



**BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Meeting  
Work Session

Monday, May 1, 2023, at 9:00 am

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

5/1/2023 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to Order at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Chair LaDon Linde, Commissioner Amanda McKinney, Commissioner Kyle Curtis, Legal Counsel Josie Mesa, Legal Counsel Stefanie Weigand, Clerk of the Board Julie Lawrence, Deputy Clerk of the Board Erin Franklin, Alan Bright (Design Principal, HOK), Anshuman Rajee (Senior Project Architect, HOK), Mike Justice (Project Manager, HOK), Facilities Director Brian Griff, County Prosecutor Joe Brusic, Sheriff Bob Udell, Chief Criminal Deputy Carl Hendrickson, EMS Director Tony Miller, Department of Corrections Director Jeremy Welch, Human Services Director Esther Magasis, Financial Services Director Craig Warner, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment Received.

3. YCCC CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PLAN PRESENTATION (90 Minutes)

Alan Bright, Anshuman Rajee, and Mike Justice from HOK presented their proposed site plan for remodeling the YCCC building for use by the Sheriff's Office, the Coroner's Office, and the Office of Emergency Management/Emergency Medical Services. Alan explained that this site would offer 10 acres of land, including the main building, an annex building, a loading dock, and parking. The main building has just under 75,000 usable square feet. HOK would keep the existing kitchen, food storage, and loading dock areas in place, but could perform necessary updates for about \$2 million. Alan showed a variety of inspiration images to show what the renovated facility could look like after additional windows and skylights are opened up for more light, and the existing layout is converted to include office spaces.

Anshuman provided an overview of the site plan and ground plan, noting a variety of parking areas and access points to the particular department areas in the building. Tony Miller commented that the spacious public parking area would be helpful as OEM/EMS offers trainings. A new helicopter pad would also be added; Sheriff Udell and Chief Deputy Hendrickson confirmed that this would be helpful working with the Yakima Training Center and rescue personnel.

Mike outlined the projected costs for reuse of this building as opposed to building a new structure. Total estimated construction cost (including markups) for YCCC reuse would be \$77,967,934, and total estimated construction cost (including markups and escalation) would be \$89,369,999. Total estimated construction cost (including markups) for building a new structure would be \$86,764,620, and total estimated construction cost (including markups and escalation) would be \$99,453,116. Mike and Anshuman clarified that the new-build costs do not reflect site costs (for purchase of land) or costs to upgrade the existing kitchen area at the YCCC.

After discussing varying costs for local trades, potential WA State grants for energy efficiency, current and future space needs, the history of the YCCC building components, and the benefits of utilizing the YCCC at its current location, the Commissioners requested additional information from Craig Warner about potential grant funding opportunities, various costs incurred as a result of leasing the current Sheriff's Office, how various options might affect taxpayers, etc. They also asked HOK to provide an additional "conservative" estimate that would reflect fewer aesthetic add-ons and upgrades, as well as estimates for resale or demolition costs for the YCCC. Mike stated that he would be in touch with Brian Griff and try to provide the Board with an update in two weeks; he would also forward the full cost estimate report and a copy of today's PowerPoint presentation to the Board.

#### 4. HUMAN SERVICES (30 Minutes)

Esther Magasis presented a proposal to relocate Human Services to the County building on 1st Street, in order to better support their Veterans Program and accommodate growing space needs. She shared her proposed layout for this space, noting that her department was originally supposed to be located there, but was placed in the Courthouse instead after the pandemic began. She also suggested that the lobby area at the front of the County's Law Library could be utilized by the County as an alternate location for meetings after hours, as that location offers more parking than the building on 1st Street. Brian Griff confirmed that a wall could be added in the lobby area to accommodate this, but it would still be a small space. The Commissioners discussed what groups tend to meet in the 1st Street building after hours, and how much space they need. Commissioner McKinney also asked for more information on how much funding Esther would be able to use from her budget for this move and remodel. Brian confirmed that he would provide cost estimates for the project within the next two weeks, and find out what other departments might be interested in Human Services' current space in the Courthouse.

