



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting
Work Session

Friday, October 14, 2022, at 9:00 am

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

10/14/2022 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting 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, Department of Assigned Counsel Director Paul Kelley, Human Resources Senior Manager Judy Kendall, Human Resources Director Jacqui Lindsay, Financial Services Director Craig Warner, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

3. ASSIGNED COUNSEL (15 Minutes)

Paul Kelley began by summarizing the history of the Blake Decision (February 2021) and how it has impacted the justice system since. Washington State counties were directed to provide post-conviction relief, and during the period of March 2021 – June 2022, Yakima County's Department of Assigned Counsel worked with 270 individuals on 552 cases. Since July 2022, those numbers have decreased to an average of 10 individuals per month. Paul explained that the State is offering a second \$194,000 grant to help cover the costs of these cases, but DAC has only utilized \$144,000 of the original grant, and Paul expects the number of interested individuals to continue to decline. The Washington State Office of Public Defense (OPD) has the ability to take on these cases instead, and Paul stated that due to staffing shortages, he believes staff's time would be better spent on regular cases. His recommendation is to pass on the grant, have his department finish out any current Blake cases, and refer any future cases to the OPD. The Board concurred and approved this course of action. Paul confirmed he would reach out to the Prosecutor's Office and the Courts before contacting the OPD.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE (15 Minutes)

Judy Kendall presented a series of action memos to the Board. The first was to extend a temporary corrections officer position at Juvenile past December 2022. The position had been created to cover for another employee who has now been out on medical leave for a year and a half. Jacqui Lindsay explained that while this person is currently eligible for light duty, there are no light duty positions currently available. Commissioner Linde asked if there is any area outside of Juvenile where the employee could be assigned for light duty. Jacqui responded that the County doesn't currently have a program in place with parameters for swapping departments. The position also requires observation to ensure the employee does not do anything to reinjure themselves. In the meantime, the Board agreed to extend the temporary position.

The Sheriff's Office asked to hire a new lateral deputy at a Step 4, as this individual comes from

Washington State Patrol with 10 years of experience and various instructor certifications. As in the case of other new deputy hires, the Sheriff's Office requested to advance the individual 48 hours of sick leave upfront, with additional accrual frozen until the original amount would have been accrued naturally. The Board approved these requests.

Judy also shared a list of vacant positions that various department heads requested be eliminated, stemming from the 2023 budget process. These include: a financial specialist (Auditor's Office), a certified court interpreter (Superior Court – Sales Tax), a financial specialist (Superior Court – Sales Tax), an office specialist (Juvenile Court), a probation officer (Juvenile Court), and a GIS technician (GIS). The Board approved these requests.

Finally, Facilities submitted a belated request to eliminate a vacant manager position that was never filled after an employee was promoted to senior manager. The Board approved this request.

5. AGENDA ITEM REVIEW (15 Minutes)

Julie Lawrence reviewed for the Board all Agenda items submitted for Tuesday's Regular Agenda Meeting, and also gave a preview of the following week's Agenda items.

The commissioners had no changes for the October 18, 2022, Agenda.

The commissioners had no changes for the October 25, 2022, Agenda.

6. ARPA DISCUSSION

Craig Warner reported that Clifton Larson Allen has completed their review of 128 out of 152 ARPA applications so far. 25 have fallen into the "yes" category, 96 were labeled "yes with conditions", and only 7 were classified as not meeting the ARPA requirements. Craig confirmed he would report back Monday about the status of the last few applications. Commissioner Linde asked if Craig had heard back from CLA about whether or not ARPA funds could be used for the purchase of water rights, but Craig replied that he has not yet received a response. He did note that there is a different allocation of ARPA funds could be utilized for such projects.

7. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

The commissioners did not discuss any updates.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Julie Lawrence informed the Board that the Board of Equalization would be discussing two BOE applications today at their 1:30 PM meeting. If the BOE recommends approval of the applications, Julie confirmed that she would draft resolutions and add them to next Tuesday's Agenda; she would also send out copies for each commissioner to review prior to the agenda meeting.

9. ADJOURN

Commissioner Linde MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner Anderson SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

APPROVED DATE
DATE/Minutes

DRAFT