



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Work Session

Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 3:00 pm

BOCC Conference Room, Room 232, 128 N 2nd Street, Yakima, WA 98901 or Zoom

1/8/2026 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to Order at 3:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair LaDon Linde, Commissioner Amanda McKinney, Commissioner Kyle Curtis, Legal Counsel Stefanie Weigand, Clerk of the Board Julie Lawrence, Deputy Clerk of the Board Erin Franklin, Public Services Director David Haws, Planning Official Thomas "Tommy" Carroll, Long Range Project Planner Keith Wolf, Bonnie Abercrombie (WSU Extension), Financial Services Director Brian Carlson, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment Received.

3. DISCUSSION ON PENNY SHORTAGE ISSUE (15 Minutes) - Commissioner Linde

Following up on Resolution 11-2026 that was tabled from the January 6th Regular Agenda Meeting, David Haws explained that Solid Waste has the most cash transactions of all Yakima County departments. He met with County Treasurer Ilene Thomson and County Prosecutor Joe Brusica to discuss their concerns about rounding fees to the nearest \$0.05 and explore alternate solutions to the penny shortage. They intend to work on a Yakima County policy similar to what David proposed for Solid Waste and to the state's guidance, as this issue will begin to affect the rest of County departments. This process could take about a month to complete. Additional solutions include changing fees to avoid the need for pennies or using a tiered approach where fees are rounded to the nearest dollar for each tier. The latter option would eliminate the need for change altogether, which would free up additional staff time and effort. David plans to bring forward additional rate discussions to the Board over the next few months for further consideration. The Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of the various approaches David had listed, finally reaching consensus to reconsider Resolution 11-2026 at the January 13th Regular Agenda Meeting.

4. PUBLIC SERVICES (10 Minutes)

Climate Grant Authorization Letter: David Haws and Keith Wolf explained that part of their Growth Management Act (GMA) work involves climate work. This authorization letter would allow the Public Services Planning Division to apply for grant funding to help cover some of the costs of this work. They further explained that there are some aspects of climate work in which Yakima County is not required to participate. Tommy Carroll and Commissioner McKinney discussed how this protects Yakima County from even more restrictive regulations in the name of clean energy. Commissioner McKinney expressed concern that the Planning Division is already stretched thin and doesn't have time to complete any of the climate

work, especially with it not being fully funded by the state. Tommy stated that staff could complete some of the work, such as updating key pieces of code, but other aspects (e.g. community engagement) would not be feasible with current staffing, budget, and time constraints. The funding would be helpful for the portions of climate work to be completed.

Commissioner Curtis MOTION: To Approve the Climate Grant Authorization Letter

Commissioner Linde SECOND

Motion Passes: 2 in Favor (Commissioner Curtis and Commissioner Linde); 1 Opposed (Commissioner McKinney).

Commissioner McKinney requested that it be noted in the letter that she voted in opposition.

5. LOST RECEIPT REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST FOR WSU EXTENSION (5 Minutes)

Bonnie Abercrombie explained how a receipt for sandbags for WSU Extension was misplaced. She does have a bank statement confirming the amount charged and the name of the purchaser.

Commissioner McKinney MOTION: To Approve This Lost Receipt Reimbursement Request

Commissioner Curtis SECOND

Motion Passes Unanimously.

Julie Lawrence, Stefanie Weigand, and the Commissioners then reviewed a discussion from last January about how the Board would like to handle lost receipt requests going forward. Stefanie confirmed that wages cannot be garnished from employees who have lost receipts, but the County could ask employees to voluntarily repay the amount. She spoke in favor of having employees attach bank statements to the reimbursement request forms to provide a better paper trail in the event of lost receipts, and the Commissioners concurred. The Commissioners also asked Julie to send them a copy of the current P-Card Policy to review and potentially update with a card suspension clause if an employee accumulates a certain amount of lost receipts.

6. AGENDA ITEM REVIEW (10 Minutes)

Julie Lawrence reviewed for the Board all Agenda items submitted for Tuesday's Regular Agenda Meeting.

The Commissioners had no changes for the January 13, 2026, Agenda.

7. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

The Commissioners briefly discussed positions on the Yakima County Homeless Coalition Executive Committee and the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner McKinney observed that today's Legislative Steering Committee has been riveting.

9. ADJOURN

Commissioner Curtis MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

All work sessions are recorded and will be available to view on the BOCC website at <https://www.yakimacounty.us/AgendaCenter/Board-of-Commissioners-2>.

APPROVED DATE

DATE/Minutes

DRAFT