#### 5. DISCUSSION REGARDING A PROPOSED DRUG POSSESSION ORDINANCE. (30 Minutes) - Commissioner McKinney

Commissioner McKinney explained how the Washington State Supreme Court had previously ruled that charging drug possession as a felony was unconstitutional. The temporary "Blake Fix" categorized drug possession as a misdemeanor instead. However, as the State Legislature has failed to pass new, permanent legislation on this issue, the current legislation is set to expire on July 1, 2023. The State Legislature may hold a special session to rectify this issue, but the likelihood of a timely solution is uncertain. However, local jurisdictions could pass their own ordinances to criminalize drug possession in public places. Commissioner McKinney presented a proposed draft ordinance based on draft verbiage from King, Snohomish, and Pierce Counties, and thanked Chief Deputy Coroner Marshall Slight for providing data specific to Yakima County. The ordinance would need to move expediently from the draft stage through the public hearing process in order to be adopted before the July 1st deadline. She noted that while this is not a perfect solution for drug addiction, it is a necessary quick fix, and part of a larger solution inclusive of diversion programs, drug court, and other treatment programs.

County Prosecutor Joe Brusich stated that he serves on the legislative committee for the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA), and has been discussing this issue with other county prosecutors. He shared concerns that this is complicated new ground, and a County ordinance would likely be legally challenged; it would help to have as much consistency between municipalities across the state as possible. He also noted capacity issues that might arise for law enforcement and the county jail. The Board asked that Joe have thoughts and edits prepared for an upcoming Law & Justice Committee meeting, and also provide weekly updates during Monday Work Sessions.

Commissioner Curtis clarified with Joe that cities could draft their own ordinances separate from the County. He referenced ordinance language around specific types of drugs, and put forth verbiage from Snohomish County regarding post-arrest alternatives such as the diversion or treatment programs Commissioner McKinney had mentioned. Additionally, Sheriff Udell spoke to the need for some kind of legal incentive in dealing with drug possession, and Jeremy Welch spoke to some of the local treatment programs already beginning to partner with the county jail, including Triumph, Merit, and Comprehensive.

#### 6. REVIEW OF EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION NOMINATIONS (30 Minutes)

Commissioner Linde stated that the BOCC had received 12 employee recognition nominations from the various department heads and elected officials, and the Board now needed to select 5 of those employees to receive awards. The nominated employees included: Marivel Garcia (Building Official, Public Services), Carolina Herrera (Program Representative III, Probation Services), Deborah Clausing (Operations Manager, Prosecutor's Office), Judy Kendall (Senior Manager IV, Human Resources), Wally Morrison (Managing Agricultural Appraiser, Property Assessment), Bobby Nolan (Supervisor, Facilities Services), Robert McGuire (Officer, Department of Corrections), Joe Johnston (Computer Support Technician III, Technology Services), Jennifer Walker (Parks Program Representative, County Roads), Joel Freudenthal (Water Resources Strategic Manager, Public Services), Leo Diaz (Deputy, Sheriff's Office), and Peggy Walker (Office Supervisor, Department of Assigned Counsel).

The Board agreed to highlight all 12 of these employees at an upcoming Tuesday's Regular Agenda Meeting and in the County's newsletter (one per monthly newsletter for the next twelve months), but to highlight the selected 5 employees in the media as previously discussed. The Commissioners each read their 5 selections, and the following employees all had two or more Commissioner votes: Marivel Garcia, Carolina Herrera, Deborah Clausing, Robert McGuire, and Leo Diaz. Commissioner Curtis stated that he would prepare the awards for the selected employees in time for the Regular Agenda Meeting.

#### 7. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

The Commissioners gave updates on individual committee/board assignments for the week of April 24, 2023-April 28, 2023.

#### 8. NEW BUSINESS

No New Business.

#### 9. ADJOURN

Commissioner McKinney MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner Curtis SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 11:26 a.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