they were not a governing body and did not need to follow Public Meetings Law. She stated that Sharon Barker chose not to post the notices though the Hiring Committee asked her to post them. She stated Courtney was the one making the hiring decisions, they only made recommendations to her.

Thompson stated that he felt like they did everything right and he does not want to take it further.

Givens stated the term weaponization comes to mind, and he feels similarly to Thompson. Payne stated that it does frustrate her when individuals get poor legal advice.

Armstrong stated that they wanted their meetings noticed but Sharon stopped noticing meetings because she felt that the interviewees did not feel comfortable being interviewed in a meeting.

Givens asked if the meeting notices not being posted was intentional or not. Armstrong stated that she felt that it was intentional by Sharon as they had told her to post the notices, and she knew that the meetings were supposed to be posted but she chose not to.

Payne stated she feels conflicted because it is the public official's responsibility, but when they tell their staff to do something and they think it is being done, but it

isn't. Helt stated she felt it should be dismissed.

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission to dismiss the complaints against Elaine Armstrong, Alan Pointer & Terlyn Macduff. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

### **City of St. Helens**

Recommendation: Move to Investigate Possible Violations of ORS 192.660(4)

Investigator: Silas Patterson

Executive Session Item 28, Jennifer Massey – 26-341XSP

Executive Session Item 32, Brandon Sundeen – 26-345XSP

Attorney Bob Steringer (representing Jennifer Massey), Jennifer Massey, and Brandon Sundeen were present via Teams.

Patterson summarized the cases as it appears the City of St. Helens prevented media access, Brady Preheim, to executive sessions. It appears that the City may have made the determination of media after convening into executive session.

Thompson asked for clarification on their timeline of determination of media.

Steringer addressed the Commission and stated that it is important to note that he was not media at the first meeting and if the city had to make the conclusion at every meeting as he sought entry at every meeting. So, there is a technical question if they are required to do that over and over again. He asked the Commission to dismiss based that the determination made in August of 2025 was different than any other time. He stated it is clear that the gentleman is not a member of media but a member of the community, that is highly critical of the city council. It is important to note that he is not a traditional reporter. The City Council took their obligations and last stipulated final orders seriously.

Sundeen addressed the Commission and stated that it was his conclusion that Mr. Preheim is not a representative of the media and nothing was presented that has changed that fact. The news station that he bought airtime for has cut their ties with him. He stated that they do not exclude those that qualify for attending as other members of the media do attend their executive sessions and Mr. Preheim does not meet those qualifications.

Givens asked what criteria the Council uses to determine a member of the media (directed at Mr. Steringer). Steringer stated that the City adopted a policy after their interaction with the Commission which may be a part of the Commission's packet and that the City Council took the criteria that was explicitly stated in the AG's opinion and referenced three other factors that were highlighted in letter that he sent to the Commission on August 7, 2026. The City did not create an exclusive list of factors, and it is not an invalid policy.

Helt asked about the 30-day requirement in the City's policy. Steringer stated the City was looking for the ability to have enough time to review the information provided to make the determination if they were a member of the media. Helt asked how much notice the City gives the public for meetings. Steringer stated he believes about a week advance notice. He stated without giving legal advice to the City that it could be potentially bad for the City if they declined access to an executive session solely on the fact that they did not submit the information without 30 days' notice when the meeting was not provided with 30 days' notice. He stated that this is not the case with Mr. Preheim.

Helt stated she is aware that the local newspaper has access to the meeting but does the local editorial board have access. Steringer stated that he is not aware of the local editorial board requesting access to the executive sessions. Helt

stated that she finds it particularly troubling that only fact reporting news outlets are permitted access, not editorial boards, and the 30-day requirement when meetings are only noticed within 7 days. She stated that she does not agree with the current definitions of media.

Thompson stated that it appears that this gentleman purchased airtime on the radio. His business purchases airtime on the radio but that does not make him a member of the media. He stated that he does not feel that the status does not need to be determined every single meeting unless something that has changed which it appears that it has not.

Givens stated that so many of the public bodies recognize certain news media being involved with public government which are recognized once a year and he has questions about someone trying to jump in.

Payne stated that she has concerns about an opinion media and fact media in the City's policy as it would exclude a large area of media that should have access to executive sessions. She said she is not saying that City doesn't have a good policy otherwise, but she is concerned about that line being made. There are just a few things that concern her, which is why she thinks it should move to investigation.

Steringer stated that he provided the detail that the complainant consistently offered public testimony at City Council meetings, he just felt it was helpful historical context for the Commission. With regards to the factual reporting, it is simply listed as an accurate factor and not decisive and he would not describe it as a non-qualifying factor, just something to consider.

Thompson stated that he felt that he would be willing to put forth a motion to

dismiss and ask for a letter of advice be sent.

Myers stated that the Mayor, Fenstermaker, and herself had a conversation about defining media factors and the AG opinion. She stated that the Commission cannot use other policies or factors outside of the AG opinion to define media and to exclude media. She pointed out the different factors that the City added such as excluding media if they disclosed information and conflict of interest disclosures. She advised that media are not under Ethics Law and can't be held out of meetings for disclosing information.

Thompson stated that he would be interested in an updated opinion from the Attorney General's office as media has changed.

Executive Session Item 28, Jennifer Massey – 26-341XSP

Commissioner McAuley moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Jennifer Massey may have violated ORS 192.660(4) and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, nay; Metler, nay; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, nay; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 6-2.

Executive Session Item 32, Brandon Sundeen – 26-345XSP

Commissioner McAuley moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Brandon Sundeen may have violated ORS 192.660(4) and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, nay; Metler, nay; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, nay; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 6-2.

### **City of St. Helens**

Recommendation: Move to Investigate Possible Violations of ORS 192.660(4)

Investigator: Silas Patterson

Executive Session Item 29, Jessica Chilton – 26-342XSP

Executive Session Item 30, Mark Gunderson – 26-343XSP

Executive Session Item 31, Russell Hubbard – 26-344XSP

Respondents were not present. Same fact pattern as above.

Executive Session Item 29, Jessica Chilton – 26-342XSP

Commissioner McAuley moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Jessica Chilton may have violated ORS 192.660(4) and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, nay; Metler, nay; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, nay; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 6-2.

Executive Session Item 30, Mark Gunderson – 26-343XSP

Commissioner McAuley moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Mark Gunderson may have violated ORS 192.660(4) and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, nay; Metler, nay; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, nay; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 6-2.

Executive Session Item 31, Russell Hubbard – 26-344XSP

Commissioner McAuley moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Russell Hubbard may have violated ORS 192.660(4) and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, nay; Metler, nay; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, nay; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 6-2.

**Prineville Lake Acres Special Road District**

Recommendation: Move to Investigate Possible Violations of ORS 192.640(1), ORS 192.670(3), ORS 192.705(2), OAR 199-050-0040 and OAR 199-050-0070

Investigator: Daniel Pacheco

Executive Session Item 39, Debra Kowalski – 26-364PDP

Executive Session Item 40, David Chamberlain – 26-366PDP

Respondents were not present. Pacheco addressed the Commission and summarized the recommendations to move the cases to investigation. It appears the Board violated Public Meetings Law when they did not notice the meeting contents, location, who to contact for ADA accommodations, or virtual access for two different meetings.

Executive Session Item 39, Debra Kowalski – 26-364PDP

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Debra Kowalski may have violated ORS 192.640(1), ORS 192.670(3), ORS 192.705(2), OAR 199-050-0040 and OAR 199-050-0070 and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, absent; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 7-0.

Executive Session Item 40, David Chamberlain – 26-366PDP

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that David Chamberlain may have violated ORS 192.640(1), ORS 192.670(3), ORS 192.705(2), OAR 199-050-0040 and OAR 199-050-0070 and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, absent; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 7-0.

**Prineville Lake Acres Special Road District**

Recommendation: Move to Dismiss

Investigator: Daniel Pacheco

Executive Session Item 41, Mary Schnetzky – 26-367PDP

Respondent was not present. Pacheco summarized the dismissal as the respondent was not a member of the board at the time of the alleged violations.

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission to dismiss the case against Mary Schnetzky. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, abstain; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye.

Motion passed. 7-0, 1 abstention.

Commissioner Burke abstained due to disconnection during the summary of the case by Investigator Pacheco.

### **Alfalfa Fire District**

Recommendation: Move to Investigate Possible Violations of ORS 192.640(1), OAR 199-050-0040(3), OAR 199-050-0040(4), and OAR 199-050-0070(3)

Investigator: Josh Sullivan

Executive Session Item 33, Nathan Starr – 26-355PJS

Executive Session Item 34, Mark Laucks – 26-356PJS

Executive Session Item 35, Carolyn Chase – 26-357PJS

Executive Session Item 36, Dustin Piggott – 26-358PJS

Executive Session Item 37, David Pike – 26-359PJS

Executive Session Item 38, Beth Weise – 26-361PJS

Nathan Starr was present via telephone. Sullivan summarized the recommendation. It appears the board may have violated PML as they failed to provide timely noticed for some of their meetings, include information on how to request an interpreter or other communication aids, and post the grievance process on their website.

Starr addressed the Commission and stated that once they received a grievance from Alderman, they immediately changed their procedures and addressed Alderman's concerns. He stated that Alderman wanted correspondence sent to his personal email and has so many complaints and lawsuits going that he frequently posts the wrong names on his own website. He stated Alderman is misrepresenting the truth and is leading the ethics commission to believe they're not in compliance, which he feels they are. Starr stated he quit, is no longer on the board and no longer has any influence with the board.

Thompson asked if the staff takes into account that the issues Alderman claimed have now been resolved. Sullivan stated that they would take things into consideration and that some of the issues are from 2025 so they may not be able to be corrected. Sullivan state it is likely they would receive a letter of education at most. Myers stated the corrective action is a part of the matrix, including receiving legal advice.

Payne asked if the issues can be resolved, and if the case could be dismissed if the issues are resolved, then why wouldn't a public body correct the issues once they receive a grievance? Starr stated that they have corrected all of the issues that Alderman have complained about, using a detailed agenda as an example. He stated that he believes that Alderman leaves out pertinent information and uses false pretenses when he files a complaint which is why things get to this point.

Thompson stated it looks like it would be nice to have all the grievances and the responses and then move forward to investigate as that would be a good way to get that information.

Executive Session Item 33, Nathan Starr – 26-355PJS

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial,

objective basis for believing that Nathan Starr may have violated ORS 192.640(1), OAR 199-050-0040(3), OAR 199-050-0040(4), and OAR 199-050-0070(3) and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

Executive Session Item 34, Mark Laucks – 26-356PJS

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Mark Laucks may have violated ORS 192.640(1), OAR 199-050-0040(3), OAR 199-050-0040(4), and OAR 199-050-0070(3) and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

Executive Session Item 35, Carolyn Chase – 26-357PJS

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Carolyn Chase may have violated ORS 192.640(1), OAR 199-050-0040(3), OAR 199-050-0040(4), and OAR 199-050-0070(3) and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

Executive Session Item 36, Dustin Piggott – 26-358PJS

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Dustin Piggott may have violated ORS 192.640(1), OAR 199-050-0040(3), OAR 199-050-0040(4), and OAR 199-050-0070(3) and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

Executive Session Item 37, David Pike – 26-359PJS

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that David Pike may have violated ORS 192.640(1), OAR 199-050-0040(3), OAR 199-050-0040(4), and OAR 199-050-0070(3) and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

Executive Session Item 38, Beth Weise – 26-361PJS

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission find there is a substantial, objective basis for believing that Beth Weise may have violated ORS 192.640(1), OAR 199-050-0040(3), OAR 199-050-0040(4), and OAR 199-050-0070(3) and that the Commission should investigate accordingly. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

**City of Portland**

Recommendation: Move to Dismiss

Investigator: Casey Fenstermaker

Executive Session Item 42, Mitch Green – 26-381PCF

Executive Session Item 43, Sameer Kanal – 26-382PCF

Executive Session Item 44, Tiffany Koyama Lane – 26-383PCF

The respondents were not present. Fenstermaker summarized the recommendation to move to investigation. She explained that the respondents may have violated Public Meetings Law when they formed a quorum and discussed matters that may come before the City Council. The respondents addressed the matters in a public meeting and took matters to resolve in the future.

Helt stated that she is frustrated that the councilors are referring to themselves as the Peacock Caucus and have been issued a letter of education. She feels the education was not taken seriously. Payne explained to Helt they have not received a letter of education and the issue was dismissed. Pacheco explained that with the previous complaint, it had moved to the investigation but had found there was no violation and had been dismissed. Helt stated she stands correct.

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission to dismiss the complaints against Mitch Green, Sameer Kanal, and Tiffany Koyama Lane. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

(FILE 3)

### **Own Motion Preliminary Reviews**

Payne reminded Media that they are not allowed to share the details of the Own Motion Preliminary Reviews, and the video and audio recordings will not be posted on OGE's website.

Executive Session Item 45, Possible Own Motion Preliminary Review, re: ORS 244

Myers explained the possible own motion recommendation.

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission conduct a preliminary review to determine if there is cause to investigate whether the public official referenced in executive session agenda item 45 has violated Oregon Government Ethics Law.

Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

(FILE 4)

Executive Session Item 46, Possible Own Motion Preliminary Review, re: ORS 244

Myers explained the possible own motion recommendation.

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission conduct a preliminary review to determine if there is cause to investigate whether the public official referenced in executive session agenda item 45 has violated Oregon Government Ethics Law.

Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

(FILE 5)

Reconvene Regular Open Session

The Commission adjourned the Executive Session at 2:31 p.m.

The Commission recessed from 2:31 p.m. to 2:43 p.m.

Payne recused herself from the Consent Calendar as she works with the ACLU, she did not have an official conflict of interest but chose to recuse for transparency.

Filing Penalty Waivers – Consent Calendar

Lobbyist Penalty Waivers

Public Session Item 5, Sandy Chung – ACLU of Oregon

Public Session Item 6, Lauritzen – Oregon Walks

Lobbyist Client Penalty Waivers

## Public Session Item 7, Oregon Walks

### Statement of Economic Interest Penalty Waivers

Public Session Item 8, Ross – Primary Candidate State Representative

Public Session Item 9, Amie Gulden – Ukiah School District

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission approve the filing penalty waivers as presented on the Consent Calendar. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, abstain. Motion passed. 7-0, 1 abstention.

### Filing Penalty Reductions

#### Lobbyist Penalty Reductions

Public Session Item 10 – Item removed from the agenda.

Public Session Item 11 – Item removed from the agenda.

#### Lobbyist Client Penalty Reductions

Public Session Item 12 – Item removed from the agenda.

Public Session Item 13 – Item removed from the agenda.

### Statement of Economic Interest Penalty Reductions - None

### Stipulated Final Orders – Consent Calendar

Public Session Item 14, Casey Miller – 25-412PCF, Lincoln County

Public Session Item 15, Walter Chuck – 25-424PCF, Lincoln County

Public Session Item 16, Suzanne Kunse – 26-194LCF, Lobbyist

Public Session Item 17, Jason Williams – 26-207LCF, Lobbyist

Public Session Item 18, Nicole Mann – 26-252LCF, Lobbyist

Public Session Item 19, Amanda Dalton – 26-291LDP, Lobbyist

Public Session Item 20, Branden Pursinger – 26-370LCF, Lobbyist

Public Session Item 20A, Matt Scarfo – 25-708ECF, Union County

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission approve the proposed stipulated final orders presented on the Consent Calendar as the final orders in those cases and the chairperson be authorized to sign them as such. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, aye; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 8-0.

Commissioner Janci left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

### Stipulated Final Orders

Givens stated that he had a prior working relationship with Representative Smith for the record but does not have a conflict of interest and is not recusing himself.

Helt stated that she served with Representative Smith previously at the Legislature but does not have a conflict of interest and is not recusing herself.

Public Session Item 21, Greg Smith – 25-160ECF and 25-429ECF – Columbia Development Authority (CDA)

Recommendation: \$12,000

Investigator: Casey Fenstermaker

Respondent was not present. Fenstermaker summarized the Stipulated Final Order and the two cases. She explained that Smith was the director of the Columbia Development Authority (CDA) and was required to declare a conflict of interest whenever one arose. She also explained that public officials are

prohibited from using their position for financial gain or avoidance of financial detriment.

Fenstermaker summarized a grant application process, salary increases and back pay that Smith used to financially benefit himself. Fenstermaker summarized when Smith signed off timecards, including his own that included vacation time. The CDA did not have an official vacation time policy. Smith contended that he fell under the Morrow County policy. Smith agreed to settle without admitting any intentional violations while accepting a penalty based on the violations through the penalty matrix.

Thompson asked if his salary had been returned. Fenstermaker stated that at the time of negotiations, no.

Givens asked about the penalty matrix. Fenstermaker stated that as with any stipulated final order, there are some negotiations but that is based off the number of violations and the penalty matrix.

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission approve the proposed stipulated final order as the final order in this case and the chairperson be authorized to sign it as such. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, aye; Metler, aye; Janci, absent; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 7-0.

Default Final Orders - None.

Reports of Investigations - None.

Commission Advisory Opinions

Public Session Item 22, James Ofsink – 26-533A – re: request for Commission Advisory Opinion

Myers explained that they received a request for a Commission Advisory Opinion for polling votes. Myers stated that the Commission's opinions are to vote to deny the request or to vote to extend the request by 60 days. Myers stated that she would recommend to vote to deny the request as Public Meetings Law applies to the public body, not the lobbyist.

Payne asked if they could give the opinion stating it does not apply to the lobbyist.

Helt stated that she thinks the Commission should issue the opinion stating that the laws do not apply to the lobbyist as issuing opinions are part of the role. Helt asked if a denial letter has the same stature as an Advisory Opinion. Myers stated that the Commission could direct her to issue a Staff Advisory Opinion or a letter of advice stating that Public Meetings Law does not apply to the lobbyist and explain the risk to the public body.

Givens stated that he fears that the letter gives the lobbyist license to do more. Payne asked if they needed two motions if they wanted Myers to issue a Staff Advisory Opinion and not issue a Commission Advisory Opinion. Myers stated they do not need two motions, they only needed one motion to deny the Commission Advisory Opinion.

Commissioner Thompson moved the Commission deny the request for a Commission Advisory Request. Roll call was taken as follows: Givens, aye; Helt, nay; Metler, aye; Janci, absent; Burke, aye; McAuley, aye; Thompson, aye; Payne, aye. Motion passed. 6-1.

Helt confirmed with Myers that she would be issuing a Staff Advisory Opinion.

## Correspondence Received/Responses

*No Action – For Review Only*

Staff Advisory Opinions - None.

#### Staff Advice – Informational Letters

Public Session Item 23, Rep. April Dobson – 26-464I – Oregon Legislative Assembly

Public Session Item 24, Julia McFadden – 26-474I – City of Phoenix

Public Session Item 25, Sen. Janeen Sollman – 26-479I – Oregon Legislative Assembly

Public Session Item 26, Erika Thessen – 26-498I – Eugene School District 4J

Public Meetings Law Training Approval Letters - None.

#### Other Correspondence

Public Session Item 27, Correspondence with Dann Cutter, City of Waldport, re: case adjudication process

Fenstermaker summarized the correspondence with the City of Waldport, concerning a preliminary review report that was presented on July 10, 2026, regarding Jan Hansen. The correspondence does not allege any violations of ORS 244 that the Commission enforces. Fenstermaker addressed the ways in which staff attempted to contact Jan Hansen, including using the DMV, contacting the Lincoln County Assessor, and contacting the City directly.

Givens asked if the person even exists. Fenstermaker advised that a person using that name exists as they are on a committee. She stated that sometimes it is hard to get a hold of respondents. Usually, city managers and recorders cooperate with OGEC staff. This was an anomaly. The Commission opted to not act.

## Miscellaneous Items

### *Facilitated by Staff*

#### Public Session Item 28, Trainers' Report

Curriculum & Training Coordinator Stephanie Heffner summarized the trainers' activities since the last meeting, including the posting of a Public Meetings Law training that is available to the Commissioners.

#### Public Session Item 29, Executive Director's Report

Myers has summarized the agency's activities since the last meeting. She advised a new Administrative Specialist has been hired and will be introduced at the next meeting. She advised the legislative workgroup is ongoing. The sessions are recorded and posted online.

Helt requested that OGEC do trainings with the associations that OGEC met with today. Helt asked for numbers regarding cases and trainings, so that the trainings can be focused on those boards and cities, etc. She asked when the data she had requested for last meeting would be available. Myers advised that the staff would put the data together for her.

Payne asked if the Commissioners would like the work sessions with the associations to be a special meeting or included as a part of a regular meeting. Straw poll indicated a special meeting would be preferred.

The Commission adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:13 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Commission meeting will be September 11, 2026, at 3218 Pringle Road SE, Suite 220, Large Conference Room, Floor 2, Salem, Oregon 97302.

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**Re: OGEC Client/Employer Account Update**

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**From** Shawn Daley <sdaley@georgefox.edu>

**Date** Mon 7/20/2026 9:41 AM

**To** HUNTER David \* OGEC <David.HUNTER@ogec.oregon.gov>; Mail \* OGEC <mail@ogec.oregon.gov>

You don't often get email from sdaley@georgefox.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Greetings,

I was traveling overseas when we engaged a lobbyist again at George Fox University. There was a leftover fee from our previous engagement with a lobbyist, and David, who has apparently retired, advised us to send a note explaining what had happened in the pursuit of having what was a minor fine potentially waived.

I was not responsible for the lobbyist at that time, as I was not at the institution.

This was the response that Mr. Hunter suggested:

*Dear Mr. Hunter,*

*I am writing to respectfully request a waiver of the penalty associated with our 2020 Q4 filing, which was submitted one day past the deadline.*

*At that time, our administrative team was navigating significant disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Simultaneously, our organization was undergoing a transition as our lobbyist was in the process of concluding her contract with George Fox. These combined challenges led to an inadvertent oversight in the filing timeline.*

*Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.*

*Best regards,  
Shawn Daley  
George Fox University*

Thank you in advance for your consideration. I will keep ahead of the process now that I have taken over this responsibility for George Fox.

On Mon, Jun 15, 2026 at 1:01 PM HUNTER David \* OGEC <[David.HUNTER@ogec.oregon.gov](mailto:David.HUNTER@ogec.oregon.gov)> wrote:

Hi Shawn,

I received information from Lobbyist Montana Lewellen at Capitol Strategies who informed me that you are now the new Client account manager.

I will update the account with your name and email address and also need a phone number. I will notify Montana that she can submit a registration request.

After I update the account I will send you an informational email and password reset link for access to the account, as you will need to accept the registration request within a 10 day window.

You can contact me anytime you have questions or need assistance.

Best Regards,

David R Hunter

Oregon Government Ethics Commission

3218 Pringle Rd SE #220

Salem OR 97302

Direct 503-378-2170

I am retiring from State Service effective July 1, 2026

Please redirect your email to [mail@ogec.oregon.gov](mailto:mail@ogec.oregon.gov) or call the main number at 503-378-5105

Please complete our Survey: <https://www.oregon.gov/ogec/about-us/Pages/Customer-Satisfaction.aspx>

**Past Violations: None**

**Current Penalties: 2020 Q4, \$10**

**Recommendation: 1st violation - Letter of Education**

*SVM*

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Re: OR Gov. Ethics Commission Re Your Late Filing Penalty

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**From** Charlie Ross <XXXXXXXXX@gmail.com>

**Date** Tue 6/30/2026 9:19 PM

**To** Mail \* OGECEC <Mail@ogec.oregon.gov>

Hello,

I would like to request a waiver and the money order should be returned to my home address at [REDACTED]

Thank you and I look forward to completing the next step, if you'd be able to tell me what they are with regards to applying for and obtaining a waiver.

Regards,  
Charles Ross

On Mon, Jun 29, 2026 at 2:35 PM Mail \* OGECEC <[Mail@ogec.oregon.gov](mailto:Mail@ogec.oregon.gov)> wrote:

Hello Charles,

We received your Money Order 19-840536571 in the amount of \$111.00. Unfortunately, this amount is not correct as the actual amount owed on your account, as shown in the attached screenshot, is \$110.00.

We are unable to process this payment and are seeking to return this payment to you for correction.

We also would like to remind you, that you are able to request a penalty waiver from the Commission by replying to this email, and asking for the Commission to reduce or waive your balance.

Please let us know if you would like to remit a new payment or if you would like to request a waiver, and where we can return your incorrect money order.

**Oregon Government Ethics Commission**

3218 Pringle Road SE, Suite 220

Salem, OR 97302-1544

☎ 503-378-5105

Past Violations: None

Current Penalties: 2026 SEI, \$110

Recommendation: 1st violation *SVM*  
Letter of Education

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**Re: Receipt of Late Quarterly Report**

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**From** Cameron Herrington <XXXXXXXXXXXX@gmail.com>

**Date** Sun 7/19/2026 9:36 AM

**To** PUTNAM Molly M \* OGEC <Molly.M.Putnam@ogec.oregon.gov>; Mail \* OGEC <Mail@ogec.oregon.gov>

Dear Oregon Government Ethics Commission,

Please waive my \$10.00 penalty. I have not been employed as a lobbyist since leaving my prior job in March 2026. My lobbyist registration was tied to that employment, and all communication related to my registration -- including the three emails notifying me of the Q2 reporting requirement -- were sent to an email address owned by my former employer, to which I have no access.

I spoke with a staff member at the Oregon Government Ethics Commission in April 2026, at which point I was assured that my account was closed and that I had no further obligations. I was also told that my email address would be updated in the Commission's records, as I do not have access to the account that was previously used. Unfortunately, my email address was not updated. As a result, I have been charged a \$10.00 penalty that I had zero chance to avoid, because I was under the impression that my account had been closed, and I did not receive any communication alerting me to the requirement that I file a report for Q2.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,  
Cameron Herrington

On Thu, Jul 16, 2026 at 4:23 PM PUTNAM Molly M \* OGEC <[Molly.M.PUTNAM@ogec.oregon.gov](mailto:Molly.M.PUTNAM@ogec.oregon.gov)> wrote:

Dear Cameron Herrington:

Thank you for filing your quarterly report as required. You were registered with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission in the role of Lobbyist. You were notified on 07/01/2026 that the reporting window for the 2026 Q2 reporting period was open and you were reminded again on 07/10/2026 and 07/15/2026.

Your late filing was received on 07/16/2026. Accordingly, you have accrued a penalty of \$10.00. Please remit the full amount by check or money order to the Oregon Government Ethics Commission at the above address by 08/15/2026.

If you choose, you may submit a letter of explanation to the Commission regarding the late filing. Your correspondence will be presented to the Commission for their review at the next Commission meeting. The Commission may elect at that time to waive some, all, or none of the penalty based upon your explanation and your prior filing history. You will be notified of what action the Commission has taken following the meeting. If you do submit a letter, please send it by mail to the address below, by fax to 503-373-1456, or by email to [mail@ogec.oregon.gov](mailto:mail@ogec.oregon.gov).

Please remember to visit the Electronic Filing System at <https://apps.oregon.gov/OGEC/EFS/Home/SignIn> to update our profile if you have changes to your email address or other personal information. If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact the Oregon Government Ethics Commission office at 503-378-5105 or by email at [mail@ogec.oregon.gov](mailto:mail@ogec.oregon.gov).

Thank you,

**Molly Putnam**

Accountability Coordinator

Oregon Government Ethics Commission

◇ 503-378-5105

✉ [molly.m.putnam@ogec.oregon.gov](mailto:molly.m.putnam@ogec.oregon.gov)

🖱 <https://www.oregon.gov/ogec>

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**Past Violations: 2026, Q1 \$80.00 penalty reduced to \$20.00 at 5/8 Commission Mtg**

**Current Penalties: 2026, Q2 \$10.00**

**Recommendation: 3rd violation - already below minimum - no reduction = \$10**

*SVM*

---

**Request a waiver - lobbyist**

---

**From** Dana Turell <dana@turellgroup.com>

**Date** Fri 7/17/2026 4:35 PM

**To** Mail \* OGE <Mail@ogec.oregon.gov>

You don't often get email from dana@turellgroup.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Oregon Government Ethics Commission,

I humbly request a waiver of my penalty fees. I didn't realize I had an active account requiring a report. Once I heard from Molly, I filed immediately. I will monitor this in the future and file on time.

Thank you for considering my request.

On Fri, Jul 17, 2026 at 4:23 PM Mail \* OGE <[Mail@ogec.oregon.gov](mailto:Mail@ogec.oregon.gov)> wrote:

Hello Dana,

Thank you for filing your report. Upon reviewing your accounts, there are \$40 total in penalties between the Lobbyist account and the Client Lobbyist account.

At this time, the Commission is not able to accept electronic payments. To pay your penalties please sent a check or money order, with your name or organization name clearly printed on the payment method, to the address below.

You have the option to petition the Commission to waive the penalties. Simply reply to this email, one email for each account, addressed to the Commission, explaining the reason the reports were late, and requesting a waiver or reduction of penalties.

**Oregon Government Ethics Commission**

3218 Pringle Road SE, Suite 220

Salem, OR 97302-1544

☎ 503-378-5105

🖱 <https://www.oregon.gov/ogec>

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**[Sign up for FREE ethics training!](#)**

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**From:** Dana Turell <[dana@turellgroup.com](mailto:dana@turellgroup.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, July 17, 2026 11:57 AM

**To:** Mail \* OGE <[mail@ogec.oregon.gov](mailto:mail@ogec.oregon.gov)>

**Subject:** Explanation for late filing

[You don't often get email from [dana@turellgroup.com](mailto:dana@turellgroup.com). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Oregon Government Ethics Commission,

I apologize for not filing my lobbying report on time. I thought I didn't need to because my status is inactive. I am new to this and don't understand the process.

If you deem that I should pay my \$20 penalty, I am willing. Just let me know how to pay it.

Thank you.

-----

Dana Turell  
Turell Group  
541.525.2207

### **Lobbyist Penalties**

**Past Violations: 2026 Q1, Letter of Ed issued 5/8/26 Mtg.**

**Current Penalties: 2026 Q2, \$20.00**

**Recommendation: 2nd violation - reduction to \$10**

*SVM*

### **Client Penalties**

**Past Violations: 2026 Q1, Letter of Ed issued 5/8/26 Mtg.**

**Current Penalties: 2026 Q2, \$20.00**

**Recommendation: 2nd violation - reduction to \$10**

*SVM*

---

**Re: Appeal of June 11, 2026 assessment of fine for late filing**

---

**From** FOSTER Jessica \* OGE <Jessica.FOSTER@ogec.oregon.gov>  
on behalf of  
Mail \* OGE <Mail@ogec.oregon.gov>  
**Date** Tue 7/28/2026 2:10 PM  
**To** Maureen McCormach <rm.mcjones@gmail.com>

Hello,

Thank you for submitting a Penalty Waiver Request.

We will present your request to the Commission at their next meeting scheduled August 14, 2026 and notify you of their decision via the email on file in your account.

If you need assistance updating your contact information, please reach out.

### **Oregon Government Ethics Commission**

3218 Pringle Road SE, Suite 220

Salem, OR 97302-1544

☎ 503-378-5105

🖱 <https://www.oregon.gov/ogec>

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---

**From:** Maureen McCormach <rm.mcjones@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 28, 2026 1:52 PM  
**To:** Mail \* OGE <mail@ogec.oregon.gov>  
**Subject:** Appeal of June 11, 2026 assessment of fine for late filing

You don't often get email from rm.mcjones@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am requesting that the fine of \$750 assessed for late filing of my annual statement be reduced or cancelled. I apologize for not filing on time. I am sure I received the notice to file by email but did not notice it due to the sheer volume of emails I receive every day. That vast majority of my mail is junk mail which I have not figured out how to stop but is burdensome to wade through. As a retired person I have no staff to assist with it. I have no objection to filing the annual statement. My late filing was entirely inadvertent.

