



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Work Session

Monday, May 16, 2022, at 9:00 am

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

5/16/2022 - 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, Victoria Wilkins (US Forest Service), Aaron Stockton (US Forest Service), Kari Grover Wier (US Forest Service), County Roads Manager Ryan Calhoun, Public Services Director Lisa Freund, Noelle Madera (Planning Department), Olivia Story (Planning Department), Financial Services Director Craig Warner, Solid Waste Manager Karma Suchan, Human Resources Director Jacqui Lindsay, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

3. AGENDA ITEM REVIEW (30 