



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting
Work Session

Monday, May 9, 2022, at 9:00 am

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

5/9/2022 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at: 9:01 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, Mike Tobin (North Yakima Conservation District), Director of Environmental Services David Haws, Solid Waste Manager Karma Suchan, Public Services Director Lisa Freund, Facilities Manager Keely Rice, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

3. NORTH YAKIMA CONSERVATION DISTRICT(30 Minutes)

Mike Tobin of North Yakima Conservation District began by giving the Board a brief overview of the history, purpose, and functions of conservation districts. He then gave examples of projects from NYCD's Ag Program, Water Resources Program, Forestry Program, Fish & Wildlife Program, Livestock Program, Rangeland Program, and Noxious Weed and Pest Programs. Finally, he discussed a grant application through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) to acquire property located in Yakima County – the Emerick Rangeland Preservation Project. He also requested a letter of concurrence for the Thornton Project. Commissioner McKinney directed Don Anderson and Julie Lawrence to draft a resolution to that effect.

4. BOARD OF HEALTH ORDINANCE DRAFT DISCUSSION (60 Minutes)

The Board discussed with Don Anderson what changes need to be made to the Board of Health Ordinance to comply with new legal statutes. In view of noticing requirements and deadlines, the Board agreed to make any additional necessary "housekeeping" changes to language (e.g. nominating committee verbiage that becomes moot) later on.

5. PUBLIC SERVICES UPDATE (60 Minutes)

1. Lower Valley Transfer Station: David Haws and Karma Suchan shared the various issues plaguing the Lower Valley Transfer Station, including a leak, obsolete equipment, a sinkhole, and sinking/settling road and building. The station also lacks a load-out chute for garbage, and a pull-through bay for safety and efficiency. LVTS is currently operating at a loss of over \$400,000 annually. Karma presented the pros and cons of three options for future action, based on a 2003 facility analysis: no change, switching LVTS to self-haul only, or closing LVTS and directing people to Cheyne or Terrace Heights instead. The Commissioners felt that closure was the most efficient

and fiscally responsible decision. They directed David and Karma to start looking into a closure date and informing the public. They also confirmed that LVTS employees would be able to transfer to the other two sites.

2. Customer Business Practice Changes Coming June 1st: Lisa Freund shared that, due to a shortage of Planning Department staff, one planner will now handle all general planning/walk-in customer questions, instead of the "all hands on deck" method used before. A second planner will be called upon only if two or more people are waiting, and the Planning Department will encourage the public to call or use the website to avoid longer wait times. They're also working on making the website (including FAQ's) as clear and user-friendly as possible for "self-serve" problem-solving. This new business practice will allow the other planner and the senior project planner to focus on meeting deadlines for actual intake projects. The Board was supportive of the new policy while staff is low, and confirmed with Lisa that the public will be informed of the changes. Lisa noted that a new planner will start training in June.

3. Encampment Clean Up Contracts: Lisa Freund updated the Board that the WDFW Contract and the Yakima Health District Clean Up Contract will be submitted for the May 17, 2022 Agenda Meeting. They were unable to make the May 3, 2022 Agenda Meeting, as the Department of Ecology had additional questions for the Yakima Health District before proceeding.

6. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

Keely Rice clarified the NTE amount for Agreement 148-2022. She explained that the City of Yakima required that all sewage from the jail be put through "grinders" in order to keep the large amounts of flushed contraband from entering the sewer system. Although the average cost of pumping is \$35,000-\$40,000 annually, Keely noted that the amount could increase with the inmate count of the jail, and a high NTE amount keeps Facilities from having to go out for bid again and write another contract. Not wishing to push approval of this contract out to the next Agenda meeting, the Board agreed not to alter the NTE as it stands, but requested the future NTE's reflect a number double the average anticipated cost, and no higher. They directed Julie Lawrence to inform the other department heads of the same protocol.

The Commissioners gave updates on individual committee/board assignments for the week of May 2, 2022-May 6, 2022.

Julie presented the NAACP's Juneteenth Proclamation to the Board, to be placed on the June 7, 2022 Agenda. The Board requested verbiage be added connecting the observance to Yakima County specifically. Julie stated that she would reach out to the NAACP right away.

Commissioner Linde noted that it was brought to his attention that National Corrections Officers' Week recently came to a close. He requested to add that acknowledgement to the Public Services acknowledgement at the next Agenda Meeting. Julie was directed to reach out to the other department heads to ask about any other recognition weeks so that the Board can acknowledge their service at future meetings.

7. ADJOURN

Commissioner Anderson Motion: To Adjourn

Commissioner Linde SECOND

Motion passes to Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 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