

**YAMHILL COUNTY
ROAD IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

Thursday, March 13, 2025

PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM

6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF PRESENT
Ryan Webb, Chair		Mark Lago, Director
Adam Zabinski, Vice Chair		Michelle Hubbard, Recording Secretary
Michal Wert		Greg Haffner, Engineering Manager
Tony Roos		Kit Johnston, Commissioner
Chip Mayes		Austin Bennett, GFU Intern
Bruce Hubbard		
Jeff Brown		

Opening of Regular Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Ryan Webb.

Roll Call

Members were present as noted above. George Fox University Senior Engineer Team's Jacob Smith and Austin Bennett as guests. Russ Thomas, City of Newberg Public Works Director as guest.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for January 9, 2025, were accepted as circulated.

Sheriff's Report

Brian Young presented current crash data.

- There were three wrecks at North Valley Rd, Albertson, Laughlin and Spring Hill Rd in a short period of time.
- Auto vs Ped on Hagey RD accident that occurred during the snow event that resulted in a fatality.

Commissioner's Report

- There was another fatality at the intersection of McDougal RD, Hwy 18 and Highway 99W so Commissioner Johnston has been involved with ODOT on discussions about redesigning this intersection to make it safer for travelers.

Director's Report

- Public Works has hired a new Fleet Supervisor, Steven Harding, to assist the Fleet Manager and shop crew. Steven has worked for Public Works since 2019 and previously was on our Roads Crew as a Medium Equipment Operator.
- Recruitment for Utility Workers and Medium Equipment Operators will go out in the next couple of weeks.
- To remember previous RIAC and Parks Committee member, Naturalist and Environmentalist, Dave Hansen; Public Works, Jordan Anderson, Patricia Farrell and Michal Wert, have coordinated getting a dedicated 6' bronze metal bench installed at Deer Creek Park with a plaque in his honor. A dedication ceremony will be held in May.
- 2025 Overlay ITB bid openings will be Tuesday March 18th at 2pm.
- 2025 Chip Seal ITB bid openings will be Tuesday March 25th at 2pm.

- FY26 Budget presentations to the Board of Commissioners will take place April 28th. The budget will be presented to RIAC at the next meeting.
- The new Flush Truck has been in and out of the shop for warranty repairs ranging from valves to hose connections to the tank.
- A new GFU Engineering Intern has been selected, Tyler Colvin. He will start Tuesday March 18th.

New Business

- Russ Thomas was interviewed by the committee to fill the current vacancy. Russ has worked for the City of Newberg for over 40 years and most currently as the City of Newberg Public Works Director for the last four years. He has been closely involved with traffic, streets, roads and Public Works activity for a long time. He was also a past president of the Oregon Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) and is currently the delegate representing the State of Oregon for the APWA.
- George Fox Senior Engineering Teams' Jacob Smith and Austin Bennett presented a rough final presentation to get the committee's opinion on any recommended changes before the final presentation with the entire team at April's RIAC meeting.
- Michal Wert presented the RIAC Annual Report that will get presented to the Board of Commissioner's in June. Tony Roos motioned approval, seconded by Jeff Brown, carried.
- Michal Wert updated the committee on the new joint Native & Invasive Plant Specialist, Jacob Argueta, hired by Soil and Water Conservation District who is contracted to work 50% of his time at Public Works. There were over 50 applicants for this position. Jacob has a master's degree in GIS, Bachelor of Science and Environmental Science Management from OSU and previously worked for AKS Engineering in Forestry as a Natural Resource Specialist. Jacob's first day was March 3rd.
- After discussion, Michal motioned to vote on recommending Russ Thomas as the new member of RIAC, seconded, carried. Mark will present the recommendation to the BOC for approval.

Next Month Proposed Agenda

- GFU Senior Engineering Final Presentation
- Interview for RIAC vacancy
- Gravel road maintenance and paving criteria; CRIP Program
- Criteria and methodology to turn county roads over to local authority.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m. on a motion by Ryan Webb, seconded by Adam Zabinski, carried. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Thursday April 10, 2025, in the Public Works Building.