Thank you for your courtesy and attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

**Past Violations: 2017 SEI, \$30 - Waived - Letter of Education**

**Current Penalties: 2026 SEI, \$710**

*SVM*

**Recommendation: 2nd violation - reduction to \$70.**

**BEFORE THE OREGON  
GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

**David Loveall**

**STIPULATED FINAL ORDER**

Case No.: **26-025EJS**

Date: **September 11, 2026**

---

**1. Purpose:**

The purpose of this stipulated final order is to release, settle and compromise any and all claims, allegations, and charges that have been asserted by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (Commission) in the above-referenced case against David Loveall.

**2. Jurisdiction:**

At all material times, David Loveall was a Commissioner on the Board of County Commissioners (Board) for Lane County (County). As such, David Loveall was a public official subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission pursuant to ORS Chapter 244.

**3. Applicable Law:**

- A. ORS 244.040(1) prohibits a public official from using or attempting to use their official position or office to obtain a financial gain or avoid a financial detriment for themselves, their relatives or household members, or any business with which they or their relatives or household members are associated, if the financial gain or avoidance of financial detriment would not otherwise be available but for the public official's holding their official position or office.
- B. ORS 244.020(2) defines "business" as "any corporation, partnership, proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, organization, self-

employed individual and any other legal entity operated for economic gain but excluding any income-producing not-for-profit corporation that is tax exempt under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code with which a public official or a relative or member of the household of the public official is associated only as a member or board director or in a nonremunerative capacity.”

C. ORS 244.020(3) defines a “business with which a person is associated” as including any private business or closely held corporation of which the person or their relative is a director, officer, owner, employee, or agent, or one in which the person or their relative currently owns or has owned within the preceding year, stock, another form of equity interest, stock options or debt instruments worth \$1,000 or more, or for those public officials required to file a Statement of Economic Interest, any business the public official lists as a source of income on their SEI.

D. ORS 244.050(2) directs public officials who are required to file annual Statements of Economic Interest (SEIs) to do so by April 15th of each year, and those SEIs must include the information required under ORS 244.060, 244.070 and 244.090.

E. ORS 244.060 includes the following required disclosures:

(1) The names of all positions as officer of a business and business directorships held by the public official \* \* \* during the preceding calendar year, and the principal address and a brief description of each business.

\* \* \* \* \*

(8) The name, principal address and brief description of each source of income exceeding an aggregate amount of \$1,000, whether or not taxable, received by the public official \* \* \* [or their household member] during the preceding calendar year, if the source of that income is derived from an individual or business that has a legislative or administrative interest or that has been doing business, does business or could reasonably be expected to

do business with the governmental agency of which the public official holds \*  
\* \* an official position or over which the public official exercises \* \* \* any  
authority.

- F. A legislative or administrative interest is defined in ORS 244.020(10) as an economic interest, distinct from that of the general public, in the public official's decisions or votes.

#### **4. Stipulated Facts:**

- A. David Loveall has served as a County Commissioner since January, 2023.
- B. At all relevant times, David Loveall had an ownership interest in Masaka Properties LLC, a property development business based in Springfield, Oregon. Masaka Properties LLC is also listed as a source of income on David Loveall's 2023-2025 SEIs. Therefore, Masaka Properties LLC is a business with which David Loveall is associated.
- C. On January 5, 2026, David Loveall delivered an address for Lane County's annual State of the County event. David Loveall shared updates and prior-year accomplishments of various County departments. During his address, David Loveall stated that Masaka Properties LLC finished a development project that brought housing units, jobs, and commercial spaces to downtown Springfield. David Loveall also mentioned several other County projects involving businesses with which he is not associated. The video recording and script of the State of the County Address does not appear to indicate that David Loveall used his official position to financially benefit Masaka Properties LLC, nor does it appear that David Loveall violated ORS 244.040(1) by using his office to promote Masaka Properties LLC.
- D. David Loveall has an ownership interest in DNL Properties, LLC and Masaka Properties LLC, and, according to the Oregon Secretary of State (SOS) business records, David Loveall is the Manager DNL Properties, LLC and Masaka Properties LLC, and his wife is also a Manager of DNL Properties,

LLC and an Member of Masaka Properties LLC. Despite he and his wife holding these positions, David Loveall did not list either business on Section 1 of his 2024 SEI. Thus, David Loveall violated ORS 244.060(1) by failing to list DNL Properties, LLC and Masaka Properties LLC on Section 1 of his 2024 SEI.

- E. The SOS Business Registry lists David Loveall as the President and Registered Agent for Three Sixteen Ministries, a religious domestic nonprofit corporation. Because Three Sixteen Ministries is not registered as a 501(c) nonprofit corporation, it meets the definition of a “business” under ORS 244.020(2). David Loveall failed to list Three Sixteen Ministries on Section 1 of his 2023 and 2024 SEIs, in violation of ORS 244.060(1).
- F. DNL Properties, LLC and Masaka Properties LLC are both located in and operating within Lane County. The County has jurisdiction over property development matters that could financially impact these businesses. Therefore, DNL Properties, LLC and Masaka Properties LLC have a legislative or administrative interest in David Loveall's decisions and votes as a County Commissioner; however, David Loveall did not report the businesses on Section 7 of his 2023, 2024, or 2025 SEIs. Thus, David Loveall violated ORS 244.060(8).
- G. The results of the Commission investigation, if submitted through exhibits and testimony at a contested case hearing, would not establish a preponderance of evidence in support of a post hearing-hearing order to find that David Loveall violated ORS 244.040(1).
- H. The results of the Commission investigation, if submitted through exhibits and testimony at a contested case hearing, would establish a preponderance of evidence in support of a post-hearing order to find that David Loveall violated ORS 244.060(1) by failing to list DNL Properties, LLC and Masaka Properties LLC on Section 1 of his 2024 SEI, and by failing to list Three Sixteen Ministries on Section 1 of his 2023 and 2024 SEIs, and violated ORS

244.060(8) by failing to list DNL Properties, LLC and Masaka Properties LLC on Section 7 of his 2023, 2024, and 2025 SEIs.

- I. David Loveall contends that he did not willfully or intentionally violate the SEI provisions of the Oregon Government Ethics Law. David Loveall contends that any SEI omissions were unintentional and the same information was listed elsewhere on his SEIs; however, in order to conclude this matter, he has agreed to the terms and conditions in this order.
- J. On August 26, 2026, David Loveall submitted amended SEI reports adding DNL Properties, LLC and Masaka Properties LLC to section 1 of his 2024 SEI, adding Three Sixteen Ministries to Section 1 of his 2023 and 2024 SEIs, and adding DNL Properties, LLC and Masaka Properties LLC to Section 7 of his 2023, 2024, and 2025 SEIs.

#### **5. Terms of Settlement:**

The parties agree as follows:

- A. On April 10, 2026, the Commission considered information in the preliminary review phase of Case No. 26-025EJS and acted to find cause to initiate an investigation of this matter. David Loveall has indicated that he wishes to conclude this matter by agreeing to the terms and conditions in this order without completing the investigative phase.
- B. In lieu of a civil penalty, David Loveall will receive a letter of education, as authorized by ORS 244.350(5), in order to settle and compromise this matter.
- C. The Commission releases, settles and compromises any and all claims, allegations and charges that have been or could be asserted against David Loveall within the scope of the above-referenced case.
- D. David Loveall will initiate no claims, litigation, or other action against the Commission as a result of these proceedings.

## 6. Review by Counsel:

All of the parties hereto acknowledge that this agreement has been entered into by their own free will and with full understanding of the contents herein. Each of the parties further acknowledges that each has had the opportunity to seek the advice of counsel in reviewing and entering this agreement.

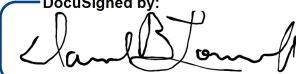
## 7. Effect:

This agreement is subject to the final approval of the Commission. Once approved, this agreement shall be the final disposition of these matters and shall be binding upon all parties.

By signing this agreement, David Loveall agrees to waive his right to a contested case hearing as provided in ORS Chapter 183 and ORS 244.370. This order shall be the final order and all information in the Commission files on this matter shall become part of the record.

By signing this agreement, David Loveall agrees to waive his right to obtain judicial review of this order as provided in ORS 183.482

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have entered into and signed this stipulated final order on the dates set forth below.

DocuSigned by:  
  
EFC989AD2DD7473...

Respondent: David Loveall

August 26, 2026

Date

Shenoa Payne, Chairperson  
Oregon Government Ethics Commission

Date

**BEFORE THE OREGON  
GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

**Pamela Brown**

Case No.:

**26-038EDP**

**STIPULATED FINAL ORDER**

---

**1. Purpose:**

The purpose of this stipulated final order is to release, settle and compromise any and all claims, allegations, and charges that have been asserted by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (Commission) in the above-referenced case against Pamela Brown.

**2. Jurisdiction:**

- A. Pamela Brown is a Member and President of the City of Shaniko (City) City Council (Council). As such, she was a public official, as defined in ORS 244.020(15), and therefore subject to Oregon Government Ethics Law in ORS Chapter 244.
- B. On May 8, 2026, the Commission considered the information in the preliminary review phase of Case No. 26-038EDP and acted to find cause to open an investigation of this matter.

**3. Applicable Law:**

- A. ORS 244.020(10)(a) defines “legislative or administrative interest” to include an economic interest, distinct from that of the general public, in any matter subject to the decision or vote of the public official acting in the public official’s capacity as a public official.

- B. ORS 244.020(11) defines a “member of the household” to mean any person who resides with the public official or candidate.
- C. ORS 244.040(1) prohibits a public official from using or attempting to use their official position or office to obtain a financial gain or avoid a financial detriment for themselves, their relatives or household members, or any business with which they or their relatives or household members are associated, if the financial gain or avoidance of financial detriment would not otherwise be available but for the public official’s holding their official position or office.
- D. ORS 244.060(3) provides that a public official required to file their annual Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) must provide the “names, principal addresses and brief descriptions of the sources of income received during the preceding calendar year by the public official or candidate or a member of the household of the public official or candidate that produce 10 percent or more of the total annual household income.
- E. ORS 244.060(4) further requires that an SEI filer list the “name, principal address and brief description of each source of income exceeding an aggregate amount of \$1,000, whether or not taxable, received by the public official or candidate, or a member of the household of the public official or candidate, during the preceding calendar year, if the source of that income is derived from an individual or business that has a legislative or administrative interest or that has been doing business, does business or could reasonably be expected to do business with the governmental agency of which the public official holds, or the candidate if elected would hold, an official position or over which the public official exercises, or the candidate if elected would exercise, any authority.
- F. A conflict of interest means any action, decision, or recommendation by a person acting in their capacity as a public official, the effect of which would be (actual conflict of interest) or could be (potential conflict of interest) to the

private financial benefit or detriment of the person, their relative, their household member or a business with which they, their relative, or their household member are associated. [ORS 244.020(1) and ORS 244.020(13)].

- G. When met with a conflict of interest, a public official serving on a board or commission, such as Pamela Brown, must make a public announcement of the nature of the conflict of interest. If met with a potential conflict of interest, this announcement must be made prior to taking any action on the matter in the capacity of a public official. If met with an actual conflict of interest, the public official must make the public announcement and then refrain from participating as a public official in any discussion, debate or vote on the matter out of which the actual conflict of interest arises, unless their vote is necessary to meet a minimum vote requirement, in which case the public official may vote but may not participate in any discussion or debate on the matter. [ORS 244.120(2)].
- H. ORS 244.177(1)(a) provides that “[a] public official may not appoint, employ or promote a relative or member of the household to, or discharge, fire or demote a relative or member of the household from, a position with the public body that the public official serves or over which the public official exercises jurisdiction or control, unless the public official complies with the conflict of interest requirements of this chapter.”
- I. ORS 244.177(1)(b) further states that “[a] public official may not participate as a public official in any interview, discussion or debate regarding the appointment, employment or promotion of a relative or member of the household to, or the discharge, firing or demotion of a relative or member of the household from, a position with the public body that the public official serves or over which the public official exercises jurisdiction or control. As used in this paragraph, ‘participate’ does not include serving as a reference, providing a recommendation or performing other ministerial acts that are part of the normal job functions of the public official.”

- J. ORS 244.177(3)(b) prohibits a public official from appointing, employing or promoting a relative to a position as an unpaid member of a governing body of the public body that the public official serves or over which the public official exercises jurisdiction or control.

#### **4. Stipulated Facts:**

##### *Statement of Economic Interest*

- A. Pamela Brown is an employee of Shaniko Gas, LLC (Shaniko Gas), a gas station located in the City..
- B. ORS 244.050(j) requires elected city councilors to file a Statement of Economic Interest (SEI). Because she was elected to the position of City Councilor, Ms. Brown was required to file an SEI by April 15.
- C. On her 2025 SEI, in section 2, she identified the name of the source of income that constitutes 10% or more of the total household income, as “Job Salary” but did not include the name of the source of income in violation of ORS 244.060(3).
- D. Additionally, in section 7 of her 2025 SEI, Ms. Brown did not identify any source of income of \$1,000 or more that has a legislative or administrative interest in any matter subject to the decision or vote of Ms. Brown while acting in her official capacity. However, Shaniko Gas, LLC is a business with a legislative or administrative interest in Ms. Brown’s decisions and votes as a City Councilor. As such, her failure to list Shaniko Gas, LLC in section 7 of her 2025 SEI violated ORS 244.060(8).

##### *Conflicts of Interest*

- E. Ms. Brown is the Executive Director for the Shaniko Music Sanctuary (Music Sanctuary), a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation which provides her with a salary of \$500 a month depending on the Music Sanctuary’s financial standing.

- F. Prior to the November 10<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, Ms. Brown added a discussion item to the meeting agenda in order to hear public testimony regarding the lease of a local City schoolhouse (Shaniko Schoolhouse) to the Music Sanctuary.
- G. At the January 12, 2026 City Council meeting, the Council discussed a proposed lease agreement between the City and the Music Sanctuary regarding the Shaniko Schoolhouse. During the discussions, Ms. Brown provided information on various services provided by the Music Sanctuary. During the vote to approve the lease agreement, she announced that she was going to abstain “despite not having any monetary income.”
- H. Ms. Brown’s actions, decisions and recommendations when: adding the Music Sanctuary lease discussion to the meeting agenda; promoting the Music Sanctuary’s services during a City Council meeting, could have a private financial impact on her. She was required to publicly declare the nature of her conflict of interest during each of those meetings with respect to the Music Sanctuary but failed to do so in violation of ORS 244.120.

#### *Nepotism*

- I. Ms. Brown and Mark Haskett reside together. Because they reside together, Mark Haskett is a member of Ms. Brown’s household as defined in ORS 244.020(11).
- J. At the January 12, 2026 City Council meeting, the Council considered which candidate to appoint to the unpaid position of Mayor. Ms. Brown discussed Mark Haskett as a candidate for Mayor, seconded the motion to appoint Mark Haskett as Mayor, and voted to appoint Mark Haskett as Mayor.
- K. By engaging in the discussions and the vote regarding Mark Haskett’s appointment to the position of Mayor, a member of the City Council, Ms. Brown violated ORS 244.177(3).

### *Prohibited Use of Office*

- L. At two separate City Council meetings, Ms. Brown either added matters regarding the Music Sanctuary to the meeting agenda, or discussed matters regarding the Music Sanctuary during the City Council meeting.
- M. Through those actions, Ms. Brown used or attempted to use her position to obtain a financial gain by increasing the likelihood that the Music Sanctuary would have the financial security and funds to pay her salary. These opportunities were only available to Ms. Brown but for her official position as the Council President and resulted in a violation of ORS 244.040(1).

### **5. Conclusion/Violation**

- A. The actions described in paragraph 4(C) and (D), constitute one violation of ORS 244.060(3) and (8) because she failed to disclose information required pursuant to ORS 244.060(3) and (8) on her 2025 SEI.
- B. The actions described in paragraph 4(G) and (H), constitute one violation of ORS 244.120(2) with one equivalent action because at two separate meetings at which matters related to the Music Sanctuary were discussed, Ms. Brown failed to disclose the nature of her conflict of interest during each of those meetings in violation of ORS 244.120(2).
- C. The actions described in paragraph 4(K), constitute one violation of ORS 244.177(3). Because Mark Haskett is a member of her household, Ms. Brown was prohibited from participating in the interview, discussion or debate regarding the appointment of Mr. Haskett as Mayor. Additionally, prior to the discussions, she was required to publicly declare the nature of her conflict of interest. Consequently, Ms. Brown violated ORS 244.177.
- D. The actions described in paragraph 4(L) and (M) constitute one violation of ORS 244.040(1). But for Ms. Brown's official position on the City Council, she would not have had the same opportunities to obtain or

attempt to obtain a financial gain associated with the Council's consideration and approval of Shaniko Schoolhouse Lease Proposal. Thus, Ms. Brown engaged in a prohibited use of office.

- E. The results of the Commission investigation, if submitted through exhibits and testimony at a contested case hearing, would establish a preponderance of evidence in support of a post-hearing order to find one violation of ORS 244.040(1), one violation of ORS 244.060(3) and (8), one violation of ORS 244.120(2) with one equivalent action, one violation of ORS 244.177(1)(a) and (b) and one violation of ORS 244.177(3).

#### **6. Terms of Settlement:**

The parties agree as follows:

- A. Pamela Brown has indicated that she wishes to conclude this matter by agreeing to the terms and conditions in this stipulated final order without completing the investigation phase.
- B. In lieu of a civil penalty, Pamela Brown will receive a letter of education, as authorized by ORS 244.350(5), in order to settle and compromise this matter.
- C. The Commission releases, settles and compromises any and all claims, allegations and charges that have been or could be asserted against Pamela Brown within the scope of the above-referenced case.
- D. Pamela Brown will initiate no claims, litigation, or other action against the Commission as a result of these proceedings.

#### **7. Review by Counsel:**

All of the parties hereto acknowledge that this agreement has been entered into by their own free will and with full understanding of the contents herein. Each of the parties further acknowledges that each has had the opportunity to seek the

advice of counsel in reviewing and entering this agreement.

**8. Effect:**

This agreement is subject to the final approval of the Commission. Once approved, this agreement shall be the final disposition of these matters and shall be binding upon all parties.

By signing this agreement, Pamela Brown agrees to waive her right to a contested case hearing as provided in ORS Chapter 183 and ORS 244.370. This order shall be the final order and all information in the Commission files on this matter shall become part of the record.

By signing this agreement, Pamela Brown agrees to waive her right to obtain judicial review of this order as provided in ORS 183.482

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have entered into and signed this stipulated final order on the dates set forth below.

DocuSigned by:  
  
37C87FA4DBF34C9...

Respondent: Pamela Brown

August 28, 2026

Date

Shenoa Payne, Chairperson  
Oregon Government Ethics Commission

Date

**BEFORE THE OREGON  
GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

**Michael Papin**

Case No.: **25-525PCF**

**STIPULATED FINAL ORDER**

---

**1. Purpose:**

The purpose of this stipulated final order is to release, settle and compromise any and all claims, allegations, and charges that have been asserted by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (Commission) in the above-referenced case against Michael Papin.

**2. Jurisdiction:**

- A. Michael Papin is a Member of the Ochoco West Water and Sanitation Authority (OWWSA) Board of Directors (Board). As such, they are a public official, as defined in ORS 244.020(15), and therefore subject to Oregon Public Meetings Ethics Law found in ORS Chapter 192.
- B. On December 12, 2025, the Commission considered information in the preliminary review phase of Case No. 25-525PCF and acted to find cause to open an investigation of this matter.

**3. Applicable Law:**

- A. ORS 244.020(10)(a) defines “legislative or administrative interest” to include an economic interest, distinct from that of the general public, in any matter subject to the decision or vote of the public official acting in the public official’s capacity as a public official. ORS 192.640(1) explains that “[t]he governing body of a public body shall provide for and give public notice, reasonably calculated to give actual notice to

- interested persons including news media which have requested notice, of the time and place for holding regular meetings. The notice shall also include a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting, but this requirement shall not limit the ability of a governing body to consider additional subjects.”
- B. ORS 192.640(3) states that “[n]o special meeting shall be held without at least 24 hours’ notice to the members of the governing body, the news media which have requested notice and the general public. In case of an actual emergency, a meeting may be held upon such notice as is appropriate to the circumstances, but the minutes for such a meeting shall describe the emergency justifying less than 24 hours’ notice.”
- C. ORS 192.660(2)(a) allows the governing body of a public body to hold an executive session “[t]o consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.”
- D. ORS 192.670(3)(a) requires that meetings of a governing body provide the public, to the extent reasonably possible, “[a]ccess and attend the meeting by telephone, video or other electronic or virtual means.”
- E. OAR 199-040-0020(3) prohibits the discussion or negotiation of compensation, including salaries and benefit, during an executive session convened under ORS 192.660(2)(a), (b) or (i).
- F. OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) provides the following methods for meeting the for interested parties notice requirement: Interested person lists, mailing lists, or other lists of persons or groups maintained by the governing body to provide notice or communications; Social media platforms normally utilized by the governing body for communications;

or any other means reasonably calculated to provide actual notice to interested persons known to the governing body.

G. OAR 199-050-0040(2)(c) provides that a governing body satisfies the media notice requirement by providing notice to those media representatives who have requested notice, either in the method requested by the media representatives or by any other means reasonably calculated to provide actual notice to the media representatives.

H. OAR 199-050-0040(3) requires public meeting notices to include the following information:

1. The time, date, location of the meeting, and, to the extent reasonably possible, the electronic link or telephone access information to allow members of the public to attend the meeting by telephone or electronic means.
2. The agenda or list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting. The agenda or list of principal subjects shall be specific enough to permit members of the public to recognize the matters in which they are interested. The governing body may amend the agenda or may add or remove items from the list of principal subjects prior to or during a meeting.
3. The name, telephone number, and email address of a person at the public body to contact to request an interpreter or other communication aids. As an alternative, the notice may indicate that the governing body will provide a sign language interpreter or other communication aids at the meeting.
4. Executive Session Notice.

- I. OAR 199-050-0040(4)(a) clarifies that the timing of regular meeting notice be “as much advance notice as reasonably possible, but no less than 48 hours advance notice. ”
- J. OAR 199-050-0040(4)(b) provides that the public notice for a special meeting must be “at least 24 hours advance notice.”
- K. OAR 199-050-0070(3) states that “[t]he public body shall accept grievances that are filed through in-person delivery during regular business hours, by first-class mail, and by email. In addition, the public body may accept grievances by any other means it deems appropriate. A public body shall post on its website the person and contact information to whom a grievance may be submitted and the regular business hours during which in-person grievances will be accepted. In the absence of a designated person, a grievance may be submitted to the public body’s chief administrative officer or to the chair of the governing body. If the public body does not maintain a publicly accessible website, the public body shall provide notice of the person and contact information to whom a grievance may be submitted and the regular business hours during which in-person grievances will be accepted in the same manner that it provides notice of its public meetings.”

#### **4. Stipulated Facts:**

- A. The OWWSA Board convened public meetings on December 10, 2024, and July 1<sup>st</sup>, July 8<sup>th</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- B. At the December 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, the OWWSA Board consisted of the following elected Members: Richard Lopez, James Dunkin, Ross Scocca, Mary Scrocca and Michael Papin.

- C. At the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(1), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(4)(a), and OAR 199-050-0070(3).
- D. At the July 1<sup>st</sup> special meeting, July 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and July 29<sup>th</sup> special meeting, the OWWSA Board consisted of the following elected Members: Richard Lopez, Aiden Humphrey, Michael Papin, Mitch Logan, Bob Wolverton, Tony Sneath and Dan Parks.
- E. At the July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(3), ORS 192.660(2), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-040-0020(3), OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a), (c) and (d), OAR 199-050-0040(4)(b), and OAR 199-050-0070(3).
- F. At the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(1), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a)-(d), and OAR 199-050-0070.
- G. At the July 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(3), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(4)(b) and OAR 199-050-0070(3).

## **5. Conclusion/Violation**

- A. Michael Papin was serving as a Member at one or more each of the OWWSA Board meetings. As an OWWSA Board member, Michael Papin was responsible for adherence to Public Meetings Law.
- B. Michael Papin violated one or more of the provisions found in ORS 192.640, ORS 192.660(2), ORS 192.670, OAR 199-040-0020, OAR 199-050-0040,

and OAR 199-040-0070 as described in paragraphs 4(C), (D), (E), (F) and (G).

- C. The results of the Commission investigation, if submitted through exhibits and testimony at a contested case hearing, would establish a preponderance of evidence in support of a post-hearing order to find one violation of one or more of the provisions identified in paragraph 5(B).

#### **6. Terms of Settlement:**

The parties agree as follows:

- A. Michael Papin has indicated that they wishes to conclude this matter by agreeing to the terms and conditions in this stipulated final order without completing the investigation phase.
- B. In lieu of a civil penalty, Michael Papin will receive a letter of education, as authorized by ORS 244.350(5), in order to settle and compromise this matter.
- C. The Commission releases, settles and compromises any and all claims, allegations and charges that have been or could be asserted against Michael Papin within the scope of the above-referenced case.
- D. Michael Papin will initiate no claims, litigation, or other action against the Commission as a result of these proceedings.

#### **7. Review by Counsel:**

All of the parties hereto acknowledge that this agreement has been entered into by their own free will and with full understanding of the contents herein. Each of the parties further acknowledges that each has had the opportunity to seek the advice of counsel in reviewing and entering this agreement.

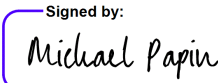
## 8. Effect:

This agreement is subject to the final approval of the Commission. Once approved, this agreement shall be the final disposition of these matters and shall be binding upon all parties.

By signing this agreement, Michael Papin agrees to waive their right to a contested case hearing as provided in ORS Chapter 183 and ORS 244.370. This order shall be the final order and all information in the Commission files on this matter shall become part of the record.

By signing this agreement, Michael Papin agrees to waive their right to obtain judicial review of this order as provided in ORS 183.482

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have entered into and signed this stipulated final order on the dates set forth below.

Signed by:  
  
0094E1C6F3834DA...  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Respondent: Michael Papin

August 27, 2026  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shenoa Payne, Chairperson  
Oregon Government Ethics Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**BEFORE THE OREGON  
GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

**Dan Parks**

Case No.: **25-526PCF**

**STIPULATED FINAL ORDER**

---

**1. Purpose:**

The purpose of this stipulated final order is to release, settle and compromise any and all claims, allegations, and charges that have been asserted by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (Commission) in the above-referenced case against Dan Parks.

**2. Jurisdiction:**

- A. Dan Parks is a Member of the Ochoco West Water and Sanitation Authority (OWWSA) Board of Directors (Board). As such, they are a public official, as defined in ORS 244.020(15), and therefore subject to Oregon Public Meetings Ethics Law found in ORS Chapter 192.
- B. On December 12, 2025, the Commission considered information in the preliminary review phase of Case No. 25-526PCF and acted to find cause to open an investigation of this matter.

**3. Applicable Law:**

- A. ORS 244.020(10)(a) defines “legislative or administrative interest” to include an economic interest, distinct from that of the general public, in any matter subject to the decision or vote of the public official acting in the public official’s capacity as a public official. ORS 192.640(1) explains that “[t]he governing body of a public body shall provide for and give public notice, reasonably calculated to give actual notice to

- interested persons including news media which have requested notice, of the time and place for holding regular meetings. The notice shall also include a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting, but this requirement shall not limit the ability of a governing body to consider additional subjects.”
- B. ORS 192.640(3) states that “[n]o special meeting shall be held without at least 24 hours’ notice to the members of the governing body, the news media which have requested notice and the general public. In case of an actual emergency, a meeting may be held upon such notice as is appropriate to the circumstances, but the minutes for such a meeting shall describe the emergency justifying less than 24 hours’ notice.”
- C. ORS 192.660(2)(a) allows the governing body of a public body to hold an executive session “[t]o consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.”
- D. ORS 192.670(3)(a) requires that meetings of a governing body provide the public, to the extent reasonably possible, “[a]ccess and attend the meeting by telephone, video or other electronic or virtual means.”
- E. OAR 199-040-0020(3) prohibits the discussion or negotiation of compensation, including salaries and benefit, during an executive session convened under ORS 192.660(2)(a), (b) or (i).
- F. OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) provides the following methods for meeting the for interested parties notice requirement: Interested person lists, mailing lists, or other lists of persons or groups maintained by the governing body to provide notice or communications; Social media platforms normally utilized by the governing body for communications;

or any other means reasonably calculated to provide actual notice to interested persons known to the governing body.

G. OAR 199-050-0040(2)(c) provides that a governing body satisfies the media notice requirement by providing notice to those media representatives who have requested notice, either in the method requested by the media representatives or by any other means reasonably calculated to provide actual notice to the media representatives.

H. OAR 199-050-0040(3) requires public meeting notices to include the following information:

1. The time, date, location of the meeting, and, to the extent reasonably possible, the electronic link or telephone access information to allow members of the public to attend the meeting by telephone or electronic means.
2. The agenda or list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting. The agenda or list of principal subjects shall be specific enough to permit members of the public to recognize the matters in which they are interested. The governing body may amend the agenda or may add or remove items from the list of principal subjects prior to or during a meeting.
3. The name, telephone number, and email address of a person at the public body to contact to request an interpreter or other communication aids. As an alternative, the notice may indicate that the governing body will provide a sign language interpreter or other communication aids at the meeting.
4. Executive Session Notice.

- I. OAR 199-050-0040(4)(a) clarifies that the timing of regular meeting notice be “as much advance notice as reasonably possible, but no less than 48 hours advance notice. ”
- J. OAR 199-050-0040(4)(b) provides that the public notice for a special meeting must be “at least 24 hours advance notice.”
- K. OAR 199-050-0070(3) states that “[t]he public body shall accept grievances that are filed through in-person delivery during regular business hours, by first-class mail, and by email. In addition, the public body may accept grievances by any other means it deems appropriate. A public body shall post on its website the person and contact information to whom a grievance may be submitted and the regular business hours during which in-person grievances will be accepted. In the absence of a designated person, a grievance may be submitted to the public body’s chief administrative officer or to the chair of the governing body. If the public body does not maintain a publicly accessible website, the public body shall provide notice of the person and contact information to whom a grievance may be submitted and the regular business hours during which in-person grievances will be accepted in the same manner that it provides notice of its public meetings.”

#### **4. Stipulated Facts:**

- A. The OWWSA Board convened public meetings on December 10, 2024, and July 1<sup>st</sup>, July 8<sup>th</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- B. At the December 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, the OWWSA Board consisted of the following elected Members: Richard Lopez, James Dunkin, Ross Scocca and Mary Scrocca.

- C. At the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(1), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(4)(a), and OAR 199-050-0070(3).
- D. At the July 1<sup>st</sup> special meeting, July 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and July 29<sup>th</sup> special meeting, the OWWSA Board consisted of the following elected Members: Richard Lopez, Aiden Humphrey, Michael Papin, Mitch Logan, Bob Wolverton, Tony Sneath and Dan Parks.
- E. At the July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(3), ORS 192.660(2), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-040-0020(3), OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a), (c) and (d), OAR 199-050-0040(4)(b), and OAR 199-050-0070(3).
- F. At the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(1), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a)-(d), and OAR 199-050-0070.
- G. At the July 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(3), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(4)(b) and OAR 199-050-0070(3).

## **5. Conclusion/Violation**

- A. Dan Parks was elected to the Board in May 2025 and was serving at the July 1<sup>st</sup>, July 8<sup>th</sup> July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026, OWWSA Board meetings. As an OWWSA Board member, Dan Parks was responsible for adherence to Public Meetings Law.
- B. Dan Parks violated one or more of the provisions found in ORS 192.640, ORS 192.660(2), ORS 192.670, OAR 199-040-0020, OAR 199-050-0040,

and OAR 199-040-0070 as described in paragraphs 4(C), (D), (E), (F) and (G).

