

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of a One-Year Extension for
Ambulance Service Area Franchises

ORDER NO. 68-2023

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 2016-1, the Columbia County Ambulance Service Ordinance, establishes Ambulance Service Areas and provides that no person may provide ambulance service in Columbia County without being fully franchised in accordance with the applicable provisions; and

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2015, the Board of County Commissioners adopted the following orders granting Ambulance Service Area ("ASA") franchises:

- Order No. 58-2015, granting a franchise to the Scappoose Rural Fire Protection District for ASA 2 (Scappoose);
- Order No. 59-2015, granting franchises to Columbia River Fire and Rescue for ASA 3 (St. Helens) and ASA 4 (Rainier);
- Order No. 60-2015, granting a franchise to Clatskanie Rural Fire Protection District for ASA 5 (Clatskanie);
- Order No. 61-2015, granting a franchise to Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire Protection District for ASA 6 (Mist-Birkenfeld);
- Order No. 62-2015, granting a franchise to Metro West Ambulance Service for ASA 7 (Vernonia); and

WHEREAS, the above franchises, which were set to expire on December 31, 2020, were extended for one year by Board Order No. 89-2020 in accordance with Section 13(2) of the Ambulance Service Ordinance, because of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Board again extended the above franchises for one year to December 31, 2022, by Board Order No. 70-2021, to allow for the necessary time to complete a new Ambulance Service Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Board again extended the above franchises for one year to December 31, 2023, by Board Order No. 64-2022, to allow for the additional time necessary to complete a new Ambulance Service Plan; and

WHEREAS, a new Ambulance Service Plan has been drafted and in the process of review by the Oregon Health Authority but will not be completed by December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon Health Authority has notified the County that it's review of the County's Plan may not be completed for several months; and

WHEREAS, Section 13(2) of the Ambulance Service Ordinance allows the Board of County Commissioners to extend the term of ambulance service franchises if it finds that a longer term is required in the public interest; and


WHEREAS, a one-year extension to the ASA franchises is necessary to allow for the Ambulance Service Area Plan to be reviewed by the Oregon Health Authority, modified as necessary, and approved by the Board of Commissioners;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEREBY FINDS that a one-year extension of the ASA franchises is required and in the public interest to allow for a review of the draft Ambulance Service Plan by the Oregon Health Authority, modification as necessary, and adoption of the Plan.


NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEREBY ORDERS that the franchises granted by Order Nos. 58-2015, 59-2015, 60-2015, 61-2015 and 62-2015 shall be extended for one year, expiring on December 31, 2024.

DATED this 13 day of December, 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR
COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 
Casey Garrett, Chair

By: 
Kellie Jo Smith, Commissioner

By: 
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

Approved as to form
By: 
Office of County Counsel