



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting
Work Session

Friday, May 6, 2022, at 9:00 am

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

5/6/2022 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at: 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Chair Amanda McKinney, Commissioner LaDon Linde, Commissioner Ron Anderson, Legal Counsel Don Anderson, Clerk of the Board Julie Lawrence, Deputy Clerk of the Board Erin Franklin, Financial Services Director Craig Warner, Water Resources Manager Joel Freudenthal, Director of Environmental Services David Haws, Public Services Director Lisa Freund, Human Resources Director Jacqui Lindsay, Human Services Director Esther Magasis, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

3. PUBLIC SERVICES (45 Minutes)

Joel Freudenthal discussed the details of the Yakima County's current eligibility for the Water Banking Pilot Grant Program, which would give County the opportunity to fund and purchase water rights in order to bank more water for local water needs, in hopes of eventually making YCWRS obsolete. Joel noted that one negative effect of water conservation and efficiency is that some agricultural areas get dried out, because some irrigators only get their water through the return flow. The application deadline for the grant is June 30, 2023. The Board asked to set up continued meetings with Water Resources at the end of future Work Sessions to get more information and additional updates.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE (15 Minutes)

Jacqui Lindsay and Craig Warner brought awareness to the bottleneck that has resulted from certain systematic approvals in the Workday system. She asked for the Board's thoughts on having the approvals rise only to the level of department directors, instead of all the way to the Board, for the sake of efficiency.

Currently, any approvals that reach the Board either have to be approved by the Chair, or by both of the other two commissioners, and Workday doesn't support that type of double authorization. As an example of frequent systematic approvals, Jacqui and Craig mentioned new hire tasks or time off requests, or even reimbursement requests that already have checks and balances, such as going through the Auditor for final approval. With these check and balances in view, the Board unanimously approved Jacqui and Craig's request.

5. AGENDA ITEM REVIEW (30 Minutes)

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

Regarding Agreement 146-2022, Commissioner Linde shared that he was in contact with Jim Sewell, trying to ascertain whether the County's broadband feasibility study with Petrichor would already cover information pertinent to the City of Grandview, to determine whether there is a need for Grandview to conduct its own study with Petrichor.

Commissioner McKinney asked that Resolution 134-2022 and Agreement 148-2022 be moved from Consent Agenda to Regular Agenda so that presentations can be made for public interest. Julie Lawrence was instructed to contact the appropriate parties to invite them to present. Julie was also instructed to reach out to Facilities Director Brian Griff regarding whether the jail could be connected to the city sewer instead of paying to have its sewage tank pumped (per the contract in Agreement 147-2022). Craig Warner shared additional factors involved in that decision that Brian could clarify.

Commissioner McKinney volunteered to share some comments at Agenda in recognition of Public Works Week on Matt Pietrusiewicz's behalf.

6. HUMAN SERVICES UPDATE (60 Minutes)

Esther Magasis updated the Board on the progress of the Sequential Intercept Mapping project, as well as ongoing meetings of the Yakima Valley Peer Support for first responders. She stated that Trueblood funding is set to expire at the end of the year, but could potentially be extended by the State. Esther then discussed the selection process for the Homeless Housing and Assistance Program RFP Scoring Committee, and the qualifications of the applicants thus far. She shared that a team in Walla Walla is even interested in modeling their program after ours.

Esther went on to explain the conditions under which various outreach groups in Yakima County offer hotel/motel vouchers to homeless clients, and where the funding comes from to do so. She invited representatives from some of these groups to share policies and data with the Board, including Cheri Kilty (YWCA Yakima), Leticia Garcia (The Lighthouse), Sherran Campos (Northwest Community Action Center), Rhonda Hauff & Annette Rodriguez (Yakima Neighborhood Health Services), and Mark James (Rod's House). The Commissioners asked for additional information on how often these organizations check in during hotel/motel stays, how frequently they see repeat clients, and how many clients follow up with services until their situations improve.

Esther wrapped up by sharing that her team has become certified to do their own environmental reviews for the HOME Program. She brought attention to the Veterans' Spring Food Drive, and offered to take any nonperishables delivered to the Human Services Department by County employees over to the Conference Room on 1st Street. She also shared that the application for Grants to Counties to Stabilize Ukraine Conflict Refugees as part of Operation: Shoulder to Shoulder was submitted on time. Due to Yakima County not having a refugee resettlement organization in place, Esther said the request was pretty large and may only receive partial funding.

7. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

Commissioner McKinney acknowledged the power outage that occurred the previous afternoon, affecting both the Courthouse and a number of local businesses. She thanked the power company, Facilities Director Brian Griff, and Technology Services Director Dale Panattoni for their quick response and hard work in getting the Courthouse back up and running in time for everyone to come to work today.

8. ADJOURN

Commissioner Linde Motion: To Adjourn

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

Commissioner Anderson stepped out of meeting just prior to adjournment.

Motion passes to Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at: 11:50 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

DRAFT