



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Work Session

Monday, December 15, 2025, at 9:00 am

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

12/15/2025 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to Order at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Chair Kyle Curtis, Commissioner LaDon Linde, Commissioner Amanda McKinney, Legal Counsel Dan Clark, Clerk of the Board Julie Lawrence, Deputy Clerk of the Board Erin Franklin, Human Resources Director Judy Kendall, Sheriff Bob Udell, Selah Police Chief Dustin Soptich, Human Services Director Esther Magasis, Human Services Program Coordinator Melissa Holm, Human Services Data & Financial Specialist Lance Larsen, Superior Court Administrator Jessica Humphreys, Bobbie Burrill (Therapeutic Court Coordinator), District Court Administrator Lorena Delviento, Teagan Headding (DUI Court Coordinator), Dasy Gonzalez (Behavioral Health Supervision Unit Administrative Supervisor), Department of Corrections Director Jeremy Welch, Department of Assigned Counsel Director Paul Kelley, Public Services Director David Haws, Financial Services Director Brian Carlson, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment Received.

3. HUMAN RESOURCES (15 Minutes)

Judy Kendall presented two action memos to the Board. The first was to extend out-of-class pay for Interim Facilities Director Blake Erickson through the end of March 2026 while the Board determines what direction to take with the Facilities Director position. This was previously discussed during last Thursday's Work Session. The Commissioners approved this request.

The second request was to extend out-of-class pay through the end of May 2026 for a Program Analyst I (C42) fulfilling the duties of a Manager I (C44) while the new District Court Administrator makes organization changes. The Commissioners approved this request.

4. SHERIFF (30 Minutes)

Discussion on Future of the Crime Lab: Sheriff Udell and Chief Soptich discussed the current state of the Yakima Valley Regional Crime Lab, noting that after some growing pains, finances are now solid, and the lab is now running out of space at its current location as it prepares to hire another lab technician. One consideration is to move down to Zillah, but this would be costly and deplete a lot of the lab's reserves. Another option is to move into the Yakima County Resource Building in Union Gap. The lab has about \$200,000 in grant funds from the Department of Commerce that could help improve the infrastructure of the building, and there is room on the property to build out over time. The grant funding could alternately be used for other technology, or to build out data dashboards to share with the public, although this project was put on hold during some of the lab's growing pains.

The Commissioners discussed the current occupants of the resource building, including SunComm, Washington State University Extension, and the Office of Emergency Management. It is also used as a meeting space. Sheriff

Udell noted the efficiency of eventually turning the building into a criminal justice campus, and Commissioner McKinney observed that another location could be considered for WSU Extension as the only outlier. She expressed concerns about building out too far and relying on out-of-county business. Chief Sopitch stated that the crime lab's Operations Board has been very cautious, and the recent reorganization has helped, but the lab is truly outgrowing its space capacity. If the Board is interested, they can continue to look for grant funding to cover costs. Commissioner Curtis noted the County's federal funding request for a warm Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Chief Sopitch suggested this could be combined with a live information center.

Commissioner Curtis asked Sheriff Udell and Chief Sopitch to work on emailing the Board some data on monthly numbers for the crime lab. The Commissioners agreed that they would like to speak with Interim Facilities Director Blake Erickson, EMS Director Tony Miller, and WSU Extension Director Tipp Hudson about their thoughts before moving forward on any facility changes. Commissioner Curtis noted that the Board has also previously spoken with Technology Services Director Dale Panattoni about potentially putting the County's server farm in the resource center. Commissioner McKinney asked Sheriff Udell and Chief Sopitch to pass along the Board's thanks to the chiefs-at-large who serve on the crime lab's Operations Board.

5. HUMAN SERVICES (1 Hour)

Revisiting Budget Requests for Yakima County Internal Law and Justice Utilizers of Mental Health Sales Tax (MHST): Esther Magasis reviewed renewal requests from internal programs, with representatives from the Department of Assigned Counsel, the Department of Corrections, District Court, and Superior Court answering clarifying questions. Melissa Holm presented additional information about local and statewide recidivism, outlining existing verbiage for data-reporting and performance measures in County contracts. Commissioner McKinney requested Dan Clark's expertise in expanding said data requirements to more comprehensively reflect dropped charges, pleas, convictions, etc. The Board reached consensus on funding amounts for all requests, but agreed to refrain from finalizing these amounts until after next Monday's discussion of external applicants.

Revisiting 2025 Yakima County DOC, Probation, and Drug Court Services Request for Proposal Award Consideration and Determination: Esther explained that this RFP was for internal projects with external partners. The Commissioners reached consensus last week to fund DOC Medication Assisted Treatment Services via Comprehensive Healthcare, but the Drug Court request will go back out to RFP.

Commissioner Linde MOTION: To Fund Probation Behavioral Health Treatment Services via Valley Health and Counseling

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

Motion Passes Unanimously.

Revisiting 2025 Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Request for Proposal Award Consideration and Determination: Esther explained that Human Services plans to have this discussion with the Board during next Monday's Work Session.

The Commissioners thank all of the applicants for their help and for the important services they provide.

6. PUBLIC SERVICES (1 Hour)

Discussion on Public Services Organization: David Haws requested that the Board allow him to recruit for the Environmental Services Director position that he vacated when he was promoted to Public Services Director. He shared about the history of the position, explaining that he would like to shift it back into being an Assistant Public Services Director role rather than being a direct report to the Board. This will allow the position to better support David by being more open-ended to potential applicants and their specific fields of expertise. The Board reached consensus to allow David to move forward with making these changes. David confirmed that he will update the PDQ and bring it back to the Board for further consideration.

7. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

The Commissioners gave updates on individual committee/board assignments for the week of December 8, 2025 – December 12, 2025.

8. NEW BUSINESS

The Commissioners agreed to have Commissioner Linde send his usual updates to the Martin Luther King Day Proclamation to Julie Lawrence.

In light of recent drought and flooding, Commissioner Linde noted that the Spring Creek project would greatly increase Yakima County's water storage capacity.

Commissioner Linde also noted that the Affordable Housing Advisory Board (AHAB) on which he sits recently passed a resolution expressing that the state's green energy codes and regulations need to be cut back in order to make housing more affordable.

9. ADJOURN

Commissioner Linde MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 11:21 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

JAN 13 2026

BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

LaDon Linde, Chair

Amanda McKinney, Commissioner

Kyle Curtis, Commissioner
*Constituting the Board of County Commissioners
for Yakima County, Washington*

Attest:

Julie Lawrence, Clerk of the Board or
Erin Franklin, Deputy Clerk of the Board