- C. The results of the Commission investigation, if submitted through exhibits and testimony at a contested case hearing, would establish a preponderance of evidence in support of a post-hearing order to find one violation of one or more of the provisions identified in paragraph 5(B).

#### **6. Terms of Settlement:**

The parties agree as follows:

- A. Dan Parks has indicated that they wishes to conclude this matter by agreeing to the terms and conditions in this stipulated final order without completing the investigation phase.
- B. In lieu of a civil penalty, Dan Parks will receive a letter of education, as authorized by ORS 244.350(5), in order to settle and compromise this matter.
- C. The Commission releases, settles and compromises any and all claims, allegations and charges that have been or could be asserted against Dan Parks within the scope of the above-referenced case.
- D. Dan Parks will initiate no claims, litigation, or other action against the Commission as a result of these proceedings.

#### **7. Review by Counsel:**

All of the parties hereto acknowledge that this agreement has been entered into by their own free will and with full understanding of the contents herein. Each of the parties further acknowledges that each has had the opportunity to seek the advice of counsel in reviewing and entering this agreement.

## 8. Effect:

This agreement is subject to the final approval of the Commission. Once approved, this agreement shall be the final disposition of these matters and shall be binding upon all parties.

By signing this agreement, Dan Parks agrees to waive their right to a contested case hearing as provided in ORS Chapter 183 and ORS 244.370. This order shall be the final order and all information in the Commission files on this matter shall become part of the record.

By signing this agreement, Dan Parks agrees to waive their right to obtain judicial review of this order as provided in ORS 183.482

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have entered into and signed this stipulated final order on the dates set forth below.

Signed by:  
  
365A564A5EB1487...  
Respondent: Dan Parks

August 27, 2026

Date

Shenoa Payne, Chairperson  
Oregon Government Ethics Commission

Date

**BEFORE THE OREGON  
GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

**Richard Lopez**

Case No.:

**25-527PCF**

**STIPULATED FINAL ORDER**

---

**1. Purpose:**

The purpose of this stipulated final order is to release, settle and compromise any and all claims, allegations, and charges that have been asserted by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (Commission) in the above-referenced case against Richard Lopez.

**2. Jurisdiction:**

- A. Richard Lopez is a Member of the Ochoco West Water and Sanitation Authority (OWWSA) Board of Directors (Board). As such, they are a public official, as defined in ORS 244.020(15), and therefore subject to Oregon Public Meetings Ethics Law found in ORS Chapter 192.
- B. On December 12, 2025, the Commission considered information in the preliminary review phase of Case No. 25-527PCF and acted to find cause to open an investigation of this matter.

**3. Applicable Law:**

- A. ORS 244.020(10)(a) defines “legislative or administrative interest” to include an economic interest, distinct from that of the general public, in any matter subject to the decision or vote of the public official acting in the public official’s capacity as a public official. ORS 192.640(1) explains that “[t]he governing body of a public body shall provide for and give public notice, reasonably calculated to give actual notice to

- interested persons including news media which have requested notice, of the time and place for holding regular meetings. The notice shall also include a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting, but this requirement shall not limit the ability of a governing body to consider additional subjects.”
- B. ORS 192.640(3) states that “[n]o special meeting shall be held without at least 24 hours’ notice to the members of the governing body, the news media which have requested notice and the general public. In case of an actual emergency, a meeting may be held upon such notice as is appropriate to the circumstances, but the minutes for such a meeting shall describe the emergency justifying less than 24 hours’ notice.”
- C. ORS 192.660(2)(a) allows the governing body of a public body to hold an executive session “[t]o consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.”
- D. ORS 192.670(3)(a) requires that meetings of a governing body provide the public, to the extent reasonably possible, “[a]ccess and attend the meeting by telephone, video or other electronic or virtual means.”
- E. OAR 199-040-0020(3) prohibits the discussion or negotiation of compensation, including salaries and benefit, during an executive session convened under ORS 192.660(2)(a), (b) or (i).
- F. OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) provides the following methods for meeting the for interested parties notice requirement: Interested person lists, mailing lists, or other lists of persons or groups maintained by the governing body to provide notice or communications; Social media platforms normally utilized by the governing body for communications;

or any other means reasonably calculated to provide actual notice to interested persons known to the governing body.

G. OAR 199-050-0040(2)(c) provides that a governing body satisfies the media notice requirement by providing notice to those media representatives who have requested notice, either in the method requested by the media representatives or by any other means reasonably calculated to provide actual notice to the media representatives.

H. OAR 199-050-0040(3) requires public meeting notices to include the following information:

1. The time, date, location of the meeting, and, to the extent reasonably possible, the electronic link or telephone access information to allow members of the public to attend the meeting by telephone or electronic means.
2. The agenda or list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting. The agenda or list of principal subjects shall be specific enough to permit members of the public to recognize the matters in which they are interested. The governing body may amend the agenda or may add or remove items from the list of principal subjects prior to or during a meeting.
3. The name, telephone number, and email address of a person at the public body to contact to request an interpreter or other communication aids. As an alternative, the notice may indicate that the governing body will provide a sign language interpreter or other communication aids at the meeting.
4. Executive Session Notice.

- I. OAR 199-050-0040(4)(a) clarifies that the timing of regular meeting notice be “as much advance notice as reasonably possible, but no less than 48 hours advance notice. ”
- J. OAR 199-050-0040(4)(b) provides that the public notice for a special meeting must be “at least 24 hours advance notice.”
- K. OAR 199-050-0070(3) states that “[t]he public body shall accept grievances that are filed through in-person delivery during regular business hours, by first-class mail, and by email. In addition, the public body may accept grievances by any other means it deems appropriate. A public body shall post on its website the person and contact information to whom a grievance may be submitted and the regular business hours during which in-person grievances will be accepted. In the absence of a designated person, a grievance may be submitted to the public body’s chief administrative officer or to the chair of the governing body. If the public body does not maintain a publicly accessible website, the public body shall provide notice of the person and contact information to whom a grievance may be submitted and the regular business hours during which in-person grievances will be accepted in the same manner that it provides notice of its public meetings.”

#### **4. Stipulated Facts:**

- A. The OWWSA Board convened public meetings on December 10, 2024, and July 1<sup>st</sup>, July 8<sup>th</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- B. At the December 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, the OWWSA Board consisted of the following elected Members: Richard Lopez, James Dunkin, Ross Scocca, Mary Scrocca and Michael Papin.

- C. At the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(1), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(4)(a), and OAR 199-050-0070(3).
- D. At the July 1<sup>st</sup> special meeting, July 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and July 29<sup>th</sup> special meeting, the OWWSA Board consisted of the following elected Members: Richard Lopez, Aiden Humphrey, Michael Papin, Mitch Logan, Bob Wolverton, Tony Sneath and Dan Parks.
- E. At the July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(3), ORS 192.660(2), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-040-0020(3), OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a), (c) and (d), OAR 199-050-0040(4)(b), and OAR 199-050-0070(3).
- F. At the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(1), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a)-(d), and OAR 199-050-0070.
- G. At the July 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(3), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(4)(b) and OAR 199-050-0070(3).

## **5. Conclusion/Violation**

- A. Richard Lopez was serving as a Member at one or more each of the OWWSA Board meetings. As an OWWSA Board member, Richard Lopez was responsible for adherence to Public Meetings Law.
- B. Richard Lopez violated one or more of the provisions found in ORS 192.640, ORS 192.660(2), ORS 192.670, OAR 199-040-0020, OAR 199-050-0040,

and OAR 199-040-0070 as described in paragraphs 4(C), (D), (E), (F) and (G).

- C. The results of the Commission investigation, if submitted through exhibits and testimony at a contested case hearing, would establish a preponderance of evidence in support of a post-hearing order to find one violation of one or more of the provisions identified in paragraph 5(B).

#### **6. Terms of Settlement:**

The parties agree as follows:

- A. Richard Lopez has indicated that they wishes to conclude this matter by agreeing to the terms and conditions in this stipulated final order without completing the investigation phase.
- B. In lieu of a civil penalty, Richard Lopez will receive a letter of education, as authorized by ORS 244.350(5), in order to settle and compromise this matter.
- C. The Commission releases, settles and compromises any and all claims, allegations and charges that have been or could be asserted against Richard Lopez within the scope of the above-referenced case.
- D. Richard Lopez will initiate no claims, litigation, or other action against the Commission as a result of these proceedings.

#### **7. Review by Counsel:**

All of the parties hereto acknowledge that this agreement has been entered into by their own free will and with full understanding of the contents herein. Each of the parties further acknowledges that each has had the opportunity to seek the advice of counsel in reviewing and entering this agreement.

## 8. Effect:

This agreement is subject to the final approval of the Commission. Once approved, this agreement shall be the final disposition of these matters and shall be binding upon all parties.

By signing this agreement, Richard Lopez agrees to waive their right to a contested case hearing as provided in ORS Chapter 183 and ORS 244.370. This order shall be the final order and all information in the Commission files on this matter shall become part of the record.

By signing this agreement, Richard Lopez agrees to waive their right to obtain judicial review of this order as provided in ORS 183.482

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have entered into and signed this stipulated final order on the dates set forth below.

Signed by:

*Richard Lopez*

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Respondent: Richard Lopez

August 26, 2026

Date

Shenoa Payne, Chairperson  
Oregon Government Ethics Commission

Date

**BEFORE THE OREGON  
GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

**Tony Sneath**

Case No.:

**25-528PCF**

**STIPULATED FINAL ORDER**

---

**1. Purpose:**

The purpose of this stipulated final order is to release, settle and compromise any and all claims, allegations, and charges that have been asserted by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (Commission) in the above-referenced case against Tony Sneath.

**2. Jurisdiction:**

- A. Tony Sneath is a Member of the Ochoco West Water and Sanitation Authority (OWWSA) Board of Directors (Board). As such, they are a public official, as defined in ORS 244.020(15), and therefore subject to Oregon Public Meetings Ethics Law found in ORS Chapter 192.
- B. On December 12, 2025, the Commission considered information in the preliminary review phase of Case No. 25-528PCF and acted to find cause to open an investigation of this matter.

**3. Applicable Law:**

- A. ORS 244.020(10)(a) defines “legislative or administrative interest” to include an economic interest, distinct from that of the general public, in any matter subject to the decision or vote of the public official acting in the public official’s capacity as a public official. ORS 192.640(1) explains that “[t]he governing body of a public body shall provide for and give public notice, reasonably calculated to give actual notice to

- interested persons including news media which have requested notice, of the time and place for holding regular meetings. The notice shall also include a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting, but this requirement shall not limit the ability of a governing body to consider additional subjects.”
- B. ORS 192.640(3) states that “[n]o special meeting shall be held without at least 24 hours’ notice to the members of the governing body, the news media which have requested notice and the general public. In case of an actual emergency, a meeting may be held upon such notice as is appropriate to the circumstances, but the minutes for such a meeting shall describe the emergency justifying less than 24 hours’ notice.”
- C. ORS 192.660(2)(a) allows the governing body of a public body to hold an executive session “[t]o consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.”
- D. ORS 192.670(3)(a) requires that meetings of a governing body provide the public, to the extent reasonably possible, “[a]ccess and attend the meeting by telephone, video or other electronic or virtual means.”
- E. OAR 199-040-0020(3) prohibits the discussion or negotiation of compensation, including salaries and benefit, during an executive session convened under ORS 192.660(2)(a), (b) or (i).
- F. OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) provides the following methods for meeting the for interested parties notice requirement: Interested person lists, mailing lists, or other lists of persons or groups maintained by the governing body to provide notice or communications; Social media platforms normally utilized by the governing body for communications;

or any other means reasonably calculated to provide actual notice to interested persons known to the governing body.

G. OAR 199-050-0040(2)(c) provides that a governing body satisfies the media notice requirement by providing notice to those media representatives who have requested notice, either in the method requested by the media representatives or by any other means reasonably calculated to provide actual notice to the media representatives.

H. OAR 199-050-0040(3) requires public meeting notices to include the following information:

1. The time, date, location of the meeting, and, to the extent reasonably possible, the electronic link or telephone access information to allow members of the public to attend the meeting by telephone or electronic means.
2. The agenda or list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting. The agenda or list of principal subjects shall be specific enough to permit members of the public to recognize the matters in which they are interested. The governing body may amend the agenda or may add or remove items from the list of principal subjects prior to or during a meeting.
3. The name, telephone number, and email address of a person at the public body to contact to request an interpreter or other communication aids. As an alternative, the notice may indicate that the governing body will provide a sign language interpreter or other communication aids at the meeting.
4. Executive Session Notice.

- I. OAR 199-050-0040(4)(a) clarifies that the timing of regular meeting notice be “as much advance notice as reasonably possible, but no less than 48 hours advance notice. ”
- J. OAR 199-050-0040(4)(b) provides that the public notice for a special meeting must be “at least 24 hours advance notice.”
- K. OAR 199-050-0070(3) states that “[t]he public body shall accept grievances that are filed through in-person delivery during regular business hours, by first-class mail, and by email. In addition, the public body may accept grievances by any other means it deems appropriate. A public body shall post on its website the person and contact information to whom a grievance may be submitted and the regular business hours during which in-person grievances will be accepted. In the absence of a designated person, a grievance may be submitted to the public body’s chief administrative officer or to the chair of the governing body. If the public body does not maintain a publicly accessible website, the public body shall provide notice of the person and contact information to whom a grievance may be submitted and the regular business hours during which in-person grievances will be accepted in the same manner that it provides notice of its public meetings.”

#### **4. Stipulated Facts:**

- A. The OWWSA Board convened public meetings on December 10, 2024, and July 1<sup>st</sup>, July 8<sup>th</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- B. At the December 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, the OWWSA Board consisted of the following elected Members: Richard Lopez, James Dunkin, Michael Pappin, Ross Scocca, and Mary Scrocca.

- C. At the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(1), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(4)(a), and OAR 199-050-0070(3).
- D. At the July 1<sup>st</sup> special meeting, July 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and July 29<sup>th</sup> special meeting, the OWWSA Board consisted of the following elected Members: Richard Lopez, Aiden Humphrey, Michael Papin, Mitch Logan, Bob Wolverton, Tony Sneath and Dan Parks.
- E. At the July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(3), ORS 192.660(2), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-040-0020(3), OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a), (c) and (d), OAR 199-050-0040(4)(b), and OAR 199-050-0070(3).
- F. At the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(1), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a)-(d), and OAR 199-050-0070.
- G. At the July 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(3), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(4)(b) and OAR 199-050-0070(3).

## **5. Conclusion/Violation**

- A. Tony Sneath was serving as a Member at one or more each of the OWWSA Board meetings. As an OWWSA Board member, Tony Sneath was responsible for adherence to Public Meetings Law.
- B. Tony Sneath violated one or more of the provisions found in ORS 192.640, ORS 192.660(2), ORS 192.670, OAR 199-040-0020, OAR 199-050-0040,

and OAR 199-040-0070 as described in paragraphs 4(C), (D), (E), (F) and (G).

- C. The results of the Commission investigation, if submitted through exhibits and testimony at a contested case hearing, would establish a preponderance of evidence in support of a post-hearing order to find one violation of one or more of the provisions identified in paragraph 5(B).

#### **6. Terms of Settlement:**

The parties agree as follows:

- A. Tony Sneath has indicated that they wishes to conclude this matter by agreeing to the terms and conditions in this stipulated final order without completing the investigation phase.
- B. In lieu of a civil penalty, Tony Sneath will receive a letter of education, as authorized by ORS 244.350(5), in order to settle and compromise this matter.
- C. The Commission releases, settles and compromises any and all claims, allegations and charges that have been or could be asserted against Tony Sneath within the scope of the above-referenced case.
- D. Tony Sneath will initiate no claims, litigation, or other action against the Commission as a result of these proceedings.

#### **7. Review by Counsel:**

All of the parties hereto acknowledge that this agreement has been entered into by their own free will and with full understanding of the contents herein. Each of the parties further acknowledges that each has had the opportunity to seek the advice of counsel in reviewing and entering this agreement.

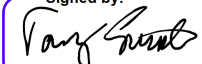
## 8. Effect:

This agreement is subject to the final approval of the Commission. Once approved, this agreement shall be the final disposition of these matters and shall be binding upon all parties.

By signing this agreement, Tony Sneath agrees to waive their right to a contested case hearing as provided in ORS Chapter 183 and ORS 244.370. This order shall be the final order and all information in the Commission files on this matter shall become part of the record.

By signing this agreement, Tony Sneath agrees to waive their right to obtain judicial review of this order as provided in ORS 183.482

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have entered into and signed this stipulated final order on the dates set forth below.

Signed by:  
  
8D42DC45506C485...  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Respondent: Tony Sneath

August 28, 2026  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shenoa Payne, Chairperson  
Oregon Government Ethics Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**BEFORE THE OREGON  
GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

**Mitch Logan**

Case No.:

**25-529PCF**

**STIPULATED FINAL ORDER**

---

**1. Purpose:**

The purpose of this stipulated final order is to release, settle and compromise any and all claims, allegations, and charges that have been asserted by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (Commission) in the above-referenced case against Mitch Logan.

**2. Jurisdiction:**

- A. Mitch Logan is a Member of the Ochoco West Water and Sanitation Authority (OWWSA) Board of Directors (Board). As such, they are a public official, as defined in ORS 244.020(15), and therefore subject to Oregon Public Meetings Ethics Law found in ORS Chapter 192.
- B. On December 12, 2025, the Commission considered information in the preliminary review phase of Case No. 25-529PCF and acted to find cause to open an investigation of this matter.

**3. Applicable Law:**

- A. ORS 244.020(10)(a) defines “legislative or administrative interest” to include an economic interest, distinct from that of the general public, in any matter subject to the decision or vote of the public official acting in the public official’s capacity as a public official. ORS 192.640(1) explains that “[t]he governing body of a public body shall provide for and give public notice, reasonably calculated to give actual notice to

- interested persons including news media which have requested notice, of the time and place for holding regular meetings. The notice shall also include a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting, but this requirement shall not limit the ability of a governing body to consider additional subjects.”
- B. ORS 192.640(3) states that “[n]o special meeting shall be held without at least 24 hours’ notice to the members of the governing body, the news media which have requested notice and the general public. In case of an actual emergency, a meeting may be held upon such notice as is appropriate to the circumstances, but the minutes for such a meeting shall describe the emergency justifying less than 24 hours’ notice.”
- C. ORS 192.660(2)(a) allows the governing body of a public body to hold an executive session “[t]o consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.”
- D. ORS 192.670(3)(a) requires that meetings of a governing body provide the public, to the extent reasonably possible, “[a]ccess and attend the meeting by telephone, video or other electronic or virtual means.”
- E. OAR 199-040-0020(3) prohibits the discussion or negotiation of compensation, including salaries and benefit, during an executive session convened under ORS 192.660(2)(a), (b) or (i).
- F. OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) provides the following methods for meeting the for interested parties notice requirement: Interested person lists, mailing lists, or other lists of persons or groups maintained by the governing body to provide notice or communications; Social media platforms normally utilized by the governing body for communications;

or any other means reasonably calculated to provide actual notice to interested persons known to the governing body.

G. OAR 199-050-0040(2)(c) provides that a governing body satisfies the media notice requirement by providing notice to those media representatives who have requested notice, either in the method requested by the media representatives or by any other means reasonably calculated to provide actual notice to the media representatives.

H. OAR 199-050-0040(3) requires public meeting notices to include the following information:

1. The time, date, location of the meeting, and, to the extent reasonably possible, the electronic link or telephone access information to allow members of the public to attend the meeting by telephone or electronic means.
2. The agenda or list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting. The agenda or list of principal subjects shall be specific enough to permit members of the public to recognize the matters in which they are interested. The governing body may amend the agenda or may add or remove items from the list of principal subjects prior to or during a meeting.
3. The name, telephone number, and email address of a person at the public body to contact to request an interpreter or other communication aids. As an alternative, the notice may indicate that the governing body will provide a sign language interpreter or other communication aids at the meeting.
4. Executive Session Notice.

- I. OAR 199-050-0040(4)(a) clarifies that the timing of regular meeting notice be “as much advance notice as reasonably possible, but no less than 48 hours advance notice. ”
- J. OAR 199-050-0040(4)(b) provides that the public notice for a special meeting must be “at least 24 hours advance notice.”
- K. OAR 199-050-0070(3) states that “[t]he public body shall accept grievances that are filed through in-person delivery during regular business hours, by first-class mail, and by email. In addition, the public body may accept grievances by any other means it deems appropriate. A public body shall post on its website the person and contact information to whom a grievance may be submitted and the regular business hours during which in-person grievances will be accepted. In the absence of a designated person, a grievance may be submitted to the public body’s chief administrative officer or to the chair of the governing body. If the public body does not maintain a publicly accessible website, the public body shall provide notice of the person and contact information to whom a grievance may be submitted and the regular business hours during which in-person grievances will be accepted in the same manner that it provides notice of its public meetings.”

#### **4. Stipulated Facts:**

- A. The OWWSA Board convened public meetings on December 10, 2024, and July 1<sup>st</sup>, July 8<sup>th</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- B. At the December 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, the OWWSA Board consisted of the following elected Members: Richard Lopez, James Dunkin, Michael Pappin, Ross Scocca, and Mary Scrocca.

- C. At the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(1), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(4)(a), and OAR 199-050-0070(3).
- D. At the July 1<sup>st</sup> special meeting, July 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and July 29<sup>th</sup> special meeting, the OWWSA Board consisted of the following elected Members: Richard Lopez, Aiden Humphrey, Michael Papin, Mitch Logan, Bob Wolverton, Tony Sneath and Dan Parks.
- E. At the July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(3), ORS 192.660(2), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-040-0020(3), OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a), (c) and (d), OAR 199-050-0040(4)(b), and OAR 199-050-0070(3).
- F. At the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(1), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a)-(d), and OAR 199-050-0070.
- G. At the July 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(3), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(4)(b) and OAR 199-050-0070(3).

## **5. Conclusion/Violation**

- A. Mitch Logan was serving as a Member at one or more each of the OWWSA Board meetings. As an OWWSA Board member, Mitch Logan was responsible for adherence to Public Meetings Law.
- B. Mitch Logan violated one or more of the provisions found in ORS 192.640, ORS 192.660(2), ORS 192.670, OAR 199-040-0020, OAR 199-050-0040,

and OAR 199-040-0070 as described in paragraphs 4(C), (D), (E), (F) and (G).

- C. The results of the Commission investigation, if submitted through exhibits and testimony at a contested case hearing, would establish a preponderance of evidence in support of a post-hearing order to find one violation of one or more of the provisions identified in paragraph 5(B).

#### **6. Terms of Settlement:**

The parties agree as follows:

- A. Mitch Logan has indicated that they wishes to conclude this matter by agreeing to the terms and conditions in this stipulated final order without completing the investigation phase.
- B. In lieu of a civil penalty, Mitch Logan will receive a letter of education, as authorized by ORS 244.350(5), in order to settle and compromise this matter.
- C. The Commission releases, settles and compromises any and all claims, allegations and charges that have been or could be asserted against Mitch Logan within the scope of the above-referenced case.
- D. Mitch Logan will initiate no claims, litigation, or other action against the Commission as a result of these proceedings.

#### **7. Review by Counsel:**

All of the parties hereto acknowledge that this agreement has been entered into by their own free will and with full understanding of the contents herein. Each of the parties further acknowledges that each has had the opportunity to seek the advice of counsel in reviewing and entering this agreement.

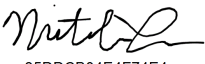
## 8. Effect:

This agreement is subject to the final approval of the Commission. Once approved, this agreement shall be the final disposition of these matters and shall be binding upon all parties.

By signing this agreement, Mitch Logan agrees to waive their right to a contested case hearing as provided in ORS Chapter 183 and ORS 244.370. This order shall be the final order and all information in the Commission files on this matter shall become part of the record.

By signing this agreement, Mitch Logan agrees to waive their right to obtain judicial review of this order as provided in ORS 183.482

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have entered into and signed this stipulated final order on the dates set forth below.

Signed by:  
  
35DDCB04E4F74E4...  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Respondent: Mitch Logan

August 28, 2026  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shenoa Payne, Chairperson  
Oregon Government Ethics Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**BEFORE THE OREGON  
GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

**Aiden Humphrey**

Case No.: **25-530PCF**

**STIPULATED FINAL ORDER**

---

**1. Purpose:**

The purpose of this stipulated final order is to release, settle and compromise any and all claims, allegations, and charges that have been asserted by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (Commission) in the above-referenced case against Aiden Humphrey.

**2. Jurisdiction:**

- A. Aiden Humphrey is a Member of the Ochoco West Water and Sanitation Authority (OWWSA) Board of Directors (Board). As such, they are a public official, as defined in ORS 244.020(15), and therefore subject to Oregon Public Meetings Ethics Law found in ORS Chapter 192.
- B. On December 12, 2025, the Commission considered information in the preliminary review phase of Case No. 25-525PCF and acted to find cause to open an investigation of this matter.

**3. Applicable Law:**

- A. ORS 244.020(10)(a) defines “legislative or administrative interest” to include an economic interest, distinct from that of the general public, in any matter subject to the decision or vote of the public official acting in the public official’s capacity as a public official. ORS 192.640(1) explains that “[t]he governing body of a public body shall provide for and give public notice, reasonably calculated to give actual notice to

- interested persons including news media which have requested notice, of the time and place for holding regular meetings. The notice shall also include a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting, but this requirement shall not limit the ability of a governing body to consider additional subjects.”
- B. ORS 192.640(3) states that “[n]o special meeting shall be held without at least 24 hours’ notice to the members of the governing body, the news media which have requested notice and the general public. In case of an actual emergency, a meeting may be held upon such notice as is appropriate to the circumstances, but the minutes for such a meeting shall describe the emergency justifying less than 24 hours’ notice.”
- C. ORS 192.660(2)(a) allows the governing body of a public body to hold an executive session “[t]o consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.”
- D. ORS 192.670(3)(a) requires that meetings of a governing body provide the public, to the extent reasonably possible, “[a]ccess and attend the meeting by telephone, video or other electronic or virtual means.”
- E. OAR 199-040-0020(3) prohibits the discussion or negotiation of compensation, including salaries and benefit, during an executive session convened under ORS 192.660(2)(a), (b) or (i).
- F. OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) provides the following methods for meeting the for interested parties notice requirement: Interested person lists, mailing lists, or other lists of persons or groups maintained by the governing body to provide notice or communications; Social media platforms normally utilized by the governing body for communications;

or any other means reasonably calculated to provide actual notice to interested persons known to the governing body.

G. OAR 199-050-0040(2)(c) provides that a governing body satisfies the media notice requirement by providing notice to those media representatives who have requested notice, either in the method requested by the media representatives or by any other means reasonably calculated to provide actual notice to the media representatives.

H. OAR 199-050-0040(3) requires public meeting notices to include the following information:

1. The time, date, location of the meeting, and, to the extent reasonably possible, the electronic link or telephone access information to allow members of the public to attend the meeting by telephone or electronic means.
2. The agenda or list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting. The agenda or list of principal subjects shall be specific enough to permit members of the public to recognize the matters in which they are interested. The governing body may amend the agenda or may add or remove items from the list of principal subjects prior to or during a meeting.
3. The name, telephone number, and email address of a person at the public body to contact to request an interpreter or other communication aids. As an alternative, the notice may indicate that the governing body will provide a sign language interpreter or other communication aids at the meeting.
4. Executive Session Notice.

- I. OAR 199-050-0040(4)(a) clarifies that the timing of regular meeting notice be “as much advance notice as reasonably possible, but no less than 48 hours advance notice. ”
- J. OAR 199-050-0040(4)(b) provides that the public notice for a special meeting must be “at least 24 hours advance notice.”
- K. OAR 199-050-0070(3) states that “[t]he public body shall accept grievances that are filed through in-person delivery during regular business hours, by first-class mail, and by email. In addition, the public body may accept grievances by any other means it deems appropriate. A public body shall post on its website the person and contact information to whom a grievance may be submitted and the regular business hours during which in-person grievances will be accepted. In the absence of a designated person, a grievance may be submitted to the public body’s chief administrative officer or to the chair of the governing body. If the public body does not maintain a publicly accessible website, the public body shall provide notice of the person and contact information to whom a grievance may be submitted and the regular business hours during which in-person grievances will be accepted in the same manner that it provides notice of its public meetings.”

#### **4. Stipulated Facts:**

- A. The OWWSA Board convened public meetings on December 10, 2024, and July 1<sup>st</sup>, July 8<sup>th</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- B. At the December 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, the OWWSA Board consisted of the following elected Members: Richard Lopez, James Dunkin, Ross Scocca, Mary Scrocca and Michael Papin.

- C. At the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(1), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(4)(a), and OAR 199-050-0070(3).
- D. At the July 1<sup>st</sup> special meeting, July 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and July 29<sup>th</sup> special meeting, the OWWSA Board consisted of the following elected Members: Richard Lopez, Aiden Humphrey, Michael Papin, Mitch Logan, Bob Wolverton, Tony Sneath and Dan Parks.
- E. At the July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(3), ORS 192.660(2), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-040-0020(3), OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a), (c) and (d), OAR 199-050-0040(4)(b), and OAR 199-050-0070(3).
- F. At the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(1), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a)-(d), and OAR 199-050-0070.
- G. At the July 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, the OWWSA Board failed to satisfy the requirements set forth in the following statutes and administrative rules: ORS 192.640(3), ORS 192.670(3)(a), OAR 199-050-0040(2)(b) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(3)(a) and (c), OAR 199-050-0040(4)(b) and OAR 199-050-0070(3).

## **5. Conclusion/Violation**

- A. Aiden Humphrey was serving as a Member at one or more each of the OWWSA Board meetings. As an OWWSA Board member, Aiden Humphrey was responsible for adherence to Public Meetings Law.
- B. Aiden Humphrey violated one or more of the provisions found in ORS 192.640, ORS 192.660(2), ORS 192.670, OAR 199-040-0020, OAR 199-050-

0040, and OAR 199-040-0070 as described in paragraphs 4(C), (D), (E), (F) and (G).

- C. The results of the Commission investigation, if submitted through exhibits and testimony at a contested case hearing, would establish a preponderance of evidence in support of a post-hearing order to find one violation of one or more of the provisions identified in paragraph 5(B).

#### **6. Terms of Settlement:**

The parties agree as follows:

- A. Aiden Humphrey has indicated that they wishes to conclude this matter by agreeing to the terms and conditions in this stipulated final order without completing the investigation phase.
- B. In lieu of a civil penalty, Aiden Humphrey will receive a letter of education, as authorized by ORS 244.350(5), in order to settle and compromise this matter.
- C. The Commission releases, settles and compromises any and all claims, allegations and charges that have been or could be asserted against Aiden Humphrey within the scope of the above-referenced case.
- D. Aiden Humphrey will initiate no claims, litigation, or other action against the Commission as a result of these proceedings.

#### **7. Review by Counsel:**

All of the parties hereto acknowledge that this agreement has been entered into by their own free will and with full understanding of the contents herein. Each of the parties further acknowledges that each has had the opportunity to seek the advice of counsel in reviewing and entering this agreement.

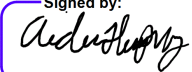
## 8. Effect:

This agreement is subject to the final approval of the Commission. Once approved, this agreement shall be the final disposition of these matters and shall be binding upon all parties.

By signing this agreement, Aiden Humphrey agrees to waive their right to a contested case hearing as provided in ORS Chapter 183 and ORS 244.370. This order shall be the final order and all information in the Commission files on this matter shall become part of the record.

By signing this agreement, Aiden Humphrey agrees to waive their right to obtain judicial review of this order as provided in ORS 183.482

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have entered into and signed this stipulated final order on the dates set forth below.

