

**BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING**

Date: October 6, 2009
Re: **HUMAN SERVICES: 45-DAY COMMENT PERIOD FOR PILT**
Time: 10:30 A.M.
Location: City Council Chambers, 129 North Second St, Yakima, Washington
Present: Chairman J. Rand Elliott
Commissioner Michael D. Leita
Commissioner Kevin J. Bouchey
Legal Counsel Terry Austin
Clerk of the Board Christina S. Steiner

Record of Proceedings

Rand Elliott – Good morning again, we are back for some public hearings this morning, first I would like to open the public hearing dealing with PILT funds. Steve, I think we will have you present for us.

Steve Hill – Thank you. In August we submitted a notice to the public of Yakima County's intent to expend PILT funds, payment in lieu of taxes, that is for service funding. It is a way that we receive additional resources for our community. Initially the money was spent to schools, that was changed, in about 61, and so we were able to receive money directly, and we now have control of how we want to spend that money, a committee was put together to advise the commission on the proposed expenditures of those dollars and today we are asking, at this hearing, that this be approved. We ask that of the \$441,300, \$205,940 be delegated to the Sheriff's office for their Search and Rescue. This is away that that are able to utilize their staff, particularly in the areas of the forest service lands, when needed. The balance, which is \$235,360, is recommended to be used by the US Forrest service for projects that they had identified within Yakima County. So they are able to be some reclamation there. The total of this is the \$441,300.

Rand Elliott – Thank you. This is a public hearing, and this an opportunity for members of the community to come forward and comment on this issue. Seeing and hearing none, I will close this public hearing and invite comment from the Commissioners.

Mike Leita – Well hearing no public comment we understand the Sheriff to be in concurrence with the use of these funds, and you said \$235,360 is to be used by the Forrest Service?

Steve Hill – Yes, we rededicate that back to the Forrest service for projects that they are doing within Yakima County.

Mike Leita – Is this part of a formula?

Steve Hill – No, I don't believe it was. I think it was an allocation that the committee came upon.

Rand Elliott – Is this Forrest Service allocation a long standing, year after year, this is a practice I should say?

Steve Hill – Yes the last couple of cycles it has.

Kevin Bouchey – Are there some road funds, some of these are road projects that actually dove tail with some county roads that run up through the Forrest Service, is that correct?

Steve Hill – It relates, yes, they tie back together.

Rand Elliott – Ok, any other comments, gentlemen?

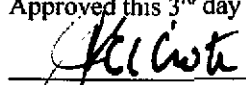
Mike Leita – I am going to reserve comments and look into this further. This is a recommendation to the Commissioners, correct?

Steve Hill – Yes.

Mike Leita – And we will bring it to resolution at a future date.

Rand Elliott – So, no specific action taken. The hearing is closed, thank you Mr. Hill.

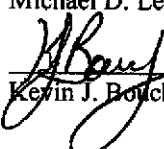
Approved this 3rd day of November 2009.



J. Rand Elliott, Chairman



Michael D. Leita, Commissioner



Kevin J. Bouchey, Commissioner



Christina S. Steiner, Clerk of the Board

**BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING**

Date: October 6, 2009
Re: **PUBLIC SERVICES: AMENDING SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL FEES**
Time: 10:30 A.M.
Location: City Council Chambers, 129 North Second St, Yakima, Washington
Present: Chairman J. Rand Elliott
Commissioner Michael D. Leita
Commissioner Kevin J. Bouchey
Legal Counsel Terry Austin
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Rand Elliott – The next hearing this morning is about Amending Solid Waste Disposal Fees and I would invite Public Services, Wendy or Vern.

Wendy Mifflin, Solid Waste Manager – Good morning, you have before you a proposal to raise solid waste division rates for 2010. The solid waste division currently runs three facilities, lower valley transfer station, Shane landfill and Terrace Heights landfill. We operate a full blown household hazardous waste facility and we accept septage from throughout the county, plus our waste reduction and recycling programs. We are currently doing a solid waste division plan revision process that involves our solid waste advisory committee, and as part of the plan revision, we have completed a rate study. We are proposing the solid waste rates for 2010, which includes state refuse tax, at \$32/ton for municipal solid waste, and increasing our minimum fee at our facilities from \$7, to \$8 per load. We are proposing that the yard waste debris rate be set at \$15/ton with the minimum staying the same at \$5/load and we are proposing to increase the septage weight at \$1/ton to \$12/ton. Those are the only wastes that we are proposing an increase on. Currently we are seeing a significant decrease in the tonnages that are coming into our facilities. Since 2006, we are looking at a 7.5% per year reduction in tonnage, which equates to 18,500 tons per year, or a \$500,000 short fall in revenues throughout our facilities. And we are currently the lowest tip fee in the state of Washington. Our neighbors, Benton County charges \$61.33/ton, and Kittitas charges \$75.26/ton. These rates have been presented to the solid waste advisory committee and they have recommended approval of these rates based on a majority survey of our members and we also presented them to the Conference of Governments and we didn't receive any negative comments during that presentation. Based on our economic conditions and the instability of tonnages, our division is recommending to get approval of the attached one year rates.

Rand Elliott – Thank you very much. This is a public hearing and now is the opportunity for the public to come forward and comment on this issue. Seeing and hearing none, I will close the public hearing and invite comment from the Commissioners.

Kevin Bouchey – I guess I would just like to make a comment, Wendy stated that regarding our per ton cost vs. the state average of 84.00/ton and significantly less than our neighbors, so I think that is a good thing for Yakima County residence, and I guess I would say that shows some efficiencies on our behalf in Yakima County. You never want to see rates go up, especially in times like these, but solid waste is a stand-alone entity in Yakima County here, and I guess it is an enterprise fund, and is self sustaining, so these dollars are needed, this increase is needed to offset that decrease in garbage. With that, I am favorable to the proposed rate increase.

Mike Leita – Having said that, I would suggest that we have this moved forward to resolution.

Rand Elliott – Very good, so ordered. That concludes our business for today. Thank you everyone. Once again the Zillah UGA hearing is rescheduled to the November 3, 2009 hearing at the City Council Chambers. Thank you.

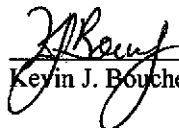
Approved this 3rd day of November 2009.



J. Rand Elliott, Chairman



Michael D. Leita, Commissioner



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Christina S. Steiner, Clerk of the Board