

BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Work Session

Monday, May 15, 2023, at 9:00 am

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

5/15/2023 - 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 Stefanie Weigand, Clerk of the Board Julie Lawrence, Deputy Clerk of the Board Erin Franklin, County Engineer Matt Pietrusiewicz, Human Resources Director Jacqui Lindsay, County Prosecutor Joe Brusic, Financial Services Director Craig Warner, Financial Services Senior Manager Stefanie Truex, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment Received.

3. 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 May 16, 2023, Agenda.

In response to Commissioners Linde and Curtis' questions, Matt Pietrusiewicz and Stefanie Weigand clarified the details of and reasoning behind County Roads' Agreement 122-2023.

The Commissioners discussed whether a time limit should be imposed for the ALS Discussion. An hour was given as a general timeframe, but not a firm limit. Joe Brusic clarified that this was only a discussion between ALS and the Board, not a public hearing, so no public comment would be received at that time.

Stefanie Weigand advised against the Board making a final decision following the discussion until after holding an Executive Session with attorney Chris Wright. Based on Commissioner schedules, this would have to be scheduled sometime after Tuesday.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE (15 Minutes)

Jacqui Lindsay stated that Human Resources did not have any updates to bring forward.

5. DRUG POSSESSION ORDINANCE UPDATE (20 Minutes)

Joe Brusic stated that he had attended a meeting last week with city and county prosecutors across Washington State about potentially drafting a drug possession ordinance. He also noted that Russ Brown (Executive Director of WAPA) has been meeting with state representatives and senators in preparation for the special session of the State Legislature scheduled for May 16th to work toward a solution in this matter.

Mr. Brown feels encouraged that the matter will likely be resolved this week, probably categorizing drug possession as a gross misdemeanor. Continued discussion points include prosecutorial discretion, diversion, and deferred prosecution, as well as the interplay between treatment components and accountability components. Commissioner McKinney stated that she would like to move forward with drafting an ordinance regardless, just in case a solution is not reached, and thanked Joe and the others involved for all their hard work.

6. FINANCIAL SERVICES (15 Minutes)

Funding Source for Yakima Air Service Contribution: Craig Warner stated that he would prefer not to utilize the General Fund, as it is currently tighter than preferred. He explained that this project is eligible for ARPA funding, but it might be wiser to utilize ARPA interest earnings because there aren't any requirements on how those earnings are used. ARPA funds must be allocated and spent by particular dates, and since these funds for the airport may not need to be utilized in their entirety, any remaining funds may eventually have to be returned to the federal government, when they could have been used more effectively on another project. Craig added that SIED money is another option; usually SIED funds are for "brick and mortar" economic projects, but SIED interest earnings could be utilized. However, his ultimate recommendation is to use ARPA interest earnings. In response to Commissioner McKinney's question, Craig and Commissioner Curtis explained that YCDA will need to determine how they will open an account to hold these funds, and then the Board can approve an agreement (reviewed by Corporate Counsel) to allocate the funds appropriately. Commissioner Curtis shared that Yakima Air Terminal Director Robert Hodgman had stated that the Board's previous letter of commitment to funding is sufficient for Alaska Airlines' needs in the meantime.

ARPA Website: Stefanie Truex showed the Board the new ARPA Program button on the front page of the County website. This button is linked to the County's preexisting ARPA page, which then has links to the new ARPA portal created by Clifton Larson Allen. The portal can be viewed by anyone and provides a wealth of helpful information about ARPA funding, but entities whose ARPA applications were approved can also sign into the portal to view and upload additional information specific to their projects. Financial Services and CLA will hold an instructional demo for these entities on Thursday, May 18th, at 1 p.m., to show them how to register. There will also be two follow-up Q&A sessions on Microsoft Teams at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 19th, and Monday, May 22nd, for those needing additional support.

Craig noted that the entities who submitted the 61 approved ARPA projects will need to resubmit their applications through CLA's portal, because their application process includes additional questions tailored to specific types of projects. (Commissioner McKinney requested that Financial Services ensure that each entity understands which project category to select.) Once an entity's project information has been submitted into the portal, it will allow the County to more efficiently finalize its ARPA agreement with that entity, and streamline the County's reporting process to the federal government. In addition, if the Commissioners find that they still have ARPA funds remaining, they could easily vote to award funds to projects that had previously not received awards, or request another round of applications from the community.

In response to Commissioner Curtis' question, Craig stated that he would like to have all ARPA agreements completed by June 30th so that the County can accurately show the federal government how much ARPA funding has been allocated on the Second Quarter report due at the end of July. The Commissioners agreed to help reach out to any entities that have still not uploaded their applications toward the end of June. Commissioner Curtis also requested that language be added to each agreement stating that the County reserves the right to reallocate and reapply unused funds to other projects, if it appears that a project will not be utilizing all of its funding by the official deadlines for ARPA funding. All ARPA funds must be committed and under contract by the end of 2024; funds must be spent by the end of 2026.

7. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

The Commissioners gave updates on individual committee/board assignments for the week of May 8, 2023-May 12, 2023.

(The Zoom meeting for the Work Session briefly malfunctioned at about 10:10 a.m. as Commissioner McKinney finished her weekly updates. Within a few minutes, the connection was reestablished and a second recording began. Then, Commissioner Curtis provided his weekly updates.)

8. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner McKinney commented that Yakima County has been awarded \$11.34 million in broadband grant funds from the Washington State Broadband Office. She added that Esther Magasis and Joe Poire would provide a more detailed update soon. She thanked everyone for their hard work on data and outreach that put Yakima County in such a good position with this grant application.

Julie Lawrence presented a request from Commissioner Curtis to attend the ARPA demo meeting with Financial Services; Commissioners Linde and McKinney stated that they were fine with this.

Commissioner McKinney noted that she would be absent from Friday's Work Session while attending a NACo conference and confirmed that she would provide an update at Monday's Work Session.

Commissioner Linde added that he would be attending remotely on Friday. He expressed his hope that everyone had enjoyed a happy Mother's Day weekend.

9. ADJOURN

Commissioner Curtis MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 10:22 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