Signed by:  
  
230BA16F561E4C7...  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Respondent: Aiden Humphrey

August 26, 2026  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shenoa Payne, Chairperson  
Oregon Government Ethics Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**BEFORE THE OREGON  
GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

**Trampas Bergstrom**

**STIPULATED FINAL ORDER**

Case No.: **25-086ELG**

Date: **September 11, 2026**

---

**1. Purpose:**

The purpose of this stipulated final order is to release, settle and compromise any and all claims, allegations, and charges that have been asserted by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (Commission) in the above-referenced case against Trampas Bergstrom.

**2. Jurisdiction:**

At all material times, Trampas Bergstrom was the Fire Chief for the Yamhill Fire Protection District. As such, Trampas Bergstrom was a public official subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission pursuant to ORS Chapter 244.

**3. Applicable Law:**

- A. ORS 244.040(1) prohibits a public official from using or attempting to use their official position or office to obtain a financial gain or avoid a financial detriment for themselves, their relatives or household members, or any business with which they or their relatives or household members are associated, if the financial gain or avoidance of financial detriment would not otherwise be available but for the public official's holding their official position or office.
- B. ORS 244.040(2)(a) provides certain exceptions to this provision, one of which is if the financial gain or avoidance of financial detriment is part of the public

official's official compensation package as determined by the public body that the public official serves.

- C. OAR 199-008-0005 defines official compensation package as the wages and other benefits provided to the public official. The wages and benefits must be in writing and have been specifically approved by the public body in a formal manner, such as through a contract or personnel policy.

#### **4. Stipulated Facts:**

- A. On December 18, 2024, an indictment was filed with the Yamhill County Circuit Court charging Trampas Bergstrom with multiple counts of Theft in the First Degree, Fraudulent use of a Credit Card, and Official Misconduct in the First Degree.
- B. On January 10, 2025, an amended indictment was issued which included additional counts of Theft in the First Degree and Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card.
- C. Each alleged incident of theft was of Yamhill Fire Protection District property totaling \$1,000 or more and each incident of fraudulent use of a credit card involved an Umpqua Bank card issued by the Yamhill Fire Protection District totaling \$1,000 or more. The indictment alleged these incidents occurred between October 22, 2022 and July 29, 2024.
- D. On April 13, 2026, Trampas Bergstrom plead guilty to (1) felony count of Theft in the First Degree committed between August 7, 2022 and January 14, 2023. As part of the plea agreement, Trampas Bergstrom spent 7 days in jail, paid restitution in the amount of \$21,926.60, and was sentenced to 24 months of supervised probation.
- E. The actions described in paragraph 4(D) constitutes one violation of ORS 244.040(1).

## **5. Terms of Settlement:**

The parties agree as follows:

- A. On April 25, 2025, the Commission considered information in the preliminary review phase of Case No. 26-086ELG and acted to find cause to initiate an investigation of this matter. Trampas Bergstrom has indicated that he wishes to conclude this matter by agreeing to the terms and conditions in this order without completing the investigative phase.
- B. ORS 244.350(1)(a) authorizes the Commission to assess a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 for each violation.
- C. Pursuant to ORS 244.390(1) a penalty or sanction imposed by the Commission is in addition to and not in lieu of any other penalty or sanction that may be imposed according to the law. Before imposing a civil penalty, ORS 244.390(2) requires the Commission to consider the public interest and any other penalty or sanction that has been imposed on the public official as a result of the same conduct.
- D. OAR 199-008-0015(3) permits the Commission to exercise its discretion to deviate from the calculated sanctions set forth in the penalty matrix and to modify the civil penalty.
- E. Trampas Bergstrom took responsibility for the behavior that led to the violations described herein, and paid restitution in the amount of \$21,926.60.
- F. Considering ORS 244.390(2) and OAR 199-008-0015(3), and the penalties already imposed, Trampas Bergstrom will be required to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$1,000 to settle and compromise this matter
- G. The civil penalty in paragraph, 5(F), above, will be paid in (5) installments of \$200 on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month per month, beginning on October 15,

2026 and ending on February 15, 2027. All payments will be interest free. If a payment becomes 10 days or more delinquent, the entire balance will be assigned to the Oregon Department of Revenue for collection.

- H. The Commission asserts that the result of an investigation, if submitted through exhibits and testimony at a contested case hearing, would establish a preponderance of evidence in support of a post-hearing order to find one violation of ORS 244.040(1). It is the desire of the parties to fully settle the investigation in this Stipulated Final Order.
- I. The Commission releases, settles and compromises any and all claims, allegations and charges that have been or could be asserted against Trampas Bergstrom within the scope of the above-referenced case.
- J. Trampas Bergstrom will initiate no claims, litigation, or other action against the Commission as a result of these proceedings.

#### **6. Review by Counsel:**

All of the parties hereto acknowledge that this agreement has been entered into by their own free will and with full understanding of the contents herein. Each of the parties further acknowledges that each has had the opportunity to seek the advice of counsel in reviewing and entering this agreement.

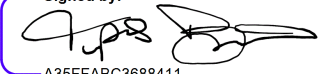
#### **7. Effect:**

This agreement is subject to the final approval of the Commission. Once approved, this agreement shall be the final disposition of these matters and shall be binding upon all parties.

By signing this agreement, Trampas Bergstrom agrees to waive his right to a contested case hearing as provided in ORS Chapter 183 and ORS 244.370. This order shall be the final order and all information in the Commission files on this matter shall become part of the record.

By signing this agreement, Trampas Bergstrom agrees to waive his right to obtain judicial review of this order as provided in ORS 183.482

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have entered into and signed this stipulated final order on the dates set forth below.

Signed by:  
  
A35FFABC3688411...

August 29, 2026

Respondent: Trampas Bergstrom

Date

Shenoa Payne, Chairperson  
Oregon Government Ethics Commission

Date

**BEFORE THE OREGON  
GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

**Chris Schull**

**STIPULATED FINAL ORDER**

Case No.: **26-011EJS**

Date: **September 11, 2026**

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**1. Purpose:**

The purpose of this stipulated final order is to release, settle and compromise any and all claims, allegations, and charges that have been asserted by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (Commission) in the above-referenced case against Chris Schull.

**2. Jurisdiction:**

At all material times, Chris Schull was the District Manager for the Tumalo Irrigation District (TID). As such, Chris Schull was a public official subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission pursuant to ORS Chapter 244.

**3. Applicable Law:**

A. ORS 244.040(1) prohibits a public official from using or attempting to use their official position or office to obtain a financial gain or avoid a financial detriment for themselves, their relatives or household members, or any business with which they or their relatives or household members are associated, if the financial gain or avoidance of financial detriment would not otherwise be available but for the public official's holding their official position or office.

- B. ORS 244.040(2) states, “Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to: (a) Any part of an official compensation package as determined by the public body that the public official serves. \* \* \* (c) Reimbursement of expenses. \* \* \*”
- C. OAR 199-008-0005(3) states that the term “official compensation package” means “the wages and other benefits provided to the public official. To be part of the public official's “official compensation package”, the wages and benefits must have been specifically approved by the public body in a formal manner, such as through a union contract, an employment contract, or other adopted personnel policies that apply generally to employees or other public officials. “Official compensation package” also includes the direct payment of a public official's expenses by the public body, in accordance with the public body's policies.”
- D. OAR 199-008-000(4) states that the term “reimbursement of expenses” means “the payment by a public body to a public official serving that public body, of expenses incurred in the conduct of official duties on behalf of the public body. Any such repayment must comply with any applicable laws and policies governing the eligibility of such repayment. \* \* \*”
- E. A conflict of interest means any action, decision, or recommendation by a person acting in their capacity as a public official, the effect of which would be (actual conflict of interest) or could be (potential conflict of interest) to the private financial benefit or detriment of the person, their relative, their household member or a business with which they, their relative, or their household member are associated. [ORS 244.020(1) and ORS 244.020(13)].
- F. When met with a conflict of interest, a public official serving as an employee, such as Chris Schull, must provide written notification to his appointing authority of the nature of the conflict of interest and request that the appointing authority dispose of the matter giving rise to the conflict of interest. The appointing authority can dispose of the matter by designating an

alternate employee for the matter or by directing the public official on how to handle the matter. [ORS 244.120(1)(c)].

#### **4. Stipulated Facts:**

- G. Chris Schull is the District Manager for the Tumalo Irrigation District and has held that position since August 2021.
- H. On December 16, 2024, Chris Schull purchased airfare, including first class seat upgrades, to travel to Washington D.C. for TID business in 2025. Also on December 16, 2024, Chris Schull emailed April Harris [Spath], TID Office Manager, requesting reimbursement for the cost of his ticket. Chris Schull stated, "Please reimburse for my cost. I paid on my card." On January 1, 2025, TID issued Chris Schull a \$1,290.94 check for his airfare to participate in the "2025 DC Trip."
- I. The TID Personnel Manual, effective January 1, 2023, provides that "Travel and lodging will be arranged in advance for the employee as necessary. TID will reimburse reasonable direct expenses including, without limitation, meals, tips, and parking fees at the applicable per diem rates. Prior authorization by the Manager is required for reimbursement."
- J. The procedure described in the Personnel Manual requires travel expense reimbursements to be approved by the District Manager, in this case Chris Schull. Chris Schull did not provide written notification of a conflict of interest to his appointing authority, the TID Board of Directors (Board), when he requested TID staff to process his own reimbursement on December 16, 2024, nor did he request that the Board dispose of the matter giving rise to the conflict of interest.
- K. While serving in his role as District Manager, Chris Schull used a TID vehicle in the course of his employment and for commuting between his home and place of work.

- L. The TID Personnel Manual states, “The following conduct is prohibited: \* \* \* Using TID vehicles for personal business or other unauthorized use.” The Personnel Manual also states, “An employee’s (and volunteer’s) use of his or her personal vehicle, or a TID vehicle, in pursuit of TID’s business will be made in accordance with, and subject to, TID’s Vehicle Use Policy.” The TID does not have a vehicle use policy.
- M. Chris Schull’s official compensation package does not authorize him to use a TID vehicle for commuting or personal business. Chris Schull would not have been able to use a TID-provided vehicle for personal use or commuting, but for his official position. When Chris Schull used a TID vehicle for personal transportation between his residence and place of work he avoided the financial detriment of using his own vehicle.
- N. Chris Schull used a TID vehicle for personal transportation, without the benefit being provided in his official compensation package. Chris Schull did not provide written notification of a conflict of interest to the Board regarding his personal vehicle usage.
- O. The Commission contends that the results of the Commission investigation, if submitted through exhibits and testimony at a contested case hearing, would establish a preponderance of evidence in support of a post-hearing order to find one violation each of ORS 244.040(1) and ORS 244.120(1)(c).
- P. Chris Schull contends that the facts set forth in this Stipulated Final Order are insufficient to establish violations of ORS 244.040(1) and ORS 244.120(1)(c). Chris Schull believes his actions were consistent with longstanding District practices, were undertaken in good faith in furtherance of District business, and occurred in the absence of policies that clearly addressed the circumstances at issue. He contends that he did not intend to obtain any improper financial benefit or knowingly violate Oregon ethics laws. He disputes the Commission’s legal conclusions and believes the evidence and applicable law support a different conclusion. Nevertheless, in order to avoid

the time, expense, and uncertainty of further proceedings, he agrees to the conditions as set forth in this Stipulated Final Order and the agreed-upon civil penalty.

## **5. Terms of Settlement:**

The parties agree as follows:

- A. On April 10, 2026, the Commission considered information in the preliminary review phase of Case No. 26-011EJS and acted to find cause to initiate an investigation of this matter. Chris Schull has indicated that he wishes to conclude this matter by agreeing to the terms and conditions in this order without completing the investigative phase.
- B. Chris Schull will pay a civil penalty, as authorized by ORS 244.350(1)(a), in the amount \$100 in order to settle and compromise this matter. Payment in full will be made payable to the Commission no later than October 11, 2026.
- C. The Commission releases, settles and compromises any and all claims, allegations and charges that have been or could be asserted against Chris Schull within the scope of the above-referenced case.
- D. Chris Schull will initiate no claims, litigation, or other action against the Commission as a result of these proceedings.

## **6. Review by Counsel:**

All of the parties hereto acknowledge that this agreement has been entered into by their own free will and with full understanding of the contents herein. Each of the parties further acknowledges that each has had the opportunity to seek the advice of counsel in reviewing and entering this agreement.

## **7. Effect:**

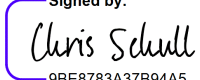
This agreement is subject to the final approval of the Commission. Once

approved, this agreement shall be the final disposition of these matters and shall be binding upon all parties.

By signing this agreement, Chris Schull agrees to waive his right to a contested case hearing as provided in ORS Chapter 183 and ORS 244.370. This order shall be the final order and all information in the Commission files on this matter shall become part of the record.

By signing this agreement, Chris Schull agrees to waive his right to obtain judicial review of this order as provided in ORS 183.482

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have entered into and signed this stipulated final order on the dates set forth below.

Signed by:  
  
9BE8783A37B94A5...

Respondent: Chris Schull

August 18, 2026

Date

Shenoa Payne, Chairperson  
Oregon Government Ethics Commission

Date

### **Tumalo Irrigation District - Board of Directors - Public Meetings Law Cases:**

- Regular Session Item 26-053XJS Ron Cochran
- Regular Session Item 26-054XJS Martin Warbington
- Regular Session Item 26-055XJS Steve Putnam
- Regular Session Item 26-056XJS Carol Shull
- Regular Session Item 26-057XJS Ed Galazzo

The following reports are regarding alleged Public Meetings Law violations by members of the Board of Directors (Board) for the Tumalo Irrigation District (TID). Each of the above referenced investigation reports contain the same substantive information, allegations, and recommendations.

The investigations focus on whether the Board violated ORS 192.660(2) when they held an executive session on December 9, 2025. Commission staff examined the December 9th executive session minutes, the legal memo and exhibits considered by the Board during the executive session, and the information provided by members of the Board about their discussions. Based on the available information, it does not appear that the Board engaged in topics unauthorized by the cited executive session provisions. The recommendation is to dismiss these cases.

**BEFORE THE OREGON  
GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

**Ron Cochran**

Case No.: **26-053XJS**

Date: **August 28, 2026**

**INVESTIGATION REPORT**

Recommendation: **Move to dismiss**

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**Synopsis**

Ron Cochran is the former Chairman on the Board of Directors (Board) for the Tumalo Irrigation District (TID). The complaint in this case was submitted by Susie Hart on February 2, 2026. The complaint alleges that Ron Cochran, along with the other members of the TID Board, may have violated provisions of Oregon Public Meetings Law by discussing matters unauthorized by the statutes under which an executive session was held on December 9, 2025. The Board's December 9th executive session was held under ORS 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h).

At its April 10, 2026 meeting, the Commission considered the information presented in the preliminary review and found cause to open an investigation. In investigation, Commission staff examined the December 9th executive session minutes, the legal memo and exhibits considered by the Board during the executive session, and the information provided by members of the Board about their discussions. Based on the available information, it does not appear that the Board engaged in topics beyond those authorized under ORS 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h) during the December 9, 2025 executive session. Thus, the information does not indicate that Ron Cochran violated ORS 192.660(2) or OAR 199-040-0020(1).

1   **Relevant Statutes and Administrative Rules**

2   The following Oregon Revised Statutes and Oregon Administrative Rules are applicable to  
3   the issues addressed herein:

4           **192.630 Meetings of governing body to be open to public; location of**  
5           **meetings; accommodation for person with disability; interpreters.**

6           (1) All meetings of the governing body of a public body shall be open to the public  
7           and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting except as otherwise  
8           provided by ORS 192.610 to 192.705.

9           \* \* \* \* \*

10          **192.660 Executive sessions permitted on certain matters; procedures; news**  
11          **media representatives' attendance; limits.** (1) ORS 192.610 to 192.705 do not  
12          prevent the governing body of a public body from holding executive session during  
13          a regular, special or emergency meeting, after the presiding officer has identified  
14          the authorization under ORS 192.610 to 192.705 for holding the executive session.

15          (2) The governing body of a public body may hold an executive session:

16          \* \* \* \* \*

17          (f) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection.

18          \* \* \* \* \*

19          (h) To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body  
20          with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

21          \* \* \* \* \*

22          199-040-0020 Permitted and Prohibited Topics for Executive Session

23          (1) The purpose of this rule is to clarify that an executive session may only be held  
24          when permitted by a specific provision of ORS 192.660 or other state law

1 authorizing an executive session. The topic(s) discussed in an executive session  
2 must be limited to those topics expressly permitted by the specific provision(s)  
3 under which the executive session was convened. Members of governing bodies  
4 may not discuss topics in executive session other than those delineated in ORS  
5 192.660 or other state law permitting an executive session, even if the additional  
6 topics are related to the issue concerning which the governing body convened the  
7 executive session.

8 \* \* \* \* \*

## 9 **Investigation**

10 On February 2, 2026, the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (Commission) initiated  
11 a preliminary review based on information in a signed complaint from Susie Hart. The  
12 complaint alleges that Ron Cochran, former Chairman on the TID Board may have  
13 violated Public Meetings Law when the Board held an executive session on December 9,  
14 2025. In her complaint, Susie Hart states that she submitted a grievance to the TID during  
15 the Board's November 11, 2025 meeting. The complaint alleges that the TID Board  
16 discussed Susie Hart's November 11th grievance during an executive session held under  
17 ORS 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h) on December 9, 2025. The complaint states  
18 that discussion of the grievance was not authorized by the statutes under which the  
19 executive session was held. (#PR1).

20 The complaint alleges that the grievance "had to have been discussed" during the  
21 executive session because, during the open session of the Board's December 9th  
22 meeting, Ron Cochran read a statement responding to the grievance. The complaint  
23 alleges that, in order to have a response prepared, Ron Cochran either had discussions  
24 about the grievance during the executive session, the Board discussed the matter outside  
25 of a public meeting, or Ron Cochran consulted with the TID attorney, Mark Reinecke,  
26 outside of a meeting and without Board approval. (#PR1).

27 At its April 10, 2026 meeting, the Commission considered the information presented in the  
28 preliminary review and found cause to open an investigation. The focus of the

1 investigation was to determine whether there was sufficient evidence to indicate whether  
2 Ron Cochran, along with the other members of the Board, may have violated ORS  
3 192.660(2) and OAR 199-040-0020(1).

#### 4 *November 11, 2025 Grievance*

5 In her complaint, Susie Hart refers to a grievance on another matter, which was submitted  
6 to the TID on November 11, 2025. In her November 11th grievance, Susie Hart alleges  
7 that the Board took inappropriate action by ratifying a decision to declare the TID's 2022  
8 Chevrolet Tahoe as surplus equipment. The grievance also states that the Board never  
9 approved the purchase of a new vehicle to replace the Tahoe. The grievance alleges that  
10 the Board did not make these decisions in an open and transparent manner. (#PR3).

#### 11 *Grievance Acknowledgement*

12 On January 9, 2026, the TID Board Vice Chair, Martin Warbington, sent Susie Hart a letter  
13 with the subject line "Acknowledgement of Written Grievances (12/9/25 & 1/1/26)." In the  
14 letter, Martin Warbington states that the Board did not consider her grievances during the  
15 December 9th Board meeting because they were not submitted in time. The letter states  
16 that the grievances would be formally acknowledged on the agenda for the January 13,  
17 2026 Board meeting. The letter also states that the Board would not discuss or respond to  
18 the substance of the grievances outside of the process established by Public Meetings  
19 Law, TID bylaws, and TID policies. (#PR8).

20 At their January 13, 2025 meeting, the Board formally acknowledged receipt of Susie  
21 Hart's grievances. The Board appointed Director Jack Billings to review the grievances  
22 and bring a recommendation to the Board. (#PR9).

#### 23 *December 9, 2025 Meeting*

24 The minutes for the TID Board meeting on December 9, 2025 state that the meeting was  
25 called to order at 10:00 a.m., the Board entered an executive session under ORS  
26 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h) at 10:01 a.m., and the Board reconvened the regular  
27 session of the meeting at 10:40 a.m. The minutes state that during the open session held

1 after the executive session, Ron Cochran made the following statement:

2 Chairman Cochran read a statement in response to the Letter of Grievance that  
3 Susie Hart submitted to the Board at the November 11, 2025 board meeting. He  
4 said the board acknowledged that while the vehicle replacement issue was  
5 discussed publicly, it was not formally voted on at the time; after consulting legal  
6 counsel, the board corrected this by ratifying the action in a public meeting in  
7 accordance with Oregon Public Meetings Law. The authorization ensured  
8 transparency. There was no personal benefit to anyone, and the trade-in supported  
9 efficient district operations. The board was committed to ensuring future votes were  
10 properly taken and recorded in the future and the board considered the matter  
11 resolved. (#PR4).

#### 12 *December 9, 2025 Executive Session*

13 On December 9, 2025, the TID Board entered executive session under the following  
14 authority:

15 ORS 192.660(2)(f): To consider information or records that are exempt from disclosure by  
16 law, including written advice from your attorney.

17 ORS 192.660(2)(h): To consult with your attorney regarding your legal rights and duties in  
18 regard to current litigation or litigation that is more likely than not to be filed. (#PR4).

19 While confidential, the TID Board has provided Commission staff with the meeting minutes  
20 relating to this executive session. Commission staff have reviewed these meeting minutes  
21 for the purpose of determining whether the TID Board discussed topics that exceed the  
22 scope authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(f) or ORS 192.660(2)(h). (#PR5).

#### 23 *Ed Galazzo Email*

24 Ed Galaazo, TID Board member, emailed Commission staff on February 9, 2026 with a  
25 response to the complaint. In his email, Ed Galazzo states that the Board never discussed  
26 any grievance by Susie Hart during the executive session held on December 9, 2025. He  
27 states that any discussion with the TID attorney during the executive session was strictly

1 limited to the proper legal procedure for addressing patron grievances in general. Ed  
2 Galazzo states that, because the TID does not have a current policy for handling  
3 grievances, the Board sought counsel to establish a transparent process. He states that  
4 the TID is in the early stages of developing a written policy. (#PR6).

#### 5 *April Spath Email*

6 April Spath, TID Office Manager, emailed Commission staff on February 9, 2025. In her  
7 email, April Spath states that the TID does not have a copy of the memo that Attorney  
8 Reinecke prepared for the December 9, 2025 executive session. She states that Attorney  
9 Reinecke handed a copy of the memo to each of the Board members during the meeting,  
10 and he collected them at the end of the executive session. (#PR7).

#### 11 *Preliminary Review Responses*

12 Kenneth Katzaroff, attorney with Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, P.C. (Schwabe),  
13 responded to the Commission's preliminary review reports for Ron Cochran, Steve  
14 Putnam, Carol Shull, and Martin Warbington in this matter. Ed Galazzo was not  
15 represented by Schwabe. In the responses provided, Kenneth Katzaroff states that  
16 Schwabe interviewed their clients, and each respondent provided a sworn statement  
17 indicating that the Board did not exceed the scope of the executive session held on  
18 December 9, 2025. (#IR1, #IR2, #IR3, #IR4, #IR7).

19 In their sworn statements, the Board members state that a script of a statement  
20 responding to Susie Hart's November 11th grievance was handed to Ron Cochran at the  
21 conclusion of the December 9th executive session without comment, deliberation or  
22 discussion. They state that the script was prepared by TID Attorney Mark Reinecke, and  
23 "[n]othing related to Mr. Cochran's statement was discussed in the executive session." The  
24 sworn statements also indicate that Mark Reinecke "advised the Board about what a  
25 potential policy would require to comply with the applicable laws, as part of the requested  
26 legal advice," and no deliberation, vote, or decision regarding the policy occurred. The  
27 sworn statements indicate that Mark Reinecke informed them that any consideration or  
28 adoption of the policy would need to occur at a future public meeting. (#IR1, #IR2, #IR3,

1 #IR4).

2 The respondents' submissions include a sworn statement from TID Attorney Mark  
3 Reinecke. Mark Reinecke states that the December 9, 2025 executive session was not  
4 convened to approve a response to Susie Hart's grievance. He states that the TID's  
5 November 18, 2025 response to Susie Hart's grievance was referenced during the  
6 executive session as context for his written legal advice. Mark Reinecke states that he  
7 prepared a script for Ron Cochran to read during the open session of the December 9th  
8 meeting, but the script was not discussed or considered during the executive session. He  
9 also states, "I presented a potential submissions policy to the Board as part of confidential  
10 legal advice." Mark Reinecke states that he advised the Board that any consideration or  
11 adoption of the policy would need to occur during a public meeting, and no deliberation or  
12 vote occurred. (#IR1, #IR2, #IR3, #IR4).

### 13 *Legal Memorandum*

14 On April 27, 2026, Katie Clavere, Associate with Schwabe, provided Commission staff with  
15 the confidential legal memorandum and attached exhibits presented by Mark Reinecke at  
16 the Board's meeting on December 9, 2025. (#IR5, #IR6).

17 Commission staff have reviewed the confidential legal memorandum and the attached  
18 exhibits for the purpose of determining whether the TID Board discussed topics that  
19 exceed the scope authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(f) or ORS 192.660(2)(h).

### 20 **Conclusions**

21 During the relevant period, Ron Cochran was the Chairman for the TID Board. The  
22 Tumalo Irrigation District is a public body, and the Board of Directors is its governing body.  
23 [ORS 192.610(5) and (7)]. As a member of the governing body of a public body, Ron  
24 Cochran was required to comply with the provisions of Oregon Public Meetings law found  
25 in ORS 192.610 to ORS 192.705.

26 ORS 192.660(2) enumerates the instances when a governing body of a public body may  
27 go into an executive session lawfully. The TID Board held an executive session on

1 December 9, 2025 to discuss matters under ORS 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h).

2 The Attorney General's Public Records and Meetings Manual 2024 (AG Manual) advises:

3 A governing body may go into executive session to consider "information or records  
4 that are exempt by law from public inspection." Thus, information or records that are  
5 exempt from public inspection under the Public Records Law may be considered in  
6 private.

7 Whether a particular record is exempt from public disclosure, and may therefore be  
8 considered in executive session, may depend not just on the exemptions listed in  
9 ORS 192.345 and ORS 192.355, but also on other federal and state statutes on  
10 confidentiality [AG Manual § II.E.1.f]

11 The AG Manual also advises:

12 "We believe a governing body also has the authority to meet in executive session  
13 to obtain confidential professional legal services from its legal counsel. For  
14 example, confidential written legal advice from counsel is a privileged record that is  
15 typically exempt from disclosure under Public Records Law. Considering records  
16 that are so exempt provides authority to meet in executive session. Accordingly, if a  
17 governing body takes appropriate steps, it may meet in executive session to  
18 discuss any legal matter of a confidential nature absent the existence or likelihood  
19 of litigation. The governing body should return to public session for any discussion  
20 of policy." (AG Manual § II.E.1.h)

21 The complaint in this case alleges that, although the December 9, 2025 executive session  
22 was held under ORS 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h), the TID Board discussed  
23 matters unauthorized under those provisions. Specifically, the complaint alleges that the  
24 Board discussed a grievance submitted by Susie Hart on November 11, 2025. The  
25 executive session minutes list three topics heard by the Board during the executive  
26 session.

27 The Board's consideration of the first matter appears to be consistent with ORS

1 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h), as it involves an attorney providing both general  
2 legal advice to the TID Board as well as the attorney providing legal advice in a situation in  
3 which litigation was likely to be filed.

4 The Board's consideration of the second matter also appears to be consistent with ORS  
5 192.660(2)(h), as the Board consulted with their attorney about potential litigation with a  
6 patron.

7 The executive session minutes indicate that when the Board considered the third matter,  
8 they reviewed a legal memorandum prepared by Attorney Mark Reinecke. The legal  
9 memorandum considered during the executive session qualifies as "confidential  
10 information exempt from public inspection." The executive session minutes indicate that  
11 the TID legal counsel was present for the discussions and provided legal advice to the  
12 Board.

13 The preliminary review in this case identified that when the Board considered the third  
14 matter, they may have considered a non-confidential statement that was read out loud  
15 during the open session of the meeting, and a draft policy. During this investigation,  
16 Commission staff received a copy of the confidential legal memorandum considered  
17 during the executive session. As indicated in the respondents' sworn statements, the  
18 memorandum includes legal advice about adopting a submissions policy, and it includes  
19 an example policy as an exhibit. It appears that Attorney Mark Reinecke presented legal  
20 advice to the Board related to the adoption of a submissions policy, and the legal  
21 memorandum was part of his legal advice. The information available in this investigation  
22 indicates that the Board received legal advice about policy options; however, the  
23 information does not indicate that the Board engaged in a discussion of TID policy. Thus, it  
24 appears that the Board's consideration of legal advice pertaining to their options for  
25 adopting a submissions policy qualified under ORS 192.660(2)(f).

26 The information provided indicates that, during the executive session, Attorney Mark  
27 Reinecke provided Ron Cochran with a copy of a script to read during the open session,  
28 but it does not appear that the Board considered or discussed the script during the  
29 December 9th executive session. Neither the legal memorandum nor the executive

1 session minutes indicate that the Board discussed Susie Hart's grievance or the non-  
2 confidential statement during the executive session.

3 When the Board engaged in discussions in the executive session, it appears the  
4 discussions were limited to legal advice, as authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(f), and  
5 potential litigation, as authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(h).

6 **Recommendations:**

7 The Oregon Government Ethics Commission should find that there is not a preponderance  
8 of the evidence in this case to establish that Ron Cochran violated ORS 192.660(2) and  
9 OAR 199-040-0020(1) and order that the case against him be dismissed. [Motion 7].

**Associated Documents:**

- #PR1 Original Complaint submitted 2/2/2026
- #PR2 Combined Open Case Communications sent 2/4/2026
- #PR3 Susie Hart Grievance Submitted 11/11/2025
- #PR4 Board Meeting Minutes for 12/9/2025
- #PR5 Executive Session Minutes for 12/9/2025
- #PR6 Email from Ed Galazzo on 2/9/2026
- #PR7 Email from April Spath on 2/9/2026
- #PR8 Grievance Acknowledgement sent 1/9/2026
- #PR9 Minutes for Board Meeting on 1/13/2026
- #IR1 Ron Cochran PR Response dated 4/6/2026
- #IR2 Steve Putnam PR Response dated 4/6/2026
- #IR3 Carol Shull PR Response dated 4/6/2026
- #IR4 Martin Warbington PR Response dated 4/6/2026
- #IR5 Email from Katie Clavere on 4/27/2026
- #IR6 Legal Memorandum for 12/9/2025
- #IR7 Ron Cochran PR Report dated 3/25/2026

|                                        |           |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|
| Prepared By: <u>Joshua J. Sullivan</u> | 8/28/2026 |
| Joshua J. Sullivan                     | Date      |
| Investigator                           |           |
| Approved By: <u>Susan V. Myers</u>     | 8/28/2026 |
| Susan V. Myers                         | Date      |
| Executive Director                     |           |
| Reviewed By: <u>Daniel R. Gilbert</u>  | 8/28/2026 |
| Daniel R. Gilbert                      | Date      |
| Senior Assistant Attorney General      |           |

**BEFORE THE OREGON  
GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

**Martin Warbington**

Case No.: **26-054XJS**

Date: **August 28, 2026**

**INVESTIGATION REPORT**

Recommendation: **Move to dismiss**

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**Synopsis**

Martin Warbington is the Vice Chair on the Board of Directors (Board) for the Tumalo Irrigation District (TID). The complaint in this case was submitted by Susie Hart on February 2, 2026. The complaint alleges that Martin Warbington, along with the other members of the TID Board, may have violated provisions of Oregon Public Meetings Law by discussing matters unauthorized by the statutes under which an executive session was held on December 9, 2025. The Board's December 9th executive session was held under ORS 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h).

At its April 10, 2026 meeting, the Commission considered the information presented in the preliminary review and found cause to open an investigation. In investigation, Commission staff examined the December 9th executive session minutes, the legal memo and exhibits considered by the Board during the executive session, and the information provided by members of the Board about their discussions. Based on the available information, it does not appear that the Board engaged in topics beyond those authorized under ORS 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h) during the December 9, 2025 executive session. Thus, the information does not indicate that Martin Warbington violated ORS 192.660(2) or OAR 199-040-0020(1).

1   **Relevant Statutes and Administrative Rules**

2   The following Oregon Revised Statutes and Oregon Administrative Rules are applicable to  
3   the issues addressed herein:

4           **192.630 Meetings of governing body to be open to public; location of**  
5           **meetings; accommodation for person with disability; interpreters.**

6           (1) All meetings of the governing body of a public body shall be open to the public  
7           and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting except as otherwise  
8           provided by ORS 192.610 to 192.705.

9           \* \* \* \* \*

10          **192.660 Executive sessions permitted on certain matters; procedures; news**  
11          **media representatives' attendance; limits.** (1) ORS 192.610 to 192.705 do not  
12          prevent the governing body of a public body from holding executive session during  
13          a regular, special or emergency meeting, after the presiding officer has identified  
14          the authorization under ORS 192.610 to 192.705 for holding the executive session.

15          (2) The governing body of a public body may hold an executive session:

16          \* \* \* \* \*

17          (f) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection.

18          \* \* \* \* \*

19          (h) To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body  
20          with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

21          \* \* \* \* \*

22          199-040-0020 Permitted and Prohibited Topics for Executive Session

23          (1) The purpose of this rule is to clarify that an executive session may only be held  
24          when permitted by a specific provision of ORS 192.660 or other state law

1 authorizing an executive session. The topic(s) discussed in an executive session  
2 must be limited to those topics expressly permitted by the specific provision(s)  
3 under which the executive session was convened. Members of governing bodies  
4 may not discuss topics in executive session other than those delineated in ORS  
5 192.660 or other state law permitting an executive session, even if the additional  
6 topics are related to the issue concerning which the governing body convened the  
7 executive session.

8 \* \* \* \* \*

## 9 **Investigation**

10 On February 2, 2026, the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (Commission) initiated  
11 a preliminary review based on information in a signed complaint from Susie Hart. The  
12 complaint alleges that Martin Warbington, Vice Chair on the TID Board may have violated  
13 Public Meetings Law when the Board held an executive session on December 9, 2025. In  
14 her complaint, Susie Hart states that she submitted a grievance to the TID during the  
15 Board's November 11, 2025 meeting. The complaint alleges that the TID Board discussed  
16 Susie Hart's November 11th grievance during an executive session held under ORS  
17 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h) on December 9, 2025. The complaint states that  
18 discussion of the grievance was not authorized by the statutes under which the executive  
19 session was held. (#PR1).

20 The complaint alleges that the grievance "had to have been discussed" during the  
21 executive session because, during the open session of the Board's December 9th  
22 meeting, Ron Cochran read a statement responding to the grievance. The complaint  
23 alleges that, in order to have a response prepared, Ron Cochran either had discussions  
24 about the grievance during the executive session, the Board discussed the matter outside  
25 of a public meeting, or Ron Cochran consulted with the TID attorney, Mark Reinecke,  
26 outside of a meeting and without Board approval. (#PR1).

27 At its April 10, 2026 meeting, the Commission considered the information presented in the  
28 preliminary review and found cause to open an investigation. The focus of the

1 investigation was to determine whether there was sufficient evidence to indicate whether  
2 Martin Warbington, along with the other members of the Board, may have violated ORS  
3 192.660(2) and OAR 199-040-0020(1).

#### 4 *November 11, 2025 Grievance*

5 In her complaint, Susie Hart refers to a grievance on another matter, which was submitted  
6 to the TID on November 11, 2025. In her November 11th grievance, Susie Hart alleges  
7 that the Board took inappropriate action by ratifying a decision to declare the TID's 2022  
8 Chevrolet Tahoe as surplus equipment. The grievance also states that the Board never  
9 approved the purchase of a new vehicle to replace the Tahoe. The grievance alleges that  
10 the Board did not make these decisions in an open and transparent manner. (#PR3).

#### 11 *Grievance Acknowledgement*

12 On January 9, 2026, the TID Board Vice Chair, Martin Warbington, sent Susie Hart a letter  
13 with the subject line "Acknowledgement of Written Grievances (12/9/25 & 1/1/26)." In the  
14 letter, Martin Warbington states that the Board did not consider her grievances during the  
15 December 9th Board meeting because they were not submitted in time. The letter states  
16 that the grievances would be formally acknowledged on the agenda for the January 13,  
17 2026 Board meeting. The letter also states that the Board would not discuss or respond to  
18 the substance of the grievances outside of the process established by Public Meetings  
19 Law, TID bylaws, and TID policies. (#PR8).

20 At their January 13, 2025 meeting, the Board formally acknowledged receipt of Susie  
21 Hart's grievances. The Board appointed Director Jack Billings to review the grievances  
22 and bring a recommendation to the Board. (#PR9).

#### 23 *December 9, 2025 Meeting*

24 The minutes for the TID Board meeting on December 9, 2025 state that the meeting was  
25 called to order at 10:00 a.m., the Board entered an executive session under ORS  
26 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h) at 10:01 a.m., and the Board reconvened the regular  
27 session of the meeting at 10:40 a.m. The minutes state that during the open session held

1 after the executive session, Ron Cochran made the following statement:

2 Chairman Cochran read a statement in response to the Letter of Grievance that  
3 Susie Hart submitted to the Board at the November 11, 2025 board meeting. He  
4 said the board acknowledged that while the vehicle replacement issue was  
5 discussed publicly, it was not formally voted on at the time; after consulting legal  
6 counsel, the board corrected this by ratifying the action in a public meeting in  
7 accordance with Oregon Public Meetings Law. The authorization ensured  
8 transparency. There was no personal benefit to anyone, and the trade-in supported  
9 efficient district operations. The board was committed to ensuring future votes were  
10 properly taken and recorded in the future and the board considered the matter  
11 resolved. (#PR4).

#### 12 *December 9, 2025 Executive Session*

13 On December 9, 2025, the TID Board entered executive session under the following  
14 authority:

15 ORS 192.660(2)(f): To consider information or records that are exempt from disclosure by  
16 law, including written advice from your attorney.

17 ORS 192.660(2)(h): To consult with your attorney regarding your legal rights and duties in  
18 regard to current litigation or litigation that is more likely than not to be filed. (#PR4).

19 While confidential, the TID Board has provided Commission staff with the meeting minutes  
20 relating to this executive session. Commission staff have reviewed these meeting minutes  
21 for the purpose of determining whether the TID Board discussed topics that exceed the  
22 scope authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(f) or ORS 192.660(2)(h). (#PR5).

#### 23 *Ed Galazzo Email*

24 Ed Galaazo, TID Board member, emailed Commission staff on February 9, 2026 with a  
25 response to the complaint. In his email, Ed Galazzo states that the Board never discussed  
26 any grievance by Susie Hart during the executive session held on December 9, 2025. He  
27 states that any discussion with the TID attorney during the executive session was strictly

1 limited to the proper legal procedure for addressing patron grievances in general. Ed  
2 Galazzo states that, because the TID does not have a current policy for handling  
3 grievances, the Board sought counsel to establish a transparent process. He states that  
4 the TID is in the early stages of developing a written policy. (#PR6).

#### 5 *April Spath Email*

6 April Spath, TID Office Manager, emailed Commission staff on February 9, 2025. In her  
7 email, April Spath states that the TID does not have a copy of the memo that Attorney  
8 Reinecke prepared for the December 9, 2025 executive session. She states that Attorney  
9 Reinecke handed a copy of the memo to each of the Board members during the meeting,  
10 and he collected them at the end of the executive session. (#PR7).

#### 11 *Preliminary Review Responses*

12 Kenneth Katzaroff, attorney with Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, P.C. (Schwabe),  
13 responded to the Commission's preliminary review reports for Ron Cochran, Steve  
14 Putnam, Carol Shull, and Martin Warbington in this matter. Ed Galazzo was not  
15 represented by Schwabe. In the responses provided, Kenneth Katzaroff states that  
16 Schwabe interviewed their clients, and each respondent provided a sworn statement  
17 indicating that the Board did not exceed the scope of the executive session held on  
18 December 9, 2025. (#IR1, #IR2, #IR3, #IR4, #IR7).

19 In their sworn statements, the Board members state that a script of a statement  
20 responding to Susie Hart's November 11th grievance was handed to Ron Cochran at the  
21 conclusion of the December 9th executive session without comment, deliberation or  
22 discussion. They state that the script was prepared by TID Attorney Mark Reinecke, and  
23 "[n]othing related to Mr. Cochran's statement was discussed in the executive session." The  
24 sworn statements also indicate that Mark Reinecke "advised the Board about what a  
25 potential policy would require to comply with the applicable laws, as part of the requested  
26 legal advice," and no deliberation, vote, or decision regarding the policy occurred. The  
27 sworn statements indicate that Mark Reinecke informed them that any consideration or  
28 adoption of the policy would need to occur at a future public meeting. (#IR1, #IR2, #IR3,

1 #IR4).

2 The respondents' submissions include a sworn statement from TID Attorney Mark  
3 Reinecke. Mark Reinecke states that the December 9, 2025 executive session was not  
4 convened to approve a response to Susie Hart's grievance. He states that the TID's  
5 November 18, 2025 response to Susie Hart's grievance was referenced during the  
6 executive session as context for his written legal advice. Mark Reinecke states that he  
7 prepared a script for Ron Cochran to read during the open session of the December 9th  
8 meeting, but the script was not discussed or considered during the executive session. He  
9 also states, "I presented a potential submissions policy to the Board as part of confidential  
10 legal advice." Mark Reinecke states that he advised the Board that any consideration or  
11 adoption of the policy would need to occur during a public meeting, and no deliberation or  
12 vote occurred. (#IR1, #IR2, #IR3, #IR4).

### 13 *Legal Memorandum*

14 On April 27, 2026, Katie Clavere, Associate with Schwabe, provided Commission staff with  
15 the confidential legal memorandum and attached exhibits presented by Mark Reinecke at  
16 the Board's meeting on December 9, 2025. (#IR5, #IR6).

17 Commission staff have reviewed the confidential legal memorandum and the attached  
18 exhibits for the purpose of determining whether the TID Board discussed topics that  
19 exceed the scope authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(f) or ORS 192.660(2)(h).

### 20 **Conclusions**

21 During the relevant period, Martin Warbington was a Member on the TID Board. The  
22 Tumalo Irrigation District is a public body, and the Board of Directors is its governing body.  
23 [ORS 192.610(5) and (7)]. As a member of the governing body of a public body, Martin  
24 Warbington was required to comply with the provisions of Oregon Public Meetings law  
25 found in ORS 192.610 to ORS 192.705.

26 ORS 192.660(2) enumerates the instances when a governing body of a public body may  
27 go into an executive session lawfully. The TID Board held an executive session on

1 December 9, 2025 to discuss matters under ORS 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h).

2 The Attorney General's Public Records and Meetings Manual 2024 (AG Manual) advises:

3 A governing body may go into executive session to consider "information or records  
4 that are exempt by law from public inspection." Thus, information or records that are  
5 exempt from public inspection under the Public Records Law may be considered in  
6 private.

7 Whether a particular record is exempt from public disclosure, and may therefore be  
8 considered in executive session, may depend not just on the exemptions listed in  
9 ORS 192.345 and ORS 192.355, but also on other federal and state statutes on  
10 confidentiality [AG Manual § II.E.1.f]

11 The AG Manual also advises:

12 "We believe a governing body also has the authority to meet in executive session  
13 to obtain confidential professional legal services from its legal counsel. For  
14 example, confidential written legal advice from counsel is a privileged record that is  
15 typically exempt from disclosure under Public Records Law. Considering records  
16 that are so exempt provides authority to meet in executive session. Accordingly, if a  
17 governing body takes appropriate steps, it may meet in executive session to  
18 discuss any legal matter of a confidential nature absent the existence or likelihood  
19 of litigation. The governing body should return to public session for any discussion  
20 of policy." (AG Manual § II.E.1.h)

21 The complaint in this case alleges that, although the December 9, 2025 executive session  
22 was held under ORS 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h), the TID Board discussed  
23 matters unauthorized under those provisions. Specifically, the complaint alleges that the  
24 Board discussed a grievance submitted by Susie Hart on November 11, 2025. The  
25 executive session minutes list three topics heard by the Board during the executive  
26 session.

27 The Board's consideration of the first matter appears to be consistent with ORS

1 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h), as it involves an attorney providing both general  
2 legal advice to the TID Board as well as the attorney providing legal advice in a situation in  
3 which litigation was likely to be filed.

4 The Board's consideration of the second matter also appears to be consistent with ORS  
5 192.660(2)(h), as the Board consulted with their attorney about potential litigation with a  
6 patron.

7 The executive session minutes indicate that when the Board considered the third matter,  
8 they reviewed a legal memorandum prepared by Attorney Mark Reinecke. The legal  
9 memorandum considered during the executive session qualifies as "confidential  
10 information exempt from public inspection." The executive session minutes indicate that  
11 the TID legal counsel was present for the discussions and provided legal advice to the  
12 Board.

13 The preliminary review in this case identified that when the Board considered the third  
14 matter, they may have considered a non-confidential statement that was read out loud  
15 during the open session of the meeting, and a draft policy. During this investigation,  
16 Commission staff received a copy of the confidential legal memorandum considered  
17 during the executive session. As indicated in the respondents' sworn statements, the  
18 memorandum includes legal advice about adopting a submissions policy, and it includes  
19 an example policy as an exhibit. It appears that Attorney Mark Reinecke presented legal  
20 advice to the Board related to the adoption of a submissions policy, and the legal  
21 memorandum was part of his legal advice. The information available in this investigation  
22 indicates that the Board received legal advice about policy options; however, the  
23 information does not indicate that the Board engaged in a discussion of TID policy. Thus, it  
24 appears that the Board's consideration of legal advice pertaining to their options for  
25 adopting a submissions policy qualified under ORS 192.660(2)(f).

26 The information provided indicates that, during the executive session, Attorney Mark  
27 Reinecke provided Ron Cochran with a copy of a script to read during the open session,  
28 but it does not appear that the Board considered or discussed the script during the  
29 December 9th executive session. Neither the legal memorandum nor the executive

1 session minutes indicate that the Board discussed Susie Hart's grievance or the non-  
2 confidential statement during the executive session.

3 When the Board engaged in discussions in the executive session, it appears the  
4 discussions were limited to legal advice, as authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(f), and  
5 potential litigation, as authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(h).

6 **Recommendations:**

7 The Oregon Government Ethics Commission should find that there is not a preponderance  
8 of the evidence in this case to establish that Martin Warbington violated ORS 192.660(2)  
9 and OAR 199-040-0020(1) and order that the case against him be dismissed. [Motion 7].

**Associated Documents:**

- #PR1 Original Complaint submitted 2/2/2026
- #PR2 Combined Open Case Communications sent 2/4/2026
- #PR3 Susie Hart Grievance Submitted 11/11/2025
- #PR4 Board Meeting Minutes for 12/9/2025
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- #PR6 Email from Ed Galazzo on 2/9/2026
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- #IR1 Ron Cochran PR Response dated 4/6/2026
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- #IR6 Legal Memorandum for 12/9/2025
- #IR7 Ron Cochran PR Report dated 3/25/2026

|                                        |           |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|
| Prepared By: <u>Joshua J. Sullivan</u> | 8/28/2026 |
| Joshua J. Sullivan                     | Date      |
| Investigator                           |           |
| Approved By: <u>Susan V. Myers</u>     | 8/28/2026 |
| Susan V. Myers                         | Date      |
| Executive Director                     |           |
| Reviewed By: <u>Daniel R. Gilbert</u>  | 8/28/2026 |
| Daniel R. Gilbert                      | Date      |
| Senior Assistant Attorney General      |           |

**BEFORE THE OREGON  
GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

**Steve Putnam**

Case No.: **26-055XJS**

Date: **August 28, 2026**

**INVESTIGATION REPORT**

Recommendation: **Move to dismiss**

---

**Synopsis**

Steve Putnam is a former Member on the Board of Directors (Board) for the Tumalo Irrigation District (TID). The complaint in this case was submitted by Susie Hart on February 2, 2026. The complaint alleges that Steve Putnam, along with the other members of the TID Board, may have violated provisions of Oregon Public Meetings Law by discussing matters unauthorized by the statutes under which an executive session was held on December 9, 2025. The Board's December 9th executive session was held under ORS 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h).

At its April 10, 2026 meeting, the Commission considered the information presented in the preliminary review and found cause to open an investigation. In investigation, Commission staff examined the December 9th executive session minutes, the legal memo and exhibits considered by the Board during the executive session, and the information provided by members of the Board about their discussions. Based on the available information, it does not appear that the Board engaged in topics beyond those authorized under ORS 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h) during the December 9, 2025 executive session. Thus, the information does not indicate that Steve Putnam violated ORS 192.660(2) or OAR 199-040-0020(1).

1   **Relevant Statutes and Administrative Rules**

2   The following Oregon Revised Statutes and Oregon Administrative Rules are applicable to  
3   the issues addressed herein:

4       **192.630 Meetings of governing body to be open to public; location of**  
5       **meetings; accommodation for person with disability; interpreters.**

6       (1) All meetings of the governing body of a public body shall be open to the public  
7       and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting except as otherwise  
8       provided by ORS 192.610 to 192.705.

9       \* \* \* \* \*

10      **192.660 Executive sessions permitted on certain matters; procedures; news**  
11      **media representatives' attendance; limits.** (1) ORS 192.610 to 192.705 do not  
12      prevent the governing body of a public body from holding executive session during  
13      a regular, special or emergency meeting, after the presiding officer has identified  
14      the authorization under ORS 192.610 to 192.705 for holding the executive session.

15      (2) The governing body of a public body may hold an executive session:

16      \* \* \* \* \*

17      (f) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection.

18      \* \* \* \* \*

19      (h) To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body  
20      with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

21      \* \* \* \* \*

22      **199-040-0020 Permitted and Prohibited Topics for Executive Session**

23      (1) The purpose of this rule is to clarify that an executive session may only be held  
24      when permitted by a specific provision of ORS 192.660 or other state law

1 authorizing an executive session. The topic(s) discussed in an executive session  
2 must be limited to those topics expressly permitted by the specific provision(s)  
3 under which the executive session was convened. Members of governing bodies  
4 may not discuss topics in executive session other than those delineated in ORS  
5 192.660 or other state law permitting an executive session, even if the additional  
6 topics are related to the issue concerning which the governing body convened the  
7 executive session.

8 \* \* \* \* \*

## 9 **Investigation**

10 On February 2, 2026, the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (Commission) initiated  
11 a preliminary review based on information in a signed complaint from Susie Hart. The  
12 complaint alleges that Steve Putnam, former Member on the TID Board may have violated  
13 Public Meetings Law when the Board held an executive session on December 9, 2025. In  
14 her complaint, Susie Hart states that she submitted a grievance to the TID during the  
15 Board's November 11, 2025 meeting. The complaint alleges that the TID Board discussed  
16 Susie Hart's November 11th grievance during an executive session held under ORS  
17 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h) on December 9, 2025. The complaint states that  
18 discussion of the grievance was not authorized by the statutes under which the executive  
19 session was held. (#PR1).

20 The complaint alleges that the grievance "had to have been discussed" during the  
21 executive session because, during the open session of the Board's December 9th  
22 meeting, Ron Cochran read a statement responding to the grievance. The complaint  
23 alleges that, in order to have a response prepared, Ron Cochran either had discussions  
24 about the grievance during the executive session, the Board discussed the matter outside  
25 of a public meeting, or Ron Cochran consulted with the TID attorney, Mark Reinecke,  
26 outside of a meeting and without Board approval. (#PR1).

27 At its April 10, 2026 meeting, the Commission considered the information presented in the  
28 preliminary review and found cause to open an investigation. The focus of the

1 investigation was to determine whether there was sufficient evidence to indicate whether  
2 Steve Putnam, along with the other members of the Board, may have violated ORS  
3 192.660(2) and OAR 199-040-0020(1).

#### 4 *November 11, 2025 Grievance*

5 In her complaint, Susie Hart refers to a grievance on another matter, which was submitted  
6 to the TID on November 11, 2025. In her November 11th grievance, Susie Hart alleges  
7 that the Board took inappropriate action by ratifying a decision to declare the TID's 2022  
8 Chevrolet Tahoe as surplus equipment. The grievance also states that the Board never  
9 approved the purchase of a new vehicle to replace the Tahoe. The grievance alleges that  
10 the Board did not make these decisions in an open and transparent manner. (#PR3).

#### 11 *Grievance Acknowledgement*

12 On January 9, 2026, the TID Board Vice Chair, Martin Warbington, sent Susie Hart a letter  
13 with the subject line "Acknowledgement of Written Grievances (12/9/25 & 1/1/26)." In the  
14 letter, Martin Warbington states that the Board did not consider her grievances during the  
15 December 9th Board meeting because they were not submitted in time. The letter states  
16 that the grievances would be formally acknowledged on the agenda for the January 13,  
17 2026 Board meeting. The letter also states that the Board would not discuss or respond to  
18 the substance of the grievances outside of the process established by Public Meetings  
19 Law, TID bylaws, and TID policies. (#PR8).

20 At their January 13, 2025 meeting, the Board formally acknowledged receipt of Susie  
21 Hart's grievances. The Board appointed Director Jack Billings to review the grievances  
22 and bring a recommendation to the Board. (#PR9).

#### 23 *December 9, 2025 Meeting*

24 The minutes for the TID Board meeting on December 9, 2025 state that the meeting was  
25 called to order at 10:00 a.m., the Board entered an executive session under ORS  
26 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h) at 10:01 a.m., and the Board reconvened the regular  
27 session of the meeting at 10:40 a.m. The minutes state that during the open session held

1 after the executive session, Ron Cochran made the following statement:

2 Chairman Cochran read a statement in response to the Letter of Grievance that  
3 Susie Hart submitted to the Board at the November 11, 2025 board meeting. He  
4 said the board acknowledged that while the vehicle replacement issue was  
5 discussed publicly, it was not formally voted on at the time; after consulting legal  
6 counsel, the board corrected this by ratifying the action in a public meeting in  
7 accordance with Oregon Public Meetings Law. The authorization ensured  
8 transparency. There was no personal benefit to anyone, and the trade-in supported  
9 efficient district operations. The board was committed to ensuring future votes were  
10 properly taken and recorded in the future and the board considered the matter  
11 resolved. (#PR4).

#### 12 *December 9, 2025 Executive Session*

13 On December 9, 2025, the TID Board entered executive session under the following  
14 authority:

15 ORS 192.660(2)(f): To consider information or records that are exempt from disclosure by  
16 law, including written advice from your attorney.

17 ORS 192.660(2)(h): To consult with your attorney regarding your legal rights and duties in  
18 regard to current litigation or litigation that is more likely than not to be filed. (#PR4).

19 While confidential, the TID Board has provided Commission staff with the meeting minutes  
20 relating to this executive session. Commission staff have reviewed these meeting minutes  
21 for the purpose of determining whether the TID Board discussed topics that exceed the  
22 scope authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(f) or ORS 192.660(2)(h). (#PR5).

#### 23 *Ed Galazzo Email*

24 Ed Galaazo, TID Board member, emailed Commission staff on February 9, 2026 with a  
25 response to the complaint. In his email, Ed Galazzo states that the Board never discussed  
26 any grievance by Susie Hart during the executive session held on December 9, 2025. He  
27 states that any discussion with the TID attorney during the executive session was strictly

1 limited to the proper legal procedure for addressing patron grievances in general. Ed  
2 Galazzo states that, because the TID does not have a current policy for handling  
3 grievances, the Board sought counsel to establish a transparent process. He states that  
4 the TID is in the early stages of developing a written policy. (#PR6).

#### 5 *April Spath Email*

6 April Spath, TID Office Manager, emailed Commission staff on February 9, 2025. In her  
7 email, April Spath states that the TID does not have a copy of the memo that Attorney  
8 Reinecke prepared for the December 9, 2025 executive session. She states that Attorney  
9 Reinecke handed a copy of the memo to each of the Board members during the meeting,  
10 and he collected them at the end of the executive session. (#PR7).

#### 11 *Preliminary Review Responses*

12 Kenneth Katzaroff, attorney with Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, P.C. (Schwabe),  
13 responded to the Commission's preliminary review reports for Ron Cochran, Steve  
14 Putnam, Carol Shull, and Martin Warbington in this matter. Ed Galazzo was not  
15 represented by Schwabe. In the responses provided, Kenneth Katzaroff states that  
16 Schwabe interviewed their clients, and each respondent provided a sworn statement  
17 indicating that the Board did not exceed the scope of the executive session held on  
18 December 9, 2025. (#IR1, #IR2, #IR3, #IR4, #IR7).

19 In their sworn statements, the Board members state that a script of a statement  
20 responding to Susie Hart's November 11th grievance was handed to Ron Cochran at the  
21 conclusion of the December 9th executive session without comment, deliberation or  
22 discussion. They state that the script was prepared by TID Attorney Mark Reinecke, and  
23 "[n]othing related to Mr. Cochran's statement was discussed in the executive session." The  
24 sworn statements also indicate that Mark Reinecke "advised the Board about what a  
25 potential policy would require to comply with the applicable laws, as part of the requested  
26 legal advice," and no deliberation, vote, or decision regarding the policy occurred. The  
27 sworn statements indicate that Mark Reinecke informed them that any consideration or  
28 adoption of the policy would need to occur at a future public meeting. (#IR1, #IR2, #IR3,

1 #IR4).

2 The respondents' submissions include a sworn statement from TID Attorney Mark  
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5 November 18, 2025 response to Susie Hart's grievance was referenced during the  
6 executive session as context for his written legal advice. Mark Reinecke states that he  
7 prepared a script for Ron Cochran to read during the open session of the December 9th  
8 meeting, but the script was not discussed or considered during the executive session. He  
9 also states, "I presented a potential submissions policy to the Board as part of confidential  
10 legal advice." Mark Reinecke states that he advised the Board that any consideration or  
11 adoption of the policy would need to occur during a public meeting, and no deliberation or  
12 vote occurred. (#IR1, #IR2, #IR3, #IR4).

### 13 *Legal Memorandum*

14 On April 27, 2026, Katie Clavere, Associate with Schwabe, provided Commission staff with  
15 the confidential legal memorandum and attached exhibits presented by Mark Reinecke at  
16 the Board's meeting on December 9, 2025. (#IR5, #IR6).

17 Commission staff have reviewed the confidential legal memorandum and the attached  
18 exhibits for the purpose of determining whether the TID Board discussed topics that  
19 exceed the scope authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(f) or ORS 192.660(2)(h).

### 20 **Conclusions**

21 During the relevant period, Steve Putnam was a Member on the TID Board. The Tumalo  
22 Irrigation District is a public body, and the Board of Directors is its governing body. [ORS  
23 192.610(5) and (7)]. As a member of the governing body of a public body, Steve Putnam  
24 was required to comply with the provisions of Oregon Public Meetings law found in ORS  
25 192.610 to ORS 192.705.

26 ORS 192.660(2) enumerates the instances when a governing body of a public body may  
27 go into an executive session lawfully. The TID Board held an executive session on

1 December 9, 2025 to discuss matters under ORS 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h).

2 The Attorney General's Public Records and Meetings Manual 2024 (AG Manual) advises:

3 A governing body may go into executive session to consider "information or records  
4 that are exempt by law from public inspection." Thus, information or records that are  
5 exempt from public inspection under the Public Records Law may be considered in  
6 private.

7 Whether a particular record is exempt from public disclosure, and may therefore be  
8 considered in executive session, may depend not just on the exemptions listed in  
9 ORS 192.345 and ORS 192.355, but also on other federal and state statutes on  
10 confidentiality [AG Manual § II.E.1.f]

11 The AG Manual also advises:

12 "We believe a governing body also has the authority to meet in executive session  
13 to obtain confidential professional legal services from its legal counsel. For  
14 example, confidential written legal advice from counsel is a privileged record that is  
15 typically exempt from disclosure under Public Records Law. Considering records  
16 that are so exempt provides authority to meet in executive session. Accordingly, if a  
17 governing body takes appropriate steps, it may meet in executive session to  
18 discuss any legal matter of a confidential nature absent the existence or likelihood  
19 of litigation. The governing body should return to public session for any discussion  
20 of policy." (AG Manual § II.E.1.h)

21 The complaint in this case alleges that, although the December 9, 2025 executive session  
22 was held under ORS 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h), the TID Board discussed  
23 matters unauthorized under those provisions. Specifically, the complaint alleges that the  
24 Board discussed a grievance submitted by Susie Hart on November 11, 2025. The  
25 executive session minutes list three topics heard by the Board during the executive  
26 session.

27 The Board's consideration of the first matter appears to be consistent with ORS

1 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h), as it involves an attorney providing both general  
2 legal advice to the TID Board as well as the attorney providing legal advice in a situation in  
3 which litigation was likely to be filed.

4 The Board's consideration of the second matter also appears to be consistent with ORS  
5 192.660(2)(h), as the Board consulted with their attorney about potential litigation with a  
6 patron.

7 The executive session minutes indicate that when the Board considered the third matter,  
8 they reviewed a legal memorandum prepared by Attorney Mark Reinecke. The legal  
9 memorandum considered during the executive session qualifies as "confidential  
10 information exempt from public inspection." The executive session minutes indicate that  
11 the TID legal counsel was present for the discussions and provided legal advice to the  
12 Board.

13 The preliminary review in this case identified that when the Board considered the third  
14 matter, they may have considered a non-confidential statement that was read out loud  
15 during the open session of the meeting, and a draft policy. During this investigation,  
16 Commission staff received a copy of the confidential legal memorandum considered  
17 during the executive session. As indicated in the respondents' sworn statements, the  
18 memorandum includes legal advice about adopting a submissions policy, and it includes  
19 an example policy as an exhibit. It appears that Attorney Mark Reinecke presented legal  
20 advice to the Board related to the adoption of a submissions policy, and the legal  
21 memorandum was part of his legal advice. The information available in this investigation  
22 indicates that the Board received legal advice about policy options; however, the  
23 information does not indicate that the Board engaged in a discussion of TID policy. Thus, it  
24 appears that the Board's consideration of legal advice pertaining to their options for  
25 adopting a submissions policy qualified under ORS 192.660(2)(f).

26 The information provided indicates that, during the executive session, Attorney Mark  
27 Reinecke provided Ron Cochran with a copy of a script to read during the open session,  
28 but it does not appear that the Board considered or discussed the script during the  
29 December 9th executive session. Neither the legal memorandum nor the executive

1 session minutes indicate that the Board discussed Susie Hart's grievance or the non-  
2 confidential statement during the executive session.

3 When the Board engaged in discussions in the executive session, it appears the  
4 discussions were limited to legal advice, as authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(f), and  
5 potential litigation, as authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(h).

6 **Recommendations:**

7 The Oregon Government Ethics Commission should find that there is not a preponderance  
8 of the evidence in this case to establish that Steve Putnam violated ORS 192.660(2) and  
9 OAR 199-040-0020(1) and order that the case against him be dismissed. [Motion 7].

**Associated Documents:**

- #PR1 Original Complaint submitted 2/2/2026
- #PR2 Combined Open Case Communications sent 2/4/2026
- #PR3 Susie Hart Grievance Submitted 11/11/2025
- #PR4 Board Meeting Minutes for 12/9/2025
- #PR5 Executive Session Minutes for 12/9/2025
- #PR6 Email from Ed Galazzo on 2/9/2026
- #PR7 Email from April Spath on 2/9/2026
- #PR8 Grievance Acknowledgement sent 1/9/2026
- #PR9 Minutes for Board Meeting on 1/13/2026
- #IR1 Ron Cochran PR Response dated 4/6/2026
- #IR2 Steve Putnam PR Response dated 4/6/2026
- #IR3 Carol Shull PR Response dated 4/6/2026
- #IR4 Martin Warbington PR Response dated 4/6/2026
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|                                        |           |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|
| Prepared By: <u>Joshua J. Sullivan</u> | 8/28/2026 |
| Joshua J. Sullivan                     | Date      |
| Investigator                           |           |
| Approved By: <u>Susan V. Myers</u>     | 8/28/2026 |
| Susan V. Myers                         | Date      |
| Executive Director                     |           |
| Reviewed By: <u>Daniel R. Gilbert</u>  | 8/28/2026 |
| Daniel R. Gilbert                      | Date      |
| Senior Assistant Attorney General      |           |

**BEFORE THE OREGON  
GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

**Carol Shull**

Case No.: **26-056XJS**

Date: **August 28, 2026**

**INVESTIGATION REPORT**

Recommendation: **Move to dismiss**

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**Synopsis**

Carol Shull is a former Member on the Board of Directors (Board) for the Tumalo Irrigation District (TID). The complaint in this case was submitted by Susie Hart on February 2, 2026. The complaint alleges that Carol Shull, along with the other members of the TID Board, may have violated provisions of Oregon Public Meetings Law by discussing matters unauthorized by the statutes under which an executive session was held on December 9, 2025. The Board's December 9th executive session was held under ORS 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h).

At its April 10, 2026 meeting, the Commission considered the information presented in the preliminary review and found cause to open an investigation. In investigation, Commission staff examined the December 9th executive session minutes, the legal memo and exhibits considered by the Board during the executive session, and the information provided by members of the Board about their discussions. Based on the available information, it does not appear that the Board engaged in topics beyond those authorized under ORS 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h) during the December 9, 2025 executive session. Thus, the information does not indicate that Carol Shull violated ORS 192.660(2) or OAR 199-040-0020(1).

1   **Relevant Statutes and Administrative Rules**

2   The following Oregon Revised Statutes and Oregon Administrative Rules are applicable to  
3   the issues addressed herein:

4           **192.630 Meetings of governing body to be open to public; location of**  
5           **meetings; accommodation for person with disability; interpreters.**

6           (1) All meetings of the governing body of a public body shall be open to the public  
7           and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting except as otherwise  
8           provided by ORS 192.610 to 192.705.

9           \* \* \* \* \*

10          **192.660 Executive sessions permitted on certain matters; procedures; news**  
11          **media representatives' attendance; limits.** (1) ORS 192.610 to 192.705 do not  
12          prevent the governing body of a public body from holding executive session during  
13          a regular, special or emergency meeting, after the presiding officer has identified  
14          the authorization under ORS 192.610 to 192.705 for holding the executive session.

15          (2) The governing body of a public body may hold an executive session:

16          \* \* \* \* \*

17          (f) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection.

18          \* \* \* \* \*

19          (h) To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body  
20          with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

21          \* \* \* \* \*

22          199-040-0020 Permitted and Prohibited Topics for Executive Session

23          (1) The purpose of this rule is to clarify that an executive session may only be held  
24          when permitted by a specific provision of ORS 192.660 or other state law

1 authorizing an executive session. The topic(s) discussed in an executive session  
2 must be limited to those topics expressly permitted by the specific provision(s)  
3 under which the executive session was convened. Members of governing bodies  
4 may not discuss topics in executive session other than those delineated in ORS  
5 192.660 or other state law permitting an executive session, even if the additional  
6 topics are related to the issue concerning which the governing body convened the  
7 executive session.

8 \* \* \* \* \*

## 9 **Investigation**

10 On February 2, 2026, the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (Commission) initiated  
11 a preliminary review based on information in a signed complaint from Susie Hart. The  
12 complaint alleges that Carol Shull, former Member on the TID Board may have violated  
13 Public Meetings Law when the Board held an executive session on December 9, 2025. In  
14 her complaint, Susie Hart states that she submitted a grievance to the TID during the  
15 Board's November 11, 2025 meeting. The complaint alleges that the TID Board discussed  
16 Susie Hart's November 11th grievance during an executive session held under ORS  
17 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h) on December 9, 2025. The complaint states that  
18 discussion of the grievance was not authorized by the statutes under which the executive  
19 session was held. (#PR1).

20 The complaint alleges that the grievance "had to have been discussed" during the  
21 executive session because, during the open session of the Board's December 9th  
22 meeting, Ron Cochran read a statement responding to the grievance. The complaint  
23 alleges that, in order to have a response prepared, Ron Cochran either had discussions  
24 about the grievance during the executive session, the Board discussed the matter outside  
25 of a public meeting, or Ron Cochran consulted with the TID attorney, Mark Reinecke,  
26 outside of a meeting and without Board approval. (#PR1).

27 At its April 10, 2026 meeting, the Commission considered the information presented in the  
28 preliminary review and found cause to open an investigation. The focus of the

1 investigation was to determine whether there was sufficient evidence to indicate whether  
2 Carol Shull, along with the other members of the Board, may have violated ORS  
3 192.660(2) and OAR 199-040-0020(1).

#### 4 *November 11, 2025 Grievance*

5 In her complaint, Susie Hart refers to a grievance on another matter, which was submitted  
6 to the TID on November 11, 2025. In her November 11th grievance, Susie Hart alleges  
7 that the Board took inappropriate action by ratifying a decision to declare the TID's 2022  
8 Chevrolet Tahoe as surplus equipment. The grievance also states that the Board never  
9 approved the purchase of a new vehicle to replace the Tahoe. The grievance alleges that  
10 the Board did not make these decisions in an open and transparent manner. (#PR3).

#### 11 *Grievance Acknowledgement*

12 On January 9, 2026, the TID Board Vice Chair, Martin Warbington, sent Susie Hart a letter  
13 with the subject line "Acknowledgement of Written Grievances (12/9/25 & 1/1/26)." In the  
14 letter, Martin Warbington states that the Board did not consider her grievances during the  
15 December 9th Board meeting because they were not submitted in time. The letter states  
16 that the grievances would be formally acknowledged on the agenda for the January 13,  
17 2026 Board meeting. The letter also states that the Board would not discuss or respond to  
18 the substance of the grievances outside of the process established by Public Meetings  
19 Law, TID bylaws, and TID policies. (#PR8).

20 At their January 13, 2025 meeting, the Board formally acknowledged receipt of Susie  
21 Hart's grievances. The Board appointed Director Jack Billings to review the grievances  
22 and bring a recommendation to the Board. (#PR9).

#### 23 *December 9, 2025 Meeting*

24 The minutes for the TID Board meeting on December 9, 2025 state that the meeting was  
25 called to order at 10:00 a.m., the Board entered an executive session under ORS  
26 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h) at 10:01 a.m., and the Board reconvened the regular  
27 session of the meeting at 10:40 a.m. The minutes state that during the open session held

1 after the executive session, Ron Cochran made the following statement:

2 Chairman Cochran read a statement in response to the Letter of Grievance that  
3 Susie Hart submitted to the Board at the November 11, 2025 board meeting. He  
4 said the board acknowledged that while the vehicle replacement issue was  
5 discussed publicly, it was not formally voted on at the time; after consulting legal  
6 counsel, the board corrected this by ratifying the action in a public meeting in  
7 accordance with Oregon Public Meetings Law. The authorization ensured  
8 transparency. There was no personal benefit to anyone, and the trade-in supported  
9 efficient district operations. The board was committed to ensuring future votes were  
10 properly taken and recorded in the future and the board considered the matter  
11 resolved. (#PR4).

#### 12 *December 9, 2025 Executive Session*

13 On December 9, 2025, the TID Board entered executive session under the following  
14 authority:

15 ORS 192.660(2)(f): To consider information or records that are exempt from disclosure by  
16 law, including written advice from your attorney.

17 ORS 192.660(2)(h): To consult with your attorney regarding your legal rights and duties in  
18 regard to current litigation or litigation that is more likely than not to be filed. (#PR4).

19 While confidential, the TID Board has provided Commission staff with the meeting minutes  
20 relating to this executive session. Commission staff have reviewed these meeting minutes  
21 for the purpose of determining whether the TID Board discussed topics that exceed the  
22 scope authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(f) or ORS 192.660(2)(h). (#PR5).

#### 23 *Ed Galazzo Email*

24 Ed Galaazo, TID Board member, emailed Commission staff on February 9, 2026 with a  
25 response to the complaint. In his email, Ed Galazzo states that the Board never discussed  
26 any grievance by Susie Hart during the executive session held on December 9, 2025. He  
27 states that any discussion with the TID attorney during the executive session was strictly

1 limited to the proper legal procedure for addressing patron grievances in general. Ed  
2 Galazzo states that, because the TID does not have a current policy for handling  
3 grievances, the Board sought counsel to establish a transparent process. He states that  
4 the TID is in the early stages of developing a written policy. (#PR6).

#### 5 *April Spath Email*

6 April Spath, TID Office Manager, emailed Commission staff on February 9, 2025. In her  
7 email, April Spath states that the TID does not have a copy of the memo that Attorney  
8 Reinecke prepared for the December 9, 2025 executive session. She states that Attorney  
9 Reinecke handed a copy of the memo to each of the Board members during the meeting,  
10 and he collected them at the end of the executive session. (#PR7).

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14 Putnam, Carol Shull, and Martin Warbington in this matter. Ed Galazzo was not  
15 represented by Schwabe. In the responses provided, Kenneth Katzaroff states that  
16 Schwabe interviewed their clients, and each respondent provided a sworn statement  
17 indicating that the Board did not exceed the scope of the executive session held on  
18 December 9, 2025. (#IR1, #IR2, #IR3, #IR4, #IR7).

19 In their sworn statements, the Board members state that a script of a statement  
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### 13 *Legal Memorandum*

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### 20 **Conclusions**

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22 Irrigation District is a public body, and the Board of Directors is its governing body. [ORS  
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19 an example policy as an exhibit. It appears that Attorney Mark Reinecke presented legal  
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3 When the Board engaged in discussions in the executive session, it appears the  
4 discussions were limited to legal advice, as authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(f), and  
5 potential litigation, as authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(h).

6 **Recommendations:**

7 The Oregon Government Ethics Commission should find that there is not a preponderance  
8 of the evidence in this case to establish that Carol Shull violated ORS 192.660(2) and  
9 OAR 199-040-0020(1) and order that the case against him be dismissed. [Motion 7].

**Associated Documents:**

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| Prepared By: <u>Joshua J. Sullivan</u> | 8/28/2026 |
| Joshua J. Sullivan                     | Date      |
| Investigator                           |           |
| Approved By: <u>Susan V. Myers</u>     | 8/28/2026 |
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| Executive Director                     |           |
| Reviewed By: <u>Daniel R. Gilbert</u>  | 8/28/2026 |
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| Senior Assistant Attorney General      |           |

**BEFORE THE OREGON  
GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

**Ed Galazzo**

Case No.: **26-057XJS**

Date: **August 28, 2026**

**INVESTIGATION REPORT**

Recommendation: **Move to dismiss**

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**Synopsis**

Ed Galazzo is a former Member on the Board of Directors (Board) for the Tumalo Irrigation District (TID). The complaint in this case was submitted by Susie Hart on February 2, 2026. The complaint alleges that Ed Galazzo, along with the other members of the TID Board, may have violated provisions of Oregon Public Meetings Law by discussing matters unauthorized by the statutes under which an executive session was held on December 9, 2025. The Board's December 9th executive session was held under ORS 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h).

At its April 10, 2026 meeting, the Commission considered the information presented in the preliminary review and found cause to open an investigation. In investigation, Commission staff examined the December 9th executive session minutes, the legal memo and exhibits considered by the Board during the executive session, and the information provided by members of the Board about their discussions. Based on the available information, it does not appear that the Board engaged in topics beyond those authorized under ORS 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h) during the December 9, 2025 executive session. Thus, the information does not indicate that Ed Galazzo violated ORS 192.660(2) or OAR 199-040-0020(1).

1   **Relevant Statutes and Administrative Rules**

2   The following Oregon Revised Statutes and Oregon Administrative Rules are applicable to  
3   the issues addressed herein:

4           **192.630 Meetings of governing body to be open to public; location of**  
5           **meetings; accommodation for person with disability; interpreters.**

6           (1) All meetings of the governing body of a public body shall be open to the public  
7           and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting except as otherwise  
8           provided by ORS 192.610 to 192.705.

9           \* \* \* \* \*

10          **192.660 Executive sessions permitted on certain matters; procedures; news**  
11          **media representatives' attendance; limits.** (1) ORS 192.610 to 192.705 do not  
12          prevent the governing body of a public body from holding executive session during  
13          a regular, special or emergency meeting, after the presiding officer has identified  
14          the authorization under ORS 192.610 to 192.705 for holding the executive session.

15          (2) The governing body of a public body may hold an executive session:

16          \* \* \* \* \*

17          (f) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection.

18          \* \* \* \* \*

19          (h) To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body  
20          with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

21          \* \* \* \* \*

22          199-040-0020 Permitted and Prohibited Topics for Executive Session

23          (1) The purpose of this rule is to clarify that an executive session may only be held  
24          when permitted by a specific provision of ORS 192.660 or other state law

1 authorizing an executive session. The topic(s) discussed in an executive session  
2 must be limited to those topics expressly permitted by the specific provision(s)  
3 under which the executive session was convened. Members of governing bodies  
4 may not discuss topics in executive session other than those delineated in ORS  
5 192.660 or other state law permitting an executive session, even if the additional  
6 topics are related to the issue concerning which the governing body convened the  
7 executive session.

8 \* \* \* \* \*

## 9 **Investigation**

10 On February 2, 2026, the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (Commission) initiated  
11 a preliminary review based on information in a signed complaint from Susie Hart. The  
12 complaint alleges that Ed Galazzo, former Member on the TID Board may have violated  
13 Public Meetings Law when the Board held an executive session on December 9, 2025. In  
14 her complaint, Susie Hart states that she submitted a grievance to the TID during the  
15 Board's November 11, 2025 meeting. The complaint alleges that the TID Board discussed  
16 Susie Hart's November 11th grievance during an executive session held under ORS  
17 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h) on December 9, 2025. The complaint states that  
18 discussion of the grievance was not authorized by the statutes under which the executive  
19 session was held. (#PR1).

20 The complaint alleges that the grievance "had to have been discussed" during the  
21 executive session because, during the open session of the Board's December 9th  
22 meeting, Ron Cochran read a statement responding to the grievance. The complaint  
23 alleges that, in order to have a response prepared, Ron Cochran either had discussions  
24 about the grievance during the executive session, the Board discussed the matter outside  
25 of a public meeting, or Ron Cochran consulted with the TID attorney, Mark Reinecke,  
26 outside of a meeting and without Board approval. (#PR1).

27 At its April 10, 2026 meeting, the Commission considered the information presented in the  
28 preliminary review and found cause to open an investigation. The focus of the

1 investigation was to determine whether there was sufficient evidence to indicate whether  
2 Ed Galazzo, along with the other members of the Board, may have violated ORS  
3 192.660(2) and OAR 199-040-0020(1).

#### 4 *November 11, 2025 Grievance*

5 In her complaint, Susie Hart refers to a grievance on another matter, which was submitted  
6 to the TID on November 11, 2025. In her November 11th grievance, Susie Hart alleges  
7 that the Board took inappropriate action by ratifying a decision to declare the TID's 2022  
8 Chevrolet Tahoe as surplus equipment. The grievance also states that the Board never  
9 approved the purchase of a new vehicle to replace the Tahoe. The grievance alleges that  
10 the Board did not make these decisions in an open and transparent manner. (#PR3).

#### 11 *Grievance Acknowledgement*

12 On January 9, 2026, the TID Board Vice Chair, Martin Warbington, sent Susie Hart a letter  
13 with the subject line "Acknowledgement of Written Grievances (12/9/25 & 1/1/26)." In the  
14 letter, Martin Warbington states that the Board did not consider her grievances during the  
15 December 9th Board meeting because they were not submitted in time. The letter states  
16 that the grievances would be formally acknowledged on the agenda for the January 13,  
17 2026 Board meeting. The letter also states that the Board would not discuss or respond to  
18 the substance of the grievances outside of the process established by Public Meetings  
19 Law, TID bylaws, and TID policies. (#PR8).

20 At their January 13, 2025 meeting, the Board formally acknowledged receipt of Susie  
21 Hart's grievances. The Board appointed Director Jack Billings to review the grievances  
22 and bring a recommendation to the Board. (#PR9).

#### 23 *December 9, 2025 Meeting*

24 The minutes for the TID Board meeting on December 9, 2025 state that the meeting was  
25 called to order at 10:00 a.m., the Board entered an executive session under ORS  
26 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h) at 10:01 a.m., and the Board reconvened the regular  
27 session of the meeting at 10:40 a.m. The minutes state that during the open session held

1 after the executive session, Ron Cochran made the following statement:

2 Chairman Cochran read a statement in response to the Letter of Grievance that  
3 Susie Hart submitted to the Board at the November 11, 2025 board meeting. He  
4 said the board acknowledged that while the vehicle replacement issue was  
5 discussed publicly, it was not formally voted on at the time; after consulting legal  
6 counsel, the board corrected this by ratifying the action in a public meeting in  
7 accordance with Oregon Public Meetings Law. The authorization ensured  
8 transparency. There was no personal benefit to anyone, and the trade-in supported  
9 efficient district operations. The board was committed to ensuring future votes were  
10 properly taken and recorded in the future and the board considered the matter  
11 resolved. (#PR4).

#### 12 *December 9, 2025 Executive Session*

13 On December 9, 2025, the TID Board entered executive session under the following  
14 authority:

15 ORS 192.660(2)(f): To consider information or records that are exempt from disclosure by  
16 law, including written advice from your attorney.

17 ORS 192.660(2)(h): To consult with your attorney regarding your legal rights and duties in  
18 regard to current litigation or litigation that is more likely than not to be filed. (#PR4).

19 While confidential, the TID Board has provided Commission staff with the meeting minutes  
20 relating to this executive session. Commission staff have reviewed these meeting minutes  
21 for the purpose of determining whether the TID Board discussed topics that exceed the  
22 scope authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(f) or ORS 192.660(2)(h). (#PR5).

#### 23 *Ed Galazzo Email*

24 Ed Galaazo, TID Board member, emailed Commission staff on February 9, 2026 with a  
25 response to the complaint. In his email, Ed Galazzo states that the Board never discussed  
26 any grievance by Susie Hart during the executive session held on December 9, 2025. He  
27 states that any discussion with the TID attorney during the executive session was strictly

1 limited to the proper legal procedure for addressing patron grievances in general. Ed  
2 Galazzo states that, because the TID does not have a current policy for handling  
3 grievances, the Board sought counsel to establish a transparent process. He states that  
4 the TID is in the early stages of developing a written policy. (#PR6).

#### 5 *April Spath Email*

6 April Spath, TID Office Manager, emailed Commission staff on February 9, 2025. In her  
7 email, April Spath states that the TID does not have a copy of the memo that Attorney  
8 Reinecke prepared for the December 9, 2025 executive session. She states that Attorney  
9 Reinecke handed a copy of the memo to each of the Board members during the meeting,  
10 and he collected them at the end of the executive session. (#PR7).

#### 11 *Preliminary Review Responses*

12 Kenneth Katzaroff, attorney with Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, P.C. (Schwabe),  
13 responded to the Commission's preliminary review reports for Ron Cochran, Steve  
14 Putnam, Carol Shull, and Martin Warbington in this matter. Ed Galazzo was not  
15 represented by Schwabe. In the responses provided, Kenneth Katzaroff states that  
16 Schwabe interviewed their clients, and each respondent provided a sworn statement  
17 indicating that the Board did not exceed the scope of the executive session held on  
18 December 9, 2025. (#IR1, #IR2, #IR3, #IR4, #IR7).

19 In their sworn statements, the Board members state that a script of a statement  
20 responding to Susie Hart's November 11th grievance was handed to Ron Cochran at the  
21 conclusion of the December 9th executive session without comment, deliberation or  
22 discussion. They state that the script was prepared by TID Attorney Mark Reinecke, and  
23 "[n]othing related to Mr. Cochran's statement was discussed in the executive session." The  
24 sworn statements also indicate that Mark Reinecke "advised the Board about what a  
25 potential policy would require to comply with the applicable laws, as part of the requested  
26 legal advice," and no deliberation, vote, or decision regarding the policy occurred. The  
27 sworn statements indicate that Mark Reinecke informed them that any consideration or  
28 adoption of the policy would need to occur at a future public meeting. (#IR1, #IR2, #IR3,

1 #IR4).

2 The respondents' submissions include a sworn statement from TID Attorney Mark  
3 Reinecke. Mark Reinecke states that the December 9, 2025 executive session was not  
4 convened to approve a response to Susie Hart's grievance. He states that the TID's  
5 November 18, 2025 response to Susie Hart's grievance was referenced during the  
6 executive session as context for his written legal advice. Mark Reinecke states that he  
7 prepared a script for Ron Cochran to read during the open session of the December 9th  
8 meeting, but the script was not discussed or considered during the executive session. He  
9 also states, "I presented a potential submissions policy to the Board as part of confidential  
10 legal advice." Mark Reinecke states that he advised the Board that any consideration or  
11 adoption of the policy would need to occur during a public meeting, and no deliberation or  
12 vote occurred. (#IR1, #IR2, #IR3, #IR4).

### 13 *Legal Memorandum*

14 On April 27, 2026, Katie Clavere, Associate with Schwabe, provided Commission staff with  
15 the confidential legal memorandum and attached exhibits presented by Mark Reinecke at  
16 the Board's meeting on December 9, 2025. (#IR5, #IR6).

17 Commission staff have reviewed the confidential legal memorandum and the attached  
18 exhibits for the purpose of determining whether the TID Board discussed topics that  
19 exceed the scope authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(f) or ORS 192.660(2)(h).

### 20 **Conclusions**

21 During the relevant period, Ed Galazzo was a Member on the TID Board. The Tumalo  
22 Irrigation District is a public body, and the Board of Directors is its governing body. [ORS  
23 192.610(5) and (7)]. As a member of the governing body of a public body, Ed Galazzo was  
24 required to comply with the provisions of Oregon Public Meetings law found in ORS  
25 192.610 to ORS 192.705.

26 ORS 192.660(2) enumerates the instances when a governing body of a public body may  
27 go into an executive session lawfully. The TID Board held an executive session on

1 December 9, 2025 to discuss matters under ORS 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h).

2 The Attorney General's Public Records and Meetings Manual 2024 (AG Manual) advises:

3 A governing body may go into executive session to consider "information or records  
4 that are exempt by law from public inspection." Thus, information or records that are  
5 exempt from public inspection under the Public Records Law may be considered in  
6 private.

7 Whether a particular record is exempt from public disclosure, and may therefore be  
8 considered in executive session, may depend not just on the exemptions listed in  
9 ORS 192.345 and ORS 192.355, but also on other federal and state statutes on  
10 confidentiality [AG Manual § II.E.1.f]

11 The AG Manual also advises:

12 "We believe a governing body also has the authority to meet in executive session  
13 to obtain confidential professional legal services from its legal counsel. For  
14 example, confidential written legal advice from counsel is a privileged record that is  
15 typically exempt from disclosure under Public Records Law. Considering records  
16 that are so exempt provides authority to meet in executive session. Accordingly, if a  
17 governing body takes appropriate steps, it may meet in executive session to  
18 discuss any legal matter of a confidential nature absent the existence or likelihood  
19 of litigation. The governing body should return to public session for any discussion  
20 of policy." (AG Manual § II.E.1.h)

21 The complaint in this case alleges that, although the December 9, 2025 executive session  
22 was held under ORS 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h), the TID Board discussed  
23 matters unauthorized under those provisions. Specifically, the complaint alleges that the  
24 Board discussed a grievance submitted by Susie Hart on November 11, 2025. The  
25 executive session minutes list three topics heard by the Board during the executive  
26 session.

27 The Board's consideration of the first matter appears to be consistent with ORS

1 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(h), as it involves an attorney providing both general  
2 legal advice to the TID Board as well as the attorney providing legal advice in a situation in  
3 which litigation was likely to be filed.

4 The Board's consideration of the second matter also appears to be consistent with ORS  
5 192.660(2)(h), as the Board consulted with their attorney about potential litigation with a  
6 patron.

7 The executive session minutes indicate that when the Board considered the third matter,  
8 they reviewed a legal memorandum prepared by Attorney Mark Reinecke. The legal  
9 memorandum considered during the executive session qualifies as "confidential  
10 information exempt from public inspection." The executive session minutes indicate that  
11 the TID legal counsel was present for the discussions and provided legal advice to the  
12 Board.

13 The preliminary review in this case identified that when the Board considered the third  
14 matter, they may have considered a non-confidential statement that was read out loud  
15 during the open session of the meeting, and a draft policy. During this investigation,  
16 Commission staff received a copy of the confidential legal memorandum considered  
17 during the executive session. As indicated in the respondents' sworn statements, the  
18 memorandum includes legal advice about adopting a submissions policy, and it includes  
19 an example policy as an exhibit. It appears that Attorney Mark Reinecke presented legal  
20 advice to the Board related to the adoption of a submissions policy, and the legal  
21 memorandum was part of his legal advice. The information available in this investigation  
22 indicates that the Board received legal advice about policy options; however, the  
23 information does not indicate that the Board engaged in a discussion of TID policy. Thus, it  
24 appears that the Board's consideration of legal advice pertaining to their options for  
25 adopting a submissions policy qualified under ORS 192.660(2)(f).

26 The information provided indicates that, during the executive session, Attorney Mark  
27 Reinecke provided Ron Cochran with a copy of a script to read during the open session,  
28 but it does not appear that the Board considered or discussed the script during the  
29 December 9th executive session. Neither the legal memorandum nor the executive

1 session minutes indicate that the Board discussed Susie Hart's grievance or the non-  
2 confidential statement during the executive session.

3 When the Board engaged in discussions in the executive session, it appears the  
4 discussions were limited to legal advice, as authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(f), and  
5 potential litigation, as authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(h).

6 **Recommendations:**

7 The Oregon Government Ethics Commission should find that there is not a preponderance  
8 of the evidence in this case to establish that Ed Galazzo violated ORS 192.660(2) and  
9 OAR 199-040-0020(1) and order that the case against him be dismissed. [Motion 7].

**Associated Documents:**

- #PR1 Original Complaint submitted 2/2/2026
- #PR2 Combined Open Case Communications sent 2/4/2026
- #PR3 Susie Hart Grievance Submitted 11/11/2025
- #PR4 Board Meeting Minutes for 12/9/2025
- #PR5 Executive Session Minutes for 12/9/2025
- #PR6 Email from Ed Galazzo on 2/9/2026
- #PR7 Email from April Spath on 2/9/2026
- #PR8 Grievance Acknowledgement sent 1/9/2026
- #PR9 Minutes for Board Meeting on 1/13/2026
- #IR1 Ron Cochran PR Response dated 4/6/2026
- #IR2 Steve Putnam PR Response dated 4/6/2026
- #IR3 Carol Shull PR Response dated 4/6/2026
- #IR4 Martin Warbington PR Response dated 4/6/2026
- #IR5 Email from Katie Clavere on 4/27/2026
- #IR6 Legal Memorandum for 12/9/2025
- #IR7 Ron Cochran PR Report dated 3/25/2026

|                                        |           |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|
| Prepared By: <u>Joshua J. Sullivan</u> | 8/28/2026 |
| Joshua J. Sullivan                     | Date      |
| Investigator                           |           |
| Approved By: <u>Susan V. Myers</u>     | 8/28/2026 |
| Susan V. Myers                         | Date      |
| Executive Director                     |           |
| Reviewed By: <u>Daniel R. Gilbert</u>  | 8/28/2026 |
| Daniel R. Gilbert                      | Date      |
| Senior Assistant Attorney General      |           |



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

## Government Ethics Commission

3218 Pringle Rd SE, Ste 220

Salem, OR 97302-1680

Telephone: 503-378-5105

Fax: 503-373-1456

E-mail: [mail@ogec.oregon.gov](mailto:mail@ogec.oregon.gov)

Website: [www.oregon.gov/ogec](http://www.oregon.gov/ogec)

Sent via email

August 31 2026

Bridger Lanning

Legislative Advocates Government Affairs

[bridger@legadv.com](mailto:bridger@legadv.com)

Re: Advice No. 26-545I

Dear Bridger Lanning:

This letter of advice is provided in response to your request received on August 3, 2026 which presented a question regarding the application of the gift provisions in Oregon Government Ethics Law.

You have explained that the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization (EOCCO) has invited Representatives Rob Nosse and Emily McIntire to participate in a scheduled panel at the 2026 EOCCO Summit (the Summit). The Summit will be held in Pendleton, Oregon on October 16, 2026. EOCCO is inquiring as to whether these legislators would be able to accept an offer of paid lodging in Pendleton the night before.

In most circumstances, when a public official is offered something of economic value at no cost or at a discount, and it is not offered to others, who are not public officials, on the same terms and conditions, it is considered a gift, as defined in ORS 244.020(7)(a), and subject to the gift clause in ORS 244.025(1). There are exceptions, however, for items that do not qualify as gifts under one of the exceptions in ORS 244.020(7)(b).

ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H) allows acceptance of the payment of reasonable travel expenses (food, transportation, or lodging expenses) provided to a public official, as well as to a relative, household member, or staff member accompanying that public official. It applies to events where the public official is representing state government on an

officially sanctioned trade-promotion or fact-finding mission or in officially designated negotiations or economic development activities. The (H) exception requires:

1. The public official must be representing state government, a local government or a special government body.
2. The purpose of the trip must be for trade promotion or a fact-finding mission, or for negotiations or economic development activities, where receipt of expenses is approved in advance.
3. The activities must be “officially sanctioned or officially designated,” which requires written approval in advance by a person authorized by the public body to provide that approval.

For the first criteria, you have provided details about the panel Representative Nosse and Representative McIntire would be attending. They would participate in their official capacity and provide remarks and responses during the moderated discussion.

For the second criteria, a “fact-finding mission or trip” is defined as “any activity related to a cultural or educational purpose, or any activity aimed at providing intergovernmental assistance, such as for the purpose of international aid or sharing best practices, or developing intergovernmental relationships directly related to the public official’s duties.” [OAR 100-004-0001(2)]. The Summit appears to meet this criteria as an educational conference on health care access and delivery in Eastern Oregon.

For the third criteria, in terms of getting the event “officially sanctioned or officially designated,” for members of the Legislative Assembly, the written approval must be provided by the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, the designated majority or minority leaders of either chamber or appointed committees of the Legislative Assembly, unless the public body determines otherwise [OAR 199-005-0020(3)(b)(C)]. Representative Nosse and Representative McIntire will need to follow the procedures

Bridger Lanning

Advice Number 26-545I

August 31 2026

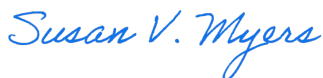
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required by the leadership in the Legislative Assembly to ensure that the event is officially sanctioned or designated.

There is an additional requirement to note. Legislators are required to file an annual Statement of Economic Interest (SEI). ORS 244.060(6) requires SEI filers to identify all expenses with an aggregate value exceeding \$50 received during the preceding calendar year when participating in a convention, mission, trip or other meeting described in ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H). Thus, each legislator will need to identify the event and source of paid travel expenses on their 2027 SEI. As EOCCO is paying the hotel expense, EOCCO will need to provide the legislators with written notification of the expenditure.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Susan V. Myers

Executive Director

\*\*\*\*\*DISCLAIMER\*\*\*\*\*

This staff advice is provided under the authority given in ORS 244.284(1). This advice offers guidance on how Oregon Government Ethics Law may apply to the specific facts described in your request. This advice is based on my understanding and analysis of the specific circumstances you described and should not be applied to circumstances that differ from those discussed in this request.



