



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting
Work Session

Friday, October 28, 2022, at 9:00 am

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

10/28/2022 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to Order at 9:01 a.m.

PRESENT: Chair Amanda McKinney, Commissioner LaDon Linde, Legal Counsel Don Anderson, Clerk of the Board Julie Lawrence, Deputy Clerk of the Board Erin Franklin, Human Resources Senior Manager Judy Kendall, Planning Official Thomas "Tommy" Carroll, Financial Services Director Craig Warner, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

3. HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE (10 Minutes)

Judy Kendall presented a request from the Department of Corrections to adjust an employee's longevity date in order to give credit for prior service at DOC. This individual had previously achieved the rank of lieutenant before being laid off, and then later reapplied and had to start over in the officers group. The additional longevity would allow for a higher percentage of accrual – the base rate of pay would not change, and seniority would not be affected. The Commissioners gave their approval for this request.

District Court also asked for a pay exception for an individual transferring from a corrections officer position at DOC into a probation officer position at District Court. As it stands, the individual would be taking a pay cut (no longer receiving longevity and education premiums), and offering a pay exception at an Increment 2 would at least be closer to their current rate of pay. The Commissioners gave their approval for this request.

Finally, Public Services requested out-of-class pay for two office technicians currently functioning as office specialists – one until February and the other until April 2023. These additional responsibilities are the result of one vacant position and another employee currently out on FMLA. HR would prefer to end the out-of-class pay at the December 31, 2022, cut-off, due to next year's changes to the pay plan. Afterward, Public Services could submit a new request on January 1, 2023. This pay would be retroactive back to October 16, 2022. The Commissioners gave their approval for this request.

4. PUBLIC SERVICES (15 Minutes)

Commissioner McKinney shared that she had asked the Planning Department to draft a letter to EFSEC from Public Services and the BOCC regarding their use of language misrepresenting Yakima County's attitude toward the solar facilities being sited in the area. Tommy Carroll presented his draft letter, clarifying that although the Planning Department is able to make comment about each project, they are only able to comment on the information that EFSEC provides and the questions they ask, which are often very generalized. Yakima County's current policies can be liberally-construed to mean that any project promoting alternative energy sources is desirable; however, that language was never meant to imply that the

County is in favor of siting those projects anywhere and everywhere, regardless of zoning and land usage. Tommy stated that the new policies his department is working on will clarify this language and add additional criteria about siting.

Commissioner Linde joined Commissioner McKinney in approving this letter from Public Services, but asked that a separate, more concise letter be sent on from the BOCC. Commissioner McKinney volunteered to draft this additional letter and present it at Monday's work session. Tommy was directed to send Public Services' letter not only to EFSEC, but to each of the state legislative representatives, to help ensure that EFSEC completes its own study to create a plan and process for siting these facilities, as they were legislatively mandated to do.

5. BOARD OF HEALTH CITY REPRESENTATIVE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS DISCUSSION

The Board discussed what questions to use for interviewing the Board of Health City Representative candidates. Commissioner Linde suggested reusing the same questions that the Commissioners used for interviewing the Citizen Representative candidates. Both he and Commissioner McKinney agreed that the questions should include candidates' opinions about restrictive measures vs. personal autonomy, how the Health District handled the COVID-19 pandemic, and how to address the impacts of the pandemic shutdowns on youth mental health. Julie Lawrence was directed to send the previous questions to the Board, with the addition of the line of questioning just discussed. The Board would review these questions one last time at Monday's work session. Julie stated that the interviews have been scheduled during the November 4, 2022, work session.

6. BOARD OF HEALTH CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATE DISCUSSION

Julie Lawrence shared that the Board of Health has also recommended three candidates for the open Citizen Representative position. The BOCC has already sat in on the BOH interviews for that position, but Julie asked if they would like to schedule additional interviews for later in November. Commissioners McKinney and Linde responded that they both felt the original interviews were sufficient and that there appeared to be unity in everyone's first choice. Julie stated that she would have a resolution for appointment prepared for a vote and final approval at the November 8, 2022, Agenda.

7. 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 November 1, 2022, Agenda.

The Commissioners had no changes for the November 8, 2022, Agenda.

