



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting
Work Session

Monday, October 17, 2022, at 9:00 am

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

10/17/2022 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting 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, Superior Court Administrator Jessica Humphreys, Human Resources Director Jacqui Lindsay, Financial Services Director Craig Warner, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

3. SUPERIOR COURT DIRECTOR UPDATE (30 Minutes)

Jessica Humphreys explained that her department has been exploring ways to update the technology in the courtrooms to make them compatible with modern needs. She noted that although they have newer computers, courtroom sound in particular has been an issue. She had directed staff to find a company that could design a new system with integrated audio/visual components that would remain versatile and continue to grow with technology, instead of the current hodge-podge system. In June of 2022, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) invited every court in the state to apply for funding specifically for their courtrooms. Jessica requested \$673,000 to fully fund new audio/visual equipment in all 10 Superior Court courtrooms. AOC granted \$292,000, which would at least allow Superior Court to outfit their main courtrooms where most of their trials are held. Jessica explained that part of the reason she was presenting at work session was to inform the commissioners that they would soon receive a contract (from the technology company identified by staff) for these A/V updates for approval at a future agenda. In response to Commissioner Linde's question, Jessica clarified that the funds requested in Superior Court's ARPA application would cover the cost to finish the remaining courtrooms.

Jessica continued that AOC put out another grant to help cover the costs of processing backlogged court cases following the COVID pandemic (e.g. hiring additional staff in order to expedite the process, etc.).

Jessica has 1.5 staff dedicated for this purpose, so AOC awarded her \$80,000, to be distributed from July 2022 to June 2023.

Finally, Jessica informed the Board that she was able to secure additional grants – totaling \$3,000 – through Washington Counties Risk Pool to help fund security cameras in the Courthouse basement.

However, an additional \$1,033 is needed, and Financial Services Director Craig Warner suggested Jessica ask the Law and Justice Committee if that funding could be taken from the three-tenths from the Department of Security budget. The commissioners gave their approval to proceed with that request.

Jessica confirmed that if the rest of the funding is secured, she would work with E3 Solutions to complete the project. Craig added that it would be wise to expand this project to other areas of the Courthouse, as

well. On a similar note, Jessica stated that the security camera update at the Juvenile Justice Center is almost complete.

4. CLOSED SESSION

The Board met in closed session at 9:18 a.m. for a step 3 grievance meeting as allowed by RCW 42.30.140 (4)(a). The Board returned at 9:40 a.m. as agreed upon, and no further action was taken.

5. ARPA DISCUSSION

Craig stated that he didn't have a significant update on the status of the ARPA applications, but that he has a meeting scheduled with Clifton Larson Allen today at 1 p.m. to go over their questions on the final six items. He noted that a major requirement for applicants was to provide statistics or other evidence showing that the COVID pandemic created the need for the grant funding. Commissioner McKinney asked that Craig provide email updates as he receives them, send the commissioners a link to view what has been completed so far, and present again at Friday's work session.

Commissioner Linde stated that he would like to move forward in the selection process on Friday, referencing community need and a variety of worthy projects. He shared his preference to set aside a smaller amount for broadband, leaving more funding available for other projects. He suggested the idea of selecting projects by category.

Commissioner McKinney responded that there will be opportunities for additional broadband grant funding next year that will also require matching funds. She added that the Jobs Act will offer even more grant funding for a variety of projects. She suggested discussing on Friday how much the Board ought to allocate for the first round of ARPA funding.

6. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

The Commissioners gave updates on individual committee/board assignments for the week of October 10, 2022-October 14, 2022.

7. NEW BUSINESS

The Board had no new business to discuss.

Julie Lawrence noted that Board of Health appointments for the city representative need to be scheduled soon in order to complete the process by December 6, 2022. She stated that she would check the calendar to schedule time during a work session or agenda meeting in November.

Julie also noted that the work session for Friday, November 11, 2022, would be cancelled for the observance of Veteran's Day. Commissioner Linde is currently scheduled out of office for the following Monday and Tuesday (November 14-15th), and Commissioner McKinney will be attending a conference during that same timeframe. The Board agreed to cancel Monday's work session, but agreed that Commissioner McKinney would attend Tuesday's agenda meeting remotely (along with Commissioner Anderson) so that a quorum would be present and business could continue.

8. ADJOURN

Commissioner Anderson MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner Linde SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 10:25 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