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Tina Kotek, Governor

## Government Ethics Commission

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Website: [www.oregon.gov/ogec](http://www.oregon.gov/ogec)

August 19, 2026

Sent via email

Kevin Barton  
Washington County District Attorney  
150 North First Ave MS 40  
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Re: Advice No. 26-564I

Dear Mr. Barton:

This letter of advice is provided in response to your request received on August 17, 2026, for guidance as to the application of Oregon Government Ethics law in ORS Chapter 244 with regard to the acceptance of paid travel expenses.

You stated that you have been invited to attend a CEO Leadership Summit hosted by Axon, a company that provides equipment and technology to law enforcement agencies throughout the country. They are offering to pay travel, food and lodging expenses for you and a member of your leadership team to attend the event. The invitation you provided via email states that “you will be joined by elected prosecutors and association leaders from across the country, along with our product teams, to learn and share best practices about how best to deploy our technologies.”

In most circumstances, when a public official is offered something of economic value at no cost or at a discount, and it is not offered to others, who are not public officials, on the same terms and conditions, it is considered a gift, as defined in ORS 244.020(7)(a), and subject to the gift clause in ORS 244.025(1). There are exceptions, however, for items that do not qualify as gifts under one of the exceptions in ORS 244.020(7)(b).

ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H) allows acceptance of the payment of reasonable travel expenses (food, transportation, or lodging expenses) provided to a public official, as well as to a relative, household member, or staff member accompanying that public official. It

applies to events where the public official is representing a local government on an officially sanctioned trade-promotion or fact-finding mission or in officially designated negotiations or economic development activities. The (H) exception requires:

1. The public official must be representing state government, a local government or a special government body.
2. The purpose of the trip must be for trade promotion or a fact-finding mission, or for negotiations or economic development activities, where receipt of expenses is approved in advance.
3. The activities must be “officially sanctioned or officially designated,” which requires written approval in advance by a person authorized by the public body to provide that approval.

For the first criteria, you would need to be attending the event in your official capacity, as a representative of the Washington County District Attorney’s Office.

For the second criteria, a “fact-finding mission or trip” is defined as “any activity related to a cultural or educational purpose, or any activity aimed at providing intergovernmental assistance, such as for the purpose of international aid or sharing best practices, or developing intergovernmental relationships directly related to the public official’s duties. The sponsor of a fact-finding mission should be directly and immediately associated with the event or location being visited.” [OAR 199-005-0001(2)]. The event appears to be for the purpose of intergovernmental assistance through sharing best practices. Thus, the CEO Leadership Summit appears to qualify as a fact-finding mission or trip.

For the third criteria, you will need to have your participation in the trip “officially sanctioned or officially designated” in advance, which requires written approval by a state or local public body or by a person authorized by the public body to provide that

Kevin Barton

Advice Number 26-564I

August 19, 2026

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approval. The Administrative Rule goes on to clarify that for elected state court judges and district attorneys, they have the authority to officially sanction or designate events for themselves. [OAR 199-005-0020(3)(b)(E)]. Thus, you can officially sanction or designate the event for yourself.

In your inquiry, you ask whether a member of your leadership team could accompany you to the event. As noted above, the gift exception in ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H) applies to paid expenses not just for the public official, but also for their relative, household member, or staff member accompanying them on the fact-finding mission or trip. Thus, so long as the three criteria noted above are satisfied, both you and the member or your leadership team could accept the paid travel expenses for the fact-finding mission under the gift exception in ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H). Under the Administrative Rule, your staff member will need to have the event officially sanctioned or designated in advance by you, as their supervisor. [OAR 199-005-0020(3)(b)(A)].

Finally, as a public official required to file an Annual Verified Statement of Economic Interest (SEI), you will be required to report the aggregate value of the paid expenses for you on your 2027 SEI. ORS 244.060(6) requires public officials to identify all expenses with an aggregate value exceeding \$50 when participating in an event described in ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H). Per this requirement, Axon, the source of the paid expenses, should provide you with a written statement of the expenses they provided.

If you have any additional questions or need further clarification, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Susan V. Myers

Executive Director

SVM/an

Kevin Barton

Advice Number 26-564I

August 19, 2026

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\*\*\*\*\*DISCLAIMER\*\*\*\*\*

This staff advice is provided under the authority given in ORS 244.284(1). This opinion offers guidance on how Oregon Government Ethics Law may apply to the specific facts described in your request. This opinion is based on my understanding and analysis of the specific circumstances you described and should not be applied to circumstances that differ from those discussed in this request.



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

## Government Ethics Commission

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Website: [www.oregon.gov/ogec](http://www.oregon.gov/ogec)

August 28, 2026

Sent via email

Kevin Barton

Washington County District Attorney

150 North First Ave MS 40

Hillsboro, OR 97124

Re: Advice No. 26-593I

Dear Mr. Barton:

This letter of advice is provided in response to your request received on August 26, 2026, for guidance as to the application of Oregon Government Ethics law in ORS Chapter 244 with regard to the acceptance of paid travel expenses.

You stated that you have been invited in your official capacity as the Washington County District Attorney to be a speaker at the National District Attorneys Association's (NDAA's) Recruitment and Retention Symposium in Seattle, WA, September 10-11, 2026. They are offering to pay your mileage and lodging costs. The information you provided via email shows that you are listed on the event's September 10 agenda as a presenter. You have asked whether any of the gift exceptions in ORS 244 would apply to permit acceptance of paid travel expenses for attending this symposium.

In most circumstances, when a public official is offered something of economic value at no cost or at a discount, and it is not offered to others, who are not public officials, on

Kevin Barton

Advice Number 26-593I

August 28, 2026

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the same terms and conditions, it is considered a gift, as defined in ORS 244.020(7)(a), and subject to the gift clause in ORS 244.025(1). There are exceptions, however, for items that do not qualify as gifts under one of the exceptions in ORS 244.020(7)(b).

ORS 244.020(7)(b)(F) provides a gift exception for reasonable expenses paid for a public official's attendance at a convention, fact-finding mission or trip, conference or other meeting if the public official is scheduled to deliver a speech, make a presentation, participate on a panel, or represent state government, a local government or a special government body. For this exception to apply the expenses must be paid by the federal government, a state or local government, a Native American tribe, a membership organization to which a public body pays dues, or a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.

Based on the information provided, it appears that the NDAA Recruitment and Retention Symposium would qualify as a conference. OAR 199-005-0020(2)(a) provides clarification to the term "speech," which means to give a formal address, and it does appear that you will be one of the presenters at the conference. NDAA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Thus, so long as you are at the conference to deliver a speech, you could accept the payment of travel expenses for this trip under the ORS 244.020(7)(b)(F) exception.

Finally, as a public official required to file an Annual Verified Statement of Economic Interest (SEI), you will be required to report the aggregate value of the paid expenses for you on your 2027 SEI. ORS 244.060(6) requires public officials to identify all

Kevin Barton

Advice Number 26-593I

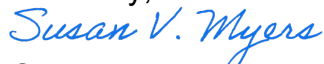
August 28, 2026

Page 3

expenses with an aggregate value exceeding \$50 when participating in an event described in ORS 244.020(7)(b)(F). Per this requirement, NDAA, the source of the paid expenses, should provide you with a written statement of the expenses they provided within 10 days after the date the expenses are incurred. [ORS 244.100].

If you have any additional questions or need further clarification, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Susan V. Myers

Executive Director

SVM/an

\*\*\*\*\*DISCLAIMER\*\*\*\*\*

This staff advice is provided under the authority given in ORS 244.284(1). This advice offers guidance on how Oregon Government Ethics Law may apply to the specific facts described in your request. This advice is based on my understanding and analysis of the specific circumstances you described and should not be applied to circumstances that differ from those discussed in this request.



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

## Government Ethics Commission

3218 Pringle Rd SE, Ste 220

Salem, OR 97302-1680

Telephone: 503-378-5105

Fax: 503-373-1456

E-mail: [mail@ogec.oregon.gov](mailto:mail@ogec.oregon.gov)

Website: [www.oregon.gov/ogec](http://www.oregon.gov/ogec)

August 20, 2026

Michael Magee

Waymo

580 Castro Street

Mountain View, CA 94041

Sent via email [michaelmagee@waymo.com](mailto:michaelmagee@waymo.com)

Re: Advice No. 26-566I

Dear Michael Magee:

This letter of advice is provided in response to your request received on August 6, 2026, regarding whether any of the gift exceptions in ORS 244.020(7)(b) would apply to paid travel expenses for Oregon legislators and other public officials (Oregon officials) to attend an event in Phoenix, Arizona hosted by Waymo.

The information provided indicates the purpose of the Waymo event is for participants to learn about deployment of autonomous vehicles. During the event, the Oregon officials would ride in a Waymo autonomous vehicle and tour depots where vehicles are charged and maintained. Arizona leaders and regulators would share their perspectives on autonomous vehicle deployment, safety, and how it has impacted their roads. The itinerary for the Waymo event includes an overview of legislation; a review of operations in the City of Phoenix, including coverage of safety statistics and impact on tourism and businesses; an overview of benefits from Disability Rights Organizations; and an overview of the technologies and how they operate. The Waymo event will take place from October 15 to 16, 2026. Waymo has offered to pay for the Oregon officials' travel costs, including transportation, lodging and meals.

In most circumstances, when a public official is offered something of economic value at no cost or at a discount, and it is not offered to others, who are not public officials, on

the same terms and conditions, it is considered a gift, as defined in ORS 244.020(7)(a), and subject to the gift clause in ORS 244.025(1). There are exceptions, however, for items that do not qualify as gifts under one of the exceptions in ORS 244.020(7)(b).

ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H) allows acceptance of the payment of reasonable travel expenses (food, transportation, or lodging expenses) provided to a public official, as well as to a relative, household member, or staff member accompanying that public official. It applies to events where the public official is representing a local government on an officially sanctioned trade-promotion or fact-finding mission or in officially designated negotiations or economic development activities. The (H) exception requires:

1. The public official must be representing state government, a local government or a special government body.
2. The purpose of the trip must be for trade promotion or a fact-finding mission, or for negotiations or economic development activities, where receipt of expenses is approved in advance.
3. The activities must be “officially sanctioned or officially designated,” which requires written approval in advance by a person authorized by the public body to provide that approval.

For the first criteria, the Oregon officials would need to be attending and participating in the event in their official capacities, as representatives of their public bodies, whether that be the Legislative Assembly, the Governor’s Office, or the Oregon Department of Transportation.

For the second criteria, a “fact-finding mission or trip” is defined in the Administrative Rules as “any activity related to a cultural or educational purpose, or any activity aimed at providing intergovernmental assistance, such as for the purpose of international aid or sharing best practices, or developing intergovernmental relationships directly related to the public official’s duties. The sponsor of a fact finding mission should be directly

and immediately associated with the event or location being visited.” [OAR 100-005-0001(2)].

The Waymo event appears to have an educational purpose, providing the Oregon officials with an opportunity to learn more about the Waymo autonomous vehicles and about the legislation, safety, and other information related to the deployment of these vehicles in Phoenix. Thus, the Waymo event appears to qualify as a fact-finding mission or trip.

For the third criteria, the Oregon officials who participate in the Waymo event will need to have their participation “officially sanctioned or officially designated” in advance. The Administrative Rules, at OAR 199-005-0020(3)(b) specify that the official designation or sanction must be in writing, and the Rule identifies who must provide that official designation or sanction, depending on the position held by the Oregon officials. For example, OAR 199-005-0020(3)(b)(C) provides that for members of the Legislative Assembly, the event must be officially designated or sanctioned by the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, the designated majority or minority leaders of either chamber or appointed committees, unless otherwise determined by the Legislative Assembly. For elected state officials, such as the Governor, they have the authority to officially sanction or designate the event themselves. [OAR 199-005-0020(3)(b)(D)]. For employees in the legislature or the Governor’s Office, as well as the Oregon Department of Transportation, they would need to get the official designation or sanction from their supervisors. [OAR 199-005-0020(3)(b)(A)].

Based on the information provided, it appears the Waymo event would qualify as a fact finding mission or trip, meaning that the exception in ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H) could apply to permit the Oregon officials to accept payment of their travel expenses. This assumes that they would be participating in their official capacities and that in advance they receive the written official designation or sanction from the appropriate authorities.

August 20, 2026

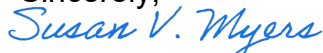
pg. 4

Please note that for members of the Legislative Assembly and any other Oregon officials who are required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) annually, the receipt of these paid travel expenses will need to be reported on their SEIs. ORS 244.060(6) requires SEI filers to identify all expenses with an aggregate value exceeding \$50 received during the preceding calendar year when participating in a convention, mission, trip or other meeting described in ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H). Thus, they will need to identify the event and source of paid travel expenses on their 2027 SEI. Waymo, as the source paying the expenses, will need to provide the Oregon officials with written notification of the expenditures.

Finally, Waymo will need to recognize that all of these expenses would qualify as lobbying, per the definition in ORS 171.725(8). Thus, Waymo will need to report these expenses on their 2026 Q4 lobbyist client/employer quarterly expenditure report.

If you have any additional questions regarding this advice, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Susan V. Myers

Executive Director

\*\*\*\*\*DISCLAIMER\*\*\*\*\*

This staff advice is provided under the authority given in ORS 244.284(1). This advice offers guidance on how Oregon Government Ethics law may apply to the specific facts described in your request. This advice is based on my understanding and analysis of the specific circumstances you described and should not be applied to circumstances that differ from those discussed in this request.



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

## Government Ethics Commission

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Website: [www.oregon.gov/ogec](http://www.oregon.gov/ogec)

Sent via email

August 25, 2026

Honorable Representative Mark Owens

Oregon Legislative Assembly

900 Court St. NE, H-475

Salem, OR 97301

Re: Advice No. 26-583I

Dear Representative Owens,

This letter of advice is provided in response to your request received on June 9, 2026, regarding application of the gift exception in ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H) to a fact finding mission or trip to tour a lithium mining project site.

The information provided indicates that you have been invited by HiTech to participate in an upcoming tour of a lithium mining project site at McDermitt in southeastern Oregon. HiTech, owned by Jindalee Lithium, is offering to provide transportation (a flight from Ontario), ground transportation of the project area, and lunch. You have asked whether you can accept this offer of paid travel expenses for this educational tour.

In most circumstances, when a public official is offered something of economic value at no cost or at a discount, and it is not offered to others, who are not public officials, on the same terms and conditions, it is considered a gift, as defined in ORS 244.020(7)(a), and subject to the gift clause in ORS 244.025(1). There are exceptions, however, for items that do not qualify as gifts under one of the exceptions in ORS 244.020(7)(b).

ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H) allows acceptance of the payment of reasonable travel expenses (food, transportation, or lodging expenses) provided to a public official, as well as to a relative, household member, or staff member accompanying that public official. It applies to events where the public official is representing their government body on an officially

sanctioned trade-promotion or fact-finding mission or in officially designated negotiations or economic development activities. The (H) exception requires:

1. The public official must be representing state government, a local government or a special government body.
2. The purpose of the trip must be for trade promotion or a fact-finding mission, or for negotiations or economic development activities, where receipt of expenses is approved in advance.
3. The activities must be “officially sanctioned or officially designated,” which requires written approval in advance by a person authorized by the public body to provide that approval.

For the first criteria, you would need to be attending and participating in the tour in your official capacity, as a state representative.

For the second criteria, a “fact-finding mission or trip” is defined as “any activity related to a cultural or educational purpose, or any activity aimed at providing intergovernmental assistance, such as for the purpose of international aid or sharing best practices, or developing intergovernmental relationships directly related to the public official’s duties. The sponsor of a fact finding mission should be directly and immediately associated with the event or location being visited.” [OAR 100-004-0001(2)]. The lithium mining tour appears to have an educational purpose. Thus, it appears to qualify as a fact-finding mission or trip.

For the third criteria, in terms of getting the event “officially sanctioned or officially designated,” for members of the Legislative Assembly, the written approval must be provided by the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, the designated majority or minority leaders of either chamber or appointed committees of the Legislative Assembly, unless the public body determines otherwise [OAR 199-005-0020(3)(b)(C)]. Thus, for you to accept the paid travel expenses, you would need to follow the procedures required by the leadership in the Legislative Assembly to ensure that the event was officially sanctioned or designated.

Finally, legislators are required to file an annual Statement of Economic Interest (SEI). ORS 244.060(6) requires SEI filers to identify all expenses with an aggregate value exceeding \$50 received during the preceding calendar year when participating in a convention, mission, trip or other meeting described in ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H). Thus, you will need to identify the event and source of paid travel expenses on your 2027 SEI. The source paying the expenses will need to provide you with written notification of the expenditure.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Susan V. Myers

Executive Director

\*\*\*\*\*DISCLAIMER\*\*\*\*\*

This staff advice is provided under the authority given in ORS 244.284(1). This advice offers guidance on how Oregon Government Ethics law may apply to the specific facts described in your request. This advice is based on my understanding and analysis of the specific circumstances you described and should not be applied to circumstances that differ from those discussed in this request.



# Oregon

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Website: [www.oregon.gov/ogec](http://www.oregon.gov/ogec)

August 26, 2026

Honorable Anthony Broadman  
Oregon Legislative Assembly  
900 Court St. NE, S-423  
Salem, OR 97301

Sent via email

Re: Advice Letter 26-591I

Dear Senator Broadman,

This letter of advice is offered under the authority provided in ORS 244.284 as guidance on how the gift definition and gift exceptions may apply to an offer to participate in a hosted fishing excursion and attend a lunch that will include educational presentations.

The information provided indicates that you and other Oregon legislators and legislative staff have been invited to attend the annual Sportsmen's Caucus Fishing event on the Columbia River, taking place on September 14, 2026. The legislators and staff will provide their own transportation and lodging. The fishing excursion itself is being provided by local volunteer boat owners from an Oregon/Washington based nonprofit organization. This group typically offers similar events to members of the public each year at no cost. The lunch will be hosted and paid for by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. During the lunch, there will be educational presentations provided by representatives from the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife. These presentations may include topics such as: joint management of the Columbia River, fisheries health, salmon recovery and population management efforts, and recreational, commercial, and tribal fishing overlays. In light of all this, you have asked how the fishing excursion and the lunch would be treated under the gift definition in ORS 244.020(7)(a) or the gift exceptions in ORS 244.020(7)(b).

The first step in evaluating whether you can accept the offer of the fishing excursion and the lunch is to determine whether either one qualifies as a gift. ORS 244.020(7)(a) defines a gift as something of economic value given to a public official or candidate, or their relatives or household members, without equivalent consideration or at a discount, and that is not offered to others on the same terms and conditions.

It appears that the fishing excursion is being offered at no cost to the participants. It also appears the nonprofit group with the volunteer boat owners offers similar events to members of the public also at no cost. Thus, the fishing excursion would not appear to qualify as a gift, per the definition in ORS 244.020(7)(a). The hosted lunch, however, would appear to qualify as a gift, as it has economic value, equivalent consideration is not being paid, and it is not being offered to others on the same terms and conditions.

The next step is to determine whether any of the gift exceptions in ORS 244.020(7)(b) apply. ORS 244.020(7)(b)(E) provides that a gift does not include the cost of admission or food and beverage consumed by the public official (or a relative, household member or staff member accompanying the public official) at a reception, meal or meeting held by an organization when the public official is representing state government, a local government, or a special government body. In this case, the lunch is a meal, is being held by the Sportsmen's Caucus and the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, and the legislators and legislative staff would be attending as representatives of the state.

The Oregon Government Ethics Commission has adopted an Administrative Rule that identifies a number of factors that indicate whether paid expenses would qualify under this exception. [OAR 199-005-0015]. These factors include:

1. A large number of people or groups are invited.
2. The invitations or programs are sent in advance.
3. The event is publicized.
4. The reception, meal, or meeting is open to the public.
5. Written materials such as a printed program are available.

August 26, 2026

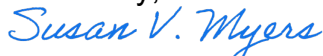
pg. 3

In this case, a large number of people are invited, and invitations are sent in advance. It is unclear whether the event will be publicized, though previous events have been reported on the websites of both the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation and the National Wild Turkey Federation. It does not appear the lunch is open to the public. Finally, the information provided indicates the lunch will include educational presentations from the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife. Such presentations could likely include written materials. While not all of the factors in the Rule are satisfied, it does appear that a majority of them are. Thus, the event could qualify for the exception in ORS 244.020(7)(b)(E).

For officials required to file an annual Statement of Economic Interest (SEI), the receipt of items under the (E) gift exception is not required to be reported on their SEI. For the organization hosting the lunch, assuming they are registered in Oregon as a lobbyist client/employer, the expenses would qualify as lobbying expenditures, under the definition in ORS 171.725(8), and would need to be reported on the lobbyist client/employer's quarterly expenditure report.

If you have any additional questions regarding this advice or the application of Oregon Government Ethics law, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Susan V. Myers

Executive Director

\*\*\*\*\*DISCLAIMER\*\*\*\*\*

This staff advice is provided under the authority given in ORS 244.284(1). This advice offers guidance on how Oregon Government Ethics law may apply to the specific facts described in your request. This advice is based on my understanding and analysis of the specific circumstances you described and should not be applied to circumstances that differ from those discussed in this request.



# Oregon

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Website: [www.oregon.gov/ogec](http://www.oregon.gov/ogec)

August 13, 2026

Shanta Carter

Special Districts Association of Oregon

P.O. Box 12613

Salem, OR 97309-0613

[scarter@sdao.com](mailto:scarter@sdao.com)

Re: PML Training Assessment #25-172T

Dear Shanta Carter:

The Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) originally approved the Public Meetings Law training provided by the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) on July 18, 2025. That original approval was for one year. This letter confirms that OGEC is extending its approval of SDAO's Public Meetings Law training by one year. This extension will expire on July 18, 2027.

As this Public Meetings Law training has been reviewed and approved by OGEC, a member of a governing body who attends and completes this training will satisfy the training requirement set forth in ORS 192.700.

There may be legislative changes to the Public Meetings Law made during the 2027 legislative session. OGEC will be updating its criteria for training approval after the 2027 legislative session and after any necessary rulemaking process resulting from legislative changes. At that point, SDAO will need to update its Public Meetings Law training to reflect such changes and will need to submit its updated training to OGEC for review and approval. If, in the interim, you make any other changes to your training, including

Special Districts Association of Oregon 25-172T

August 13, 2026

Page 2 of 2

changes reflecting updated interpretations or guidance from OGEC, that updated training must also be resubmitted to OGEC for review and approval.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you have any questions or desire additional clarification regarding the training approval process.

Sincerely,



Susan V. Myers

Executive Director



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

## Government Ethics Commission

3218 Pringle Rd SE, Ste 220

Salem, OR 97302-1680

Telephone: 503-378-5105

Fax: 503-373-1456

E-mail: [mail@ogec.oregon.gov](mailto:mail@ogec.oregon.gov)

Website: [www.oregon.gov/ogec](http://www.oregon.gov/ogec)

August 13, 2026

Krishna Walker

Port of Portland

P.O. Box 3529

Portland, OR 97208-3529

[Krishna.Walker@PortofPortland.com](mailto:Krishna.Walker@PortofPortland.com)

Re: PML Training Assessment #25-173T

Dear Krishna Walker:

The Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) originally approved the Public Meetings Law training provided by the Port of Portland on August 21, 2025. That original approval was for one year. This letter confirms that OGEC is extending its approval of the Port of Portland's Public Meetings Law training by one year. This extension will expire on August 21, 2027.

As this Public Meetings Law training has been reviewed and approved by OGEC, a member of a governing body who attends and completes this training will satisfy the training requirement set forth in ORS 192.700.

There may be legislative changes to the Public Meetings Law made during the 2027 legislative session. OGEC will be updating its criteria for training approval after the 2027 legislative session and after any necessary rulemaking process resulting from legislative changes. At that point, the Port of Portland will need to update its Public Meetings Law training to reflect such changes and will need to submit its updated training to OGEC for review and approval. If, in the interim, you make any other changes to your training,

Port of Portland 25-173T

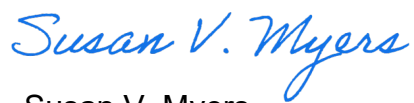
August 13, 2026

Page 2 of 2

including changes reflecting updated interpretations or guidance from OGEC, that updated training must also be resubmitted to OGEC for review and approval.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you have any questions or desire additional clarification regarding the training approval process.

Sincerely,



Susan V. Myers

Executive Director



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

## Government Ethics Commission

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Salem, OR 97302-1680

Telephone: 503-378-5105

Fax: 503-373-1456

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Website: [www.oregon.gov/ogec](http://www.oregon.gov/ogec)

August 13, 2026

Karen Smith

Oregon Community College Association

260 13<sup>th</sup> St NE

Salem, OR 97301

[Ksmith@occa17.com](mailto:Ksmith@occa17.com)

Re: PML Training Assessment #25-404T

Dear Karen Smith

The Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) originally approved the Public Meetings Law training provided by the Oregon Community College Association (OCCA) on September 5, 2025. That original approval was for one year. This letter confirms that OGEC is extending its approval of OCCA's Public Meetings Law training by one year. This extension will expire on September 5, 2027.

As this Public Meetings Law training has been reviewed and approved by OGEC, a member of a governing body who attends and completes this training will satisfy the training requirement set forth in ORS 192.700.

There may be legislative changes to the Public Meetings Law made during the 2027 legislative session. OGEC will be updating its criteria for training approval after the 2027 legislative session and after any necessary rulemaking process resulting from legislative changes. At that point, OCCA will need to update its Public Meetings Law training to reflect such changes and will need to submit its updated training to OGEC for review and approval. If, in the interim, you make any other changes to your training, including

Oregon Community College Association 25-404T

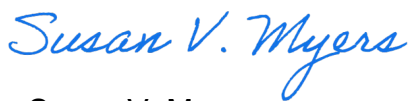
August 13, 2026

Page 2 of 2

changes reflecting updated interpretations or guidance from OGEC, that updated training must also be resubmitted to OGEC for review and approval.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you have any questions or desire additional clarification regarding the training approval process.

Sincerely,



Susan V. Myers

Executive Director



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

## Government Ethics Commission

3218 Pringle Rd SE, Ste 220

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Fax: 503-373-1456

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Website: [www.oregon.gov/ogec](http://www.oregon.gov/ogec)

August 19, 2026

Sharon Barker

2891 Bowman Rd.

Reedsport, OR

Delivered via email: [Sr\\_barker@yahoo.com](mailto:Sr_barker@yahoo.com)

Re: Case Nos. 26-315PJS, 26-316PJS and 26-317PJS

Dear Sharon Barker:

The Oregon Government Ethics Commission received your letter, dated August 19, 2026, regarding the dismissals of your complaints in the above-referenced cases. You asked that a copy of your letter be shared with the Commissioners and that it be included in the case files. This letter responds to your requests by confirming that your letter is being shared with the Commissioners and has been placed in the case files for all three cases.

You also requested clarification as to the basis for the Commission's dismissal of the cases. As you are aware, the recording of the Commission's deliberations and discussion is publicly available on our website: [https://www.oregon.gov/ogec/about-us/Pages/meetings.aspx?wp9725=p:1#g\\_8496f21e\\_c9e1\\_4786\\_a3c5\\_56e285ee1657](https://www.oregon.gov/ogec/about-us/Pages/meetings.aspx?wp9725=p:1#g_8496f21e_c9e1_4786_a3c5_56e285ee1657)

The Commission's deliberations leading to their decision in these cases can be found there.

Best regards,

*Susan V. Myers*

Susan V. Myers

Executive Director

**Sharon Barker**  
2891 Bowman Rd.  
Reedsport, Oregon  
541-829-2392  
[sr\\_barker@yahoo.com](mailto:sr_barker@yahoo.com)

**Date:** August 19, 2026

**To:** Oregon Government Ethics Commission  
3218 Pringle Road SE, Suite 220  
Salem, OR 97302

**Re: Follow-Up Regarding Dismissal of Case Nos. 26-315PJS, 26-316PJS, and 26-317PJS**

Dear Commissioners,

I understand that the Commission has dismissed Case Nos. 26-315PJS, 26-316PJS, and 26-317PJS, and I understand that I may not have an appeal right from that dismissal. However, I am submitting this follow-up because I believe the Commission's discussion and decision were based, at least in part, on inaccurate and irrelevant information presented by Councilor Elaine Armstrong.

My complaint was limited to a Public Meetings Law issue involving the City of Lakeside Hiring Committee's March and April 2026 interviews. Specifically, my complaint alleged that the Hiring Committee met for hiring-related interviews and applicant review without public notice, without agendas, without minutes or recordings, and without public access.

Investigator Sullivan correctly identified the issue during the Commission meeting. He stated that the complaint alleged the Hiring Committee acted without proper notice of meetings, without recording or taking minutes, and without public access, and that the question was whether the Hiring Committee qualified as a governing body subject to Public Meetings Law.

Investigator Sullivan also stated that when the Hiring Committee provided recommendations to the City Council in 2025 and advised the City Recorder in 2026, it appeared the committee may have acted with authority to make recommendations on City administration and staff recruitment. He further stated that the Hiring Committee may have been subject to Public Meetings Law and that the recommendation was to move the cases to investigation.

Despite that recommendation, the Commission's discussion shifted away from the April 2026 Hiring Committee interviews and toward allegations that I allegedly failed to post prior meetings in 2025. I believe that shift was improper and unfair because I was not employed by the City during the March 30, 2026 and April 7, 2026 interviews at issue in my complaint. I was not responsible for posting those April 2026 interview notices, preparing those agendas, or maintaining those records.

Councilor Armstrong's testimony also included statements about me that I dispute. She suggested that I failed to post certain earlier City Recorder interview notices and implied that I may have done so

intentionally. I dispute that characterization. I did not have access to the City website. Councilor Alan Pointer was the person with the website password, and he would not provide it to me. In addition, postings were handled by Amanda Chavez. I also asked the committee members whether meetings had been posted and whether agendas had been prepared.

Even if there were questions about earlier 2025 postings, those issues were not the basis of my April 2026 complaint. My complaint concerned the March and April 2026 Hiring Committee interviews, when I was no longer working for the City. Therefore, any claim that I was responsible for posting or failing to post notices for the April 2026 interviews is not accurate.

Councilor Armstrong's testimony actually confirmed several key facts supporting my complaint. She stated that Courteney Halstead wanted to "temporarily reinstate the hiring committee" to assist and provide input on the hiring of two positions. She also stated that on March 30 and April 7, the Hiring Committee and Courteney conducted interviews, and that committee members gave their opinions, thoughts, pros, and cons regarding applicants.

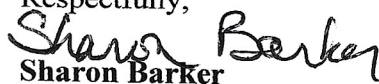
Those admissions go directly to the issue raised in my complaint. They confirm that the Hiring Committee was used in March and April 2026, that it participated in interviews, and that it provided input concerning applicants. The question should have remained whether those meetings were required to be noticed, open to the public, and recorded or memorialized under Oregon Public Meetings Law.

I also disagree with the characterization that my complaint was "weaponization" of the Ethics Commission process. I filed my complaint because City records showed that a Hiring Committee was used in hiring processes without public notice, minutes, or records. I followed the process I was instructed to follow. The Commission's own investigator found enough concern to recommend moving the matter to investigation.

For these reasons, I respectfully believe the dismissal was flawed because it appears to have relied on irrelevant and inaccurate statements about me rather than the central Public Meetings Law issue identified by Investigator Sullivan.