8. ARPA DISCUSSION

Commissioner Linde shared that he had received a response from the Sheriff's Office with updated costs for two of its ARPA requests, based on 4 years instead of 5. The proposed Proactive Unit (Application #38025) would only cost \$4,002,566.34 as opposed to the original \$5 million or more. The Traffic Detective position (Application 38168) would cost \$766,574.54. Commissioner Linde briefly reviewed his explanation of the role of the Proactive Unit from a previous work session; however, he had not yet explained the role of the Traffic Detective. Commissioner McKinney noted that the State Patrol has pulled back on investigating traffic deaths and traffic homicides, and thus the County has had to step up in its place. She added that both the demonization of law enforcement and the institution of the vaccine mandate caused a mass exodus from the State Patrol, Seattle Police Department, and other law enforcement agencies.

Commissioner Linde continued that traffic deaths and traffic homicides have unfortunately increased.

Commissioner McKinney shared that, per her conversations with the Traffic Department, these incidents usually take a long time to investigate and are often left on hold or even charged out waiting for forensic results, resulting in no consequence for the perpetrators. Speed and/or substance abuse are usually contributing factors, and unfortunately, due to pursuit legislation, law enforcement has been prevented from doing

anything to stop erratic drivers and prevent or mitigate loss of life. A Traffic Detective devoted to investigating these crimes would help ensure that justice is served, and would allow other traffic officers to remain in the field where they are needed.

Don Anderson referenced the COPS program during the Clinton Administration, where the federal government covered costs of law enforcement for a few years because of the need for additional officers. He noted that after that funding stopped, it was hard for local jurisdictions to continue their efforts, and asked how the Sheriff's Office would continue these positions after four years. Commissioners McKinney and Linde responded that the immediate need cannot be ignored, and expressed their hopes that additional federal funding would be granted in response to the joint letter from Yakima County and the Yakama Nation.

Commissioner Linde MOTION: To Approve Applications #38025 and #38168

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

(Commissioner Anderson EXCUSED)

Approved Unanimously.

Commissioner McKinney restated that the Board is waiting to approve funding for any infrastructure projects until CLA can determine which projects might be eligible for federal infrastructure funding. Julie Lawrence was directed to contact those applicants via email and hard copy letter to explain the Board's self-imposed delay on those items. Commissioner Linde added that some of the requests relate to water needs.

Commissioner McKinney clarified for the public that the Board has been approving public safety items because there is not other funding available for them. Craig Warner confirmed that he has been in communication with all entities that submitted multiple ARPA applications, in order to get their priority lists.

He shared that applicants whose projects have been approved will be given access to a portal where they can answer further questions and ensure they continue to meet all necessary requirements. Craig was directed to work with Julie to prepare resolutions for final approval of Applications #38025 and #38168; these resolutions would be added to Tuesday's Agenda.

Finally, Commissioner Linde moved that the Board approve the requests from Wapato, Sunnyside, Selah, and Toppenish for flock cameras in the interest of public safety. The Board had discussed the possibility of offering the purchase of cameras and a 1-year maintenance agreement to the cities in order to keep all the grants consistent. The City of Toppenish, which had originally requested a 5-year maintenance contract and a lease for the cameras, was amenable to this change; their application would now be amended to \$74,100. Commissioner McKinney confirmed that the Commissioners were reaching out to other cities in Yakima County to see if they would be interested in the same offer. Regarding Commissioner Anderson's previous suggestion that the cities make a bulk purchase in order to secure a better price, Craig stated that it would complicate the agreement/contracting process with each city, and he doubted that the cities would get a further discount beyond what they were already quoted.

Commissioner Linde MOTION: To Approve Applications #37511 (Wapato), #37573 (Sunnyside), #37604 (Selah), and #38230 (Toppenish), with the Amendment to the Toppenish Application

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

(Commissioner Anderson EXCUSED)

Approved Unanimously.

Commissioner McKinney concluded by asking Julie to draft a brief letter to YVCOG and the city mayors notifying them of commissioner approval for the flock camera applications and extending the same offer to the rest of the cities who had not applied.

9. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

Commissioner McKinney noted that Selah Mayor Sherry Raymond had requested an update on the ambulance RFP. On October 17th, the Commissioners received an email informing them that the third party procurement had requested the scoring get back to them so that they could provide results. They had hoped to have those results at the end of last week. Commissioner McKinney reached out but has not heard back yet if that process has been completed. She assured the public that the RFP remains a high priority to the Commissioners, who desire to be able to move forward in confidence at the end of the process. Commissioner Linde echoed these thoughts.

10. NEW BUSINESS

The Commissioners had no new business to discuss.

11. ADJOURN

Commissioner Linde MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

(Commissioner Anderson EXCUSED.)

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 10:11 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