I respectfully request that this letter be placed in the Commission's file for Case Nos. 26-315PJS, 26-316PJS, and 26-317PJS. I also request clarification, if available, as to whether the dismissal was based on a legal conclusion that the Hiring Committee was not a governing body, a conclusion that the committee acted only as advisory to the City Recorder, a finding of good faith reliance on legal advice, or some other basis.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,  
  
Sharon Barker

**Enclosure: copy of July 9, 2025 agenda for waste water employee  
Transcribed meeting transcript**



*"The Mission of the City of Lakeside is to serve the citizens of our community with responsibility, transparency, integrity, and dedication"*

Zoom call in information: Meeting ID: 444-313-9923    Numeric Password: 611328  
Regular phone users should dial into zoom at 408638-0968

**NOTICE OF CITY COUNCIL SELECT COMMITTEE TO REVIEW JOB DESCRIPTIONS,  
JOB ADVERTISEMENTS AND SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS FOR CITY OF LAKESIDE  
JOB OPENINGS.**

1. **On Wednesday July 9, 2025, a committee of 3 City Councilors will meet at City Hall to discuss job descriptions, job advertisements and submitted applications for 1 open position at City Hall and 2 open positions at waste water plant. Their findings will be presented to the City Council at a future meeting.**
2. **Adjourn-** Next regular City Council meeting: July 10, 2025

Notice to be posted at:

City Hall  
McKay's Market  
Lakeside Water Department  
Post Office

*Posted on City website !!*

The City of Lakeside, to extent reasonably possible, will make all meetings accessible remotely and provide the opportunity for citizens to submit oral testimony during the meeting and written testimony by emailing [manager@cityoflakeside.org](mailto:manager@cityoflakeside.org) by 4:00 p.m. on the day of each regularly scheduled council meeting.

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting. Please contact Krista Miller (541) 759-3010 to make a request for an interpreter or other accommodations.

Miss Armstrong, can you hear me?

42:07

Can you hear me now? I can. Okay. Hi.

42:12

Hi. Thank you so much for um appearing today. Uh my name is Sheynia Payne and I am the chair of the commission.

42:21

And um I think um is uh Terry McDuff also on the line?

42:30

Yes, she's here with me. Okay.

42:32

Wonderful. Okay. Um I just want to welcome you both and sort of provide the procedure of how this is going to occur.

42:40

First, um the investigator, investigator Sullivan is kind of going to provide um a report of the um the um investigation

42:51

and um the um following the report, the commissioners will have a opportunity to

43:00

ask questions of the investigator and then following that um we will provide you an opportunity to make a statement

43:08

43 minutes, 8 seconds

should you wish to do so. We ask that you keep that statement um to three minutes or less just because we're trying to get through a long agenda today. And then we will provide

43:17

commissioners an opportunity to ask questions of you should they have any and we will open it up amongst the commissioners to um discuss this matter.

43:26

Um and then we will vote on your matter.

43:29

43 minutes, 29 seconds

Uh the decision that is being made today is whether to move this matter to investigation. There is no decision

43:38

being made today as to whether any violations have actually occurred. I just want to make that clarification. Um

43:45

that being said, uh we will now um hear the report from investigator Sullivan.

43:51

Yes. Thank you, Chair Payne and Commission. This is investigator Josh Sullivan for the record. I'm presenting executive session agenda items number 25

Staff report was read into the record from 43:59

45 minutes, 44 seconds to 45:53

Seeing and hearing none, uh, Miss Armstrong, now is the time for you to make a statement should you choose to do so. And we just again ask that you keep

45:53

45 minutes, 53 seconds

that statement to, um, 3 minutes or less. I understand that M. McDuff does not choose to speak, but if you um do

46:00

choose to speak, um we just keep that to three minutes or less. Thank you.

46:06

46 minutes, 6 seconds

All right.

Elaine Armstrong: Good afternoon, commissioners, and thank you. I would like to make this brief statement. We acted in good faith, and it was never our intent to violate the open meeting

46:14

law. I regularly call and check with the ethics office to make sure we are doing things correctly. Our city attorney stated we did not have to give notice

46:23

because we were advisory to the administration authority only and per our insurance company CIS we participate in the interviews to ensure the process

46:31

was fair and equal. Lakeside is a small recreational retirement community. Our current council consists of seven members, three of which have outside

46:40

employment and normally cannot attend meetings during the day. Four are retired. Of the four retired members, only three ever volunteered to help.

46:48

That is why the formal hiring committee to hire the city recorder and the informal advisory hearing committee to hire office staff were the same members because no one else would volunteer.

46:58

Under Sharon Barker, the pro tem city recorder, also the complaintant, we helped with the recruitment and interviewing of the applicant. In

47:05

September, after interviewing a wastewater applicant, Sharon Barker stated that per our city attorney, the city does not have to post meeting

47:13

notices of interviews for city staff positions because staff employees were hired by the city recorder. Only the city recorder position had to be

47:21

noticed. We told Sharon that while it may not be required to be on the safe side, we wanted her to continue to post notices of all hiring committee meetings

47:29

and interviews. Sharon Barker failed to post the next three city recorder interviews. At our regular city council meetings, the hire comm hiring committee

47:37

would give updates on the progress of the city require recorder recruitment.

47:41

In October, the whole council reviewed, interviewed, and unanimously selected Courtney to be our city recorder. Sharon Barker disagreed and showed a bias

47:49

against the council selection and ordered the highest, most in-depth background check possible on Courtney.

47:55

In November, Terry McDuff was appointed to the city council replacing Adam Hand.

48:00

In an executive session in January regarding potential litigation information, Courtney stated on advice from our insurance company, we should

48:07

she should not participate in the interview using involving Sharon Barker. Courtney reached out to the council and hiring committee and stated

48:15

she wanted to temporarily reinstate the hiring committee to assist and provide input on the hiring of two positions because of her limited time with the

48:22

city and under the direct advisement of the council. In January, Terry volunteered um to do it. We interviewed

48:30

Sharon was not chosen and laid off. In February, Terry was um under the consent

48:37

calendar was ratified. And then March 30th and April 7th with dates in question. The hiring committee along with Courtney conducted two interviews. We

48:45

each gave our opinions and thoughts, pros and cons. In each applicant, we were very clear that these were our thoughts only because ultimately the decision who to hire was hers alone. She

48:54

was building her team. When we left the interviews, we did not know for sure who Courtney was going to hire. And once again, per our attorney, we didn't have

49:01

to notify u notice the interviews because we were advisory to the administrative authority only. and all hiring authority was hers.

Thank you.

49:12

[laughter]

49:14

49 minutes, 14 seconds

Commissioner: Nicely done.

49:16

Elaine Armstrong: I timed and timed myself and I cut and cut and cut until I got it into three.

[laughter]

Commissioner: That was that was impressive.

Elaine Armstrong: Thank you.

49:25

Um, thank you.

49:27

Armstrong: Did I make sense? Could you understand what I said? Because it didn't very helpful.

Commissioner: Yes.

49:33

Okay. Um, I'm going to open it up for commissioners to um ask questions of our respondents should they have any.

49:48

Okay, vice chair.

49:52

Commissioner: So, I feel like they did everything right.

49:56

Commissioner: This wasn't a quorum of the council because there's seven of them and this was only three. They reached out to their insurance company. They reached out to us.

50:04

I feel like they did what they could do.

50:06

And at this point, I'm just not feeling like I want to take this any further. And I

50:13

and the the the thing for me is that the the whole city recorder being I know the public I know that the public officials are responsible

50:21

ultimately responsible for the posting of the minutes, but this one gets a little murky when the person the staff person responsible for it is also

50:30

involved in the hiring and things can get funny. So I at this point I'm inclined to let this one go.

50:40

Commissioner: Sure. push for sure.

50:44

The the term weaponization comes to mind.

50:49

So, this and I just I have a tendency and feel somewhat like

50:55

Commissioner Thompson that this is not even jump into. Mhm.

51:05

Yeah. I I it does frustrate me when uh individuals get poor legal advice from

51:12

their legal counsel and they act on that. It it it frustrates me. Um

51:18

but um I guess um

51:28

51 minutes, 28 seconds

can um Miss Armstrong, can I ask you a question?

Armstrong: Yes, please.

51:32

Commissioner: you said and and I you were you were talking at a lovely speed. I appreciate that, but I think I might have got lost

51:40

a little along the way. Um you said that you um you did notice some of the um

51:49

interviews, but then maybe later you did you did not for a second set of interviews. Is that correct?

51:57

Armstrong: Starting from the very beginning when we were first appointed, we required everything to be noticed and it was in

52:05

the hiring and I cut this down so much that we um and I have it in a time sheet where I had sent pre previously I had

52:13

sent it to make it easier for you is it said that um after we interviewed a wastewater super uh employee a

52:21

wastewater applicant Sharon made a big point of saying it's unfair to the applicants to have people in the

52:29

audience watching and she checked with the attorney and the attorney says we don't have to notice but up to that point we had noticed every meeting and

52:38

then um we said well we don't we understand we don't have to but we want you to Sharon so please notice

52:45

everything and then we find out when I was going through these records that Sharon didn't

52:53

I feel deliberately didn't notice noticed the next three city recorder interview notices. Um, she's the one

53:02

that said that she knew that they had to notice the city recorder interviews and she didn't do it, but every time Adam

53:09

Allen and I came in, we would say, "Sharon, was it notice?" And she goes, "Yes." Or she would mumble and yes, you know, whatever. So, we assumed it was

53:16

being done. Then when um I was doing these re things to pull up for Josh, I found that those three were not done.

53:26

One was noticed, but it was never any records anywhere, but I had a copy of it.

Commissioner: So it was lack of work on her part.

53:36

So yes, we always noticed everything.

53:40

And then once we hired Courtney, she checked with the attorney and CIS and they says we do not have to notice.

53:47

So, at that point, I had turned everything over to her and I assumed she was doing it correctly.

53:56

Did I answer your question or did I ramble?

53:58

Commissioner: Oh, so you answered my question. Thank you,

Commissioner: Chair Payne. I have a question for Please.

54:06

Commissioner, why do you think these didn't get noticed? Was it just I forgot or I was too busy or was it done intentionally?

54:19

Armstrong: Okay. Okay. Because this is not Well, I personally think she did it on purpose because when we told her to notice

54:27

everything and she stated she knew that the only things that needed to be noticed was the city recorder

54:34

interviews, why did the next three ones not get noticed? It It doesn't make sense. But she would probably say she was too busy.

54:46

You know, I don't I personally believe it's she's weaponizing the ethics committee against us. She is filing

54:54

complaints, lots of complaints, and she's trying to make our lives miserable.

55:05 Was that appropriate for me to say? Yes. Thank you.

55:12

Commissioner: I I personally struggle with a situation like this where it's the responsibility of the public officials, but they

55:21

told their staff to do it. Their staff told them they did it.

55:26

And how are they how what else were they supposed to do? I have I have trouble

55:32

with this when they have to rely on rely on and trust their staff to do what they

55:39

tell them to do and their staff tells them that they did it. Um it's one thing if they are simply relying on their

55:47

staff to do it when they're not telling their staff to do it, but when they tell their staff to do it and then they ask their staff, did you do it? And their

55:55

staff says yes. To me, I feel like that's they've done all they can do at that point. Their staff just isn't

56:03

doing their job. But I I don't know. I mean, this is a tough one cuz it's I mean, do they have to also physically

56:11

check that it's being done? I mean, I do know the buck stops with them, but it also just feels like it's that that that

56:19

this is where I feel like the the conversations we had earlier today about like re reasonleness kind of sort of

56:27

comes in where like they think they doing what they needed to do. Commissioner H.

56:38

Commissioner: Thanks, Sher Pane. Um, I would support dismissal on this. I think that they did everything that they could do reasonably. Thank you.

56:47

Thank you, Commissioner. Help I I

56:55

Commissioner: I'm on the fence, but if somebody wants to make a motion,

Commissioner: I'll give it a shot.

57:02

Okay. [laughter] Uh for executive session agenda items 25, 26, and 27, I move the commission dismiss the complaints against Elaine

57:10

Armstrong, Alan Pointer, and Terin McDuff. Thank you, vice chair, commissioners.

57:16

You've heard the motion. Um on items 25, 26, and 27, administrator, please call the role.

57:27

57 minutes, 27 seconds

Commissioner Jansy, I. Commissioner McCauley. Hi. Commissioner Burke.

57:35

57 minutes, 35 seconds

Hi. Commissioner Given. Hi. Commissioner Thompson. Hi. Commissioner Help. Hi.

57:44

57 minutes, 44 seconds

Commissioner Metler. I chair Payne. I. Motion pass 8 to zero.

57:52

57 minutes, 52 seconds

Payne: Okay. Miss Armstrong and McDuff. As you just heard, these matters have been dismissed and we appreciate you

58:00

58 minutes

appearing today and for your um cander and your public service. Thank you very much.

58:08

# OGEC Training Report

## September Commission Meeting Facilitators

- Room/Online Facilitator: Lex
- Participation Facilitator: Ruth
- Facilitation Lead/Media Contact: Stephanie

## Training Partnerships 2026 -2027

These are trainings that have been scheduled in 2026-2027 where the OGEC training team partnered with associations in offering Ethics Law and Public Meetings Law trainings.

| Area of Law                | Partnering Association                                                              | Location    | Date      |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| ORS 192<br>PML<br>Updates  | Secretary of State: Records Officer Statewide Meetup                                | Online      | 1/13/2026 |
| ORS 192<br>PML<br>Overview | Governor's Office: State Boards and Commissions Webinar                             | Online      | 1/15/2026 |
| ORS 244<br>Gifts           | Greater Oregon Chapter of Society of Government Meeting Professionals (GOSGMP)      | Grand Ronde | 2/5/2026  |
| ORS 192<br>PML<br>Overview | Governor's Office: State Boards and Commissions PML                                 | Online      | 2/24/2026 |
| ORS 244<br>COI/PUO         | Oregon Government Finance Officers Association (OGFOA)                              | Sunriver    | 3/9/2026  |
| ORS 244<br>COI/PUO         | Greater Oregon Chapter of the Society for Government Meeting Professionals (GOSGMP) | Wilsonville | 6/4/2026  |
| ORS 244<br>COI/PUO         | Oregon State Assessors and Tax Collectors Association (OSATCA)                      | Salem       | 8/4/2026  |

|                                  |                                                     |        |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| ORS 192<br>PML Best<br>Practices | Oregon Association of Municipal Recordors<br>(OAMR) | Online | 8/18/2026 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------|

|                                 |                                                                                          |            |                 |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| ORS 244<br>Ethics<br>Overview   | Oregon Association of County Treasurers and<br>Finance Officers (OACTFO)                 | Florence   | 9/22/2026       |
| ORS 244<br>COI/PUO<br>w/ Grants | Governor's Office: State Boards and<br>Commissions Ethics 201 (1/2)                      | Online     | 10/1/2026       |
| ORS 244<br>COI/PUO<br>w/ Grants | Governor's Office: State Boards and<br>Commissions Ethics 201 (2/2)                      | Online     | 10/21/2026      |
| TBD                             | Oregon Fire Service Office Administrators<br>Conference (OFSOA)                          | Portland   | October<br>2026 |
| ORS 192<br>PML<br>Overview      | Oregon Government Finance Officers<br>Association (OGFOA)                                | Online     | 10/22/26        |
| ORS 244<br>COI/PUO              | Association of Oregon Counties: New County<br>Commissioners Pre-conference Session (AOC) | Eugene     | 11/17/2026      |
| ORS 244                         | Oregon Fire Districts Directors Association<br>Conference (OFDDA)                        | Hood River | 11/5/2026       |
| ORS 192                         | Association of Oregon Counties: County<br>College (AOC)                                  | Corvallis  | January<br>2027 |
| ORS 244                         | Spring Judicial Conference                                                               | Portland   | March 2027      |

### Training Outreach & Collaboration

- Submitted speaker's Proposal for Association of Oregon Counties' November 2026 conference. We will be presenting Ethics Law to new Commissioners at the pre-conference session.

- Submitted speaker's proposal to League of Oregon Cities' 2026 annual fall conference. OGEC was not selected to speak.
- Submitted speaker's proposal to Oregon Association of Municipal Recordors (OAMR) 2026 annual conference. OGEC was not selected for the conference, in part because we presented the same topics in 2025. However, OAMR was excited about our speaker's proposal on Public Meetings Law best practices and asked to present to the group in an online event that was held in August that provided Public Meetings Law Best practices. OAMR is also offering us a table at their conference this year, so that our new admin staff Amber has an opportunity to meet the Jurisdictional Contacts for cities. And we are working with the planning committee for opportunities to speak at the 2027 conference.
- Partnering with the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association to offer 20 training sessions across the state in 2027 that will include Public Meetings Law and Ethics Law training.
- There are several fall annual fall conferences that we often present at that we don't receive speaker requests until September or October.

## Training Partnerships 2025

These are trainings that were performed in 2025 where the OGEC training team partnered with associations in offering Ethics Law and Public Meetings Law trainings.

|                            |                                                                          |           |           |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| ORS 192<br>PML<br>Overview | Special Districts Association of Oregon<br>Annual Conference (SDAO)      | Bend      | 2/6/2025  |
| ORS 192<br>PML<br>Overview | Oregon Association of School Business<br>Officials Conference (OASBO)    | Salem     | 2/11/2025 |
| ORS 244<br>Gifts           | Oregon Association of County Treasurers<br>and Finance Officers (OACTFO) | Clackamas | 9/16/2025 |

|                               |                                                                   |          |            |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|
| ORS 244<br>Ethics<br>Overview | Oregon Association of Municipal Records<br>Conference (OAMR)      | Eugene   | 9/25/2025  |
| ORS 192<br>PML<br>Q&A         | Special Districts Association of Oregon Metro<br>Breakfast (SDAO) | Tigard   | 10/17/2025 |
| PML &<br>Ethics<br>Updates    | Oregon Community College Association<br>Conference (OCCA)         | Online   | 11/6/2025  |
| PML &<br>Ethics<br>Overview   | Oregon School Board Association Annual<br>Conference (OSBA)       | Portland | 11/7/2025  |
| ORS 244<br>Ethics<br>Overview | Oregon Fire District Directors Association<br>Conference (OFDDA)  | Seaside  | 11/20/2025 |
| PML &<br>Ethics<br>Updates    | Oregon County Counsel Association<br>Conference                   | Eugene   | 11/21/2025 |

## August Training Highlights

### Accessibility Workgroup

- Finished Accessibility Basics Checklist for staff training and daily use.
- Continued working on Style Guide and updating team-specific templates.
- Continued working on updating agenda and meeting materials to meet accessibility standards.

## Public Meetings Law Trainings

- For the summer, we offered Public Meetings Law webinars twice a month due to lower attendance rates. We will be resuming weekly Public Meetings Law webinars starting in September.
- An asynchronous version is in the works to be available to all public officials on-demand through Workday by January 2027.

## Government Ethics Law Trainings

- Sharing the new Ethics Law asynchronous training with Oregon Lottery and Travel Oregon, who do not use Workday.

## Communications

- Quarter 3's newsletter will be in your inboxes later this month.
- Informational bulletin about the updated Ethics Law training in Workday has prompted a significant uptick in Workday Learning account requests. A copy of the bulletin is in your meeting books.
- In August, OGE's open rate for bulletins was 40%.

## Public Meetings Law Training Approval

OGE has issued one year training approval extensions to the following training partners on their Public Meetings Law training curriculum:

- Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) for their live, instructor lead training.
- Port of Portland for their live, instructor lead training.
- Oregon Community College Association, for their live, instructor lead training.

## **Trainings Completed (August 4, 2026 – August 31, 2026)**

These trainings are hosted by public bodies across the state both online and in-person. Some hosted training sessions are open to public officials from other governing bodies to attend. The public body who hosts the training is listed first, followed by the public bodies represented by other attendees.

| Area of Law | Public Body                                      | Location |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------|
| ORS 244     | Oregon State Assessors and Tax Collectors        | Salem    |
| ORS 192     | Oregon Association of Municipal Recordors (OAMR) | Online   |
| ORS 192     | City of Lakeside                                 | Coos Bay |
| ORS 244     | Department of Revenue                            | Online   |

## OGEC Webinars (August 4, 2026 – August 31, 2026)

These online trainings are open to anyone to sign-up for through our website. Most of the topics are offered once a month. Public Meetings Law webinars are currently offered at least once a week.

| Area of Law | Webinar Topic                       | August     |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| ORS 244     | New Employee                        | 1 Session  |
| ORS 244     | New Councilor or Commissioner       | 1 Session  |
| ORS 244     | Use of Office/Conflicts of Interest | 1 Session  |
| ORS 244     | Gifts                               | 1 Session  |
| ORS 244     | Jurisdictional Contact              | 1 Session  |
| ORS 192     | Public Meetings Law                 | 2 Sessions |
| ORS 192     | Executive Sessions                  | 1 Session  |
| ORS 171     | Lobby Law                           | 1 Session  |

## Training Staff

### Trainers

|                |              |                                                                                    |
|----------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Angela Nolan   | 503-378-8066 | <a href="mailto:angela.nolan@ogec.oregon.gov">angela.nolan@ogec.oregon.gov</a>     |
| Chris Brubaker | 503-378-2059 | <a href="mailto:chris.brubaker@ogec.oregon.gov">chris.brubaker@ogec.oregon.gov</a> |
| Lex Tingey     | 503-378-2245 | <a href="mailto:lex.tingey@ogec.oregon.gov">lex.tingey@ogec.oregon.gov</a>         |
| Ruth Sylvester | 503-378-2060 | <a href="mailto:ruth.sylvester@ogec.oregon.gov">ruth.sylvester@ogec.oregon.gov</a> |

### Administrative Support

|              |              |                                                                        |
|--------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Molly Putnam | 503-378-5108 | <a href="mailto:training@ogec.oregon.gov">training@ogec.oregon.gov</a> |
|--------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### Curriculum and Training Coordinator

|                   |              |                                                                                          |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Stephanie Heffner | 503-378-6802 | <a href="mailto:stephanie.heffner@ogec.oregon.gov">stephanie.heffner@ogec.oregon.gov</a> |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

# Updated and Improved Government Ethics Law Training Now Available!

*Oregon Government Ethics Commission sent this bulletin at 08/25/2026 09:30 AM PDT*

[View as a webpage](#) / [Share](#)



## Oregon Government Ethics Commission

August 25, 2026

### Take OGEc's Updated Ethics Law Training!

OGEc announces an updated and improved Ethics Law training! The Oregon Government Ethics Commission recently adopted the Government Ethics Law Guide as a resource for public officials. This updated training reflects the information presented in the Government Ethics Law Guide. You might be looking for Ethics Law training because:

- You recently accepted a position as an employee at a public body
- You are serving on a public board, commission, or council
- Your office or position requires you to complete Ethics Law training

No matter your situation, OGEc has an option for you. This training replaces the previous on-demand training option in Workday. If you have been using OGEc's on-demand training option in the past, this training is linked in the same place. You can plan to spend about 90 minutes completing the course.

### How to Access the Updated Training

If you already have a Workday Learning account, start there!

- If you are a state employee or a member of a state board or commission, you can access the training through the button at the bottom of this section
- All new state employees need to complete Government Ethics Law training

[Complete Training in Workday](#)

If you don't already have a Workday Learning account, you can request one!

- New account requests take 1-2 business days to be approved by OGE
- If you have an account and forgot your password, do not request a new account: [Visit OGE's website for details on external Workday accounts](#)

**Request Account in Workday**

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**09/01/2026**

### **2025-27 Budget**

At the end of June 2026, OGEC had a projected ending cash balance of \$1,433,351.81. This represents an approximate 5.12 month ending balance and a projected surplus of \$572,779.26.

### **Recruitment**

Administrative Specialist Amber Heitz joined our staff on August 17. More information on Amber will be in our next newsletter. We are all very pleased to have Amber join our staff.

### **Public Meetings Law**

As previously reported, Representative Sosa has assembled a legislative workgroup focusing on Public Meetings Law. Thus far, we have had two meetings, and several more meetings are planned. Most recently, the workgroup discussed topics such as training and enforcement.

Recordings of the workgroup meetings and related documents are available on the Workgroup's website, available here:

<https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/committees/202511-HRULES/Pages/default.aspx>

### **Meetings with Associations**

Following up on the work session held at the Commission's August 14 meeting, we have scheduled a staff level meeting with representatives from the four associations for October 5. And we will be scheduling a special meeting to hold another Commission work session in November.

**OREGON GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION**  
**AY27 CASH FLOW**  
**AS OF JUNE 2026 ACTUALS**

|                                          | Appn 30000 - Admin - PCA 41501 |                        |                         |                    | Appn 70000 - GF - PCA 00501 |                        |                  |                    |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
|                                          | Actuals<br>To Date             | Actuals +<br>Projected | 2025-2027<br>LAB        | Variance           | Actuals<br>To Date          | Actuals +<br>Projected | 2025-2027<br>LAB | Variance           |
| <b>Beginning Cash Balance</b>            | 1,041,552.16                   | 1,041,552.16           | 715,787.00<br>18,521.00 |                    | -                           | -                      | -                |                    |
| <b>REVENUE</b>                           |                                |                        |                         |                    |                             |                        |                  |                    |
| 0415 ADMINISTRATIVE AND SERVICES CHARGES | 3,620,242.49                   | 7,104,676.96           | 7,005,742.00            | (98,934.96)        | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 0505 FINES AND FORFEITS                  | 551.43                         | 551.43                 | -                       | (551.43)           | 97,201.08                   | 97,201.08              | 50,000.00        | (47,201.08)        |
| 0975 OTHER REVENUE                       | -                              | -                      | -                       | 0.00               | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>                     | <b>3,620,793.92</b>            | <b>7,105,228.39</b>    | <b>7,740,050.00</b>     | <b>(99,486.39)</b> | <b>97,201.08</b>            | <b>97,201.08</b>       | <b>50,000.00</b> | <b>(47,201.08)</b> |
| <b>TRANSFERS</b>                         |                                |                        |                         |                    |                             |                        |                  |                    |
| 2010 TRANSFER OUT TO OTHER FUNDS         | -                              | -                      | -                       | 0.00               | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 1107 TRANSFER IN FROM DEPT OF ADMIN SVCS | -                              | -                      | (50,000.00)             | (50,000.00)        | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| <b>Total Transfers</b>                   | <b>-</b>                       | <b>-</b>               | <b>(50,000.00)</b>      | <b>(50,000.00)</b> | <b>-</b>                    | <b>-</b>               | <b>-</b>         | <b>0.00</b>        |
| <b>Total Available Revenues</b>          |                                |                        | <b>7,690,050.00</b>     |                    |                             |                        |                  |                    |
| <b>PERSONAL SERVICES</b>                 |                                |                        |                         |                    |                             |                        |                  |                    |
| 3110 CLASS/UNCLASS SALARY & PER DIEM     | 1,195,776.14                   | 2,564,925.83           | 2,717,088.00            | 152,162.17         | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 3115 BOARD MEMBER STIPENDS               | 9,790.00                       | 24,742.00              | 29,065.00               | 4,323.00           | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 3160 TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS              | -                              | -                      | 548.00                  | 548.00             | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 3170 OVERTIME PAYMENTS                   | -                              | -                      | -                       | 0.00               | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 3190 ALL OTHER DIFFERENTIAL              | 11,634.41                      | 23,780.22              | -                       | (23,780.22)        | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 3210 ERB ASSESSMENT                      | 456.00                         | 960.00                 | 1,080.00                | 120.00             | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 3220 PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM | 255,236.34                     | 560,362.45             | 534,682.00              | (25,680.45)        | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 3221 PENSION BOND CONTRIBUTION           | 49,916.54                      | 116,173.24             | 99,125.00               | (17,048.24)        | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 3230 SOCIAL SECURITY TAX                 | 93,922.24                      | 200,620.64             | 195,827.00              | (4,793.64)         | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 3241 PAID LEAVE OREGON-EMPLOYER          | 4,910.96                       | 10,076.00              | 10,163.00               | 87.00              | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 3250 WORKERS' COMPENSATION ASSESSMENT    | 224.05                         | 537.25                 | 630.00                  | 92.75              | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 3260 MASS TRANSIT                        | 7,244.23                       | 15,415.82              | 15,344.00               | (71.82)            | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 3270 FLEXIBLE BENEFITS                   | 299,137.47                     | 617,995.33             | 636,120.00              | 18,124.67          | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 3465 RECON ADJUSTMENT                    | -                              | -                      | -                       | 0.00               | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| <b>Total Personal Services</b>           | <b>1,928,248.38</b>            | <b>4,135,588.80</b>    | <b>4,239,672.00</b>     | <b>104,083.20</b>  | <b>-</b>                    | <b>-</b>               | <b>-</b>         | <b>0.00</b>        |
| <b>SERVICES AND SUPPLIES</b>             |                                |                        |                         |                    |                             |                        |                  |                    |
| 4100 INSTATE TRAVEL                      | 5,606.91                       | 58,406.91              | 25,398.00               | (33,008.91)        | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 4125 OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL                 | -                              | 5,000.00               | -                       | (5,000.00)         | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 4150 EMPLOYEE TRAINING                   | 5,935.61                       | 65,935.61              | 25,453.00               | (40,482.61)        | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 4175 OFFICE EXPENSES                     | 8,248.11                       | 17,848.11              | 38,980.00               | 21,131.89          | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 4200 TELECOMM/TECH SVC AND SUPPLIES      | 15,190.38                      | 33,880.38              | 49,674.00               | 15,793.62          | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 4225 STATE GOVERNMENT SERVICE CHARGES    | 96,936.50                      | 188,433.75             | 195,536.00              | 7,102.25           | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 4250 DATA PROCESSING                     | 56,434.69                      | 112,381.80             | 124,288.00              | 11,906.20          | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 4275 PUBLICITY & PUBLICATIONS            | 652.28                         | 652.28                 | 2,490.00                | 1,837.72           | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 4300 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES               | 407.26                         | 407.26                 | 12,119.00               | 11,711.74          | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 4315 IT PROFESSIONAL SERVICES            | 238,014.50                     | 846,414.50             | 957,186.00              | 110,771.50         | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 4325 ATTORNEY GENERAL LEGAL FEES         | 316,460.40                     | 857,003.20             | 915,394.00              | 58,390.80          | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 4375 EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT & DEVELOPMENT  | -                              | -                      | 5,161.00                | 5,161.00           | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 4400 DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS              | -                              | -                      | 3,018.00                | 3,018.00           | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 4425 FACILITIES RENT & TAXES             | 70,356.04                      | 142,470.92             | 201,106.00              | 58,635.08          | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 4575 AGENCY PROGRAM RELATED SVCS & SUPP  | 1,208.92                       | 1,208.92               | 52,100.00               | 50,891.08          | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 4650 OTHER SERVICES AND SUPPLIES         | 107,233.86                     | 218,052.31             | 330,813.00              | 112,760.69         | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 4700 EXPENDABLE PROPERTY \$250-\$5000    | 86.44                          | 86.44                  | 32,820.00               | 32,733.56          | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| 4715 IT EXPENDABLE PROPERTY              | 29,657.55                      | 29,657.55              | 75,000.00               | 45,342.45          | -                           | -                      | -                | 0.00               |
| <b>Total Services and Supplies</b>       | <b>952,429.45</b>              | <b>2,577,839.94</b>    | <b>3,046,536.00</b>     | <b>468,696.06</b>  | <b>-</b>                    | <b>-</b>               | <b>-</b>         | <b>0.00</b>        |
| 5900 OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY                |                                |                        |                         |                    |                             |                        |                  |                    |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>                | <b>2,880,677.83</b>            | <b>6,713,428.74</b>    | <b>7,286,208.00</b>     | <b>572,779.26</b>  | <b>-</b>                    | <b>-</b>               | <b>-</b>         | <b>0.00</b>        |
| <b>Ending Cash Balance*</b>              | <b>1,781,668.25</b>            | <b>1,433,351.81</b>    |                         |                    | 97,201.08                   | 97,201.08              |                  |                    |

\*Outstanding Revenue Invoices not taken into consideration, See Appn Tabs

279,726.20 Avg Monthly Expenditures

1,433,351.81 Projected Cash Ending Balance

5.12 Month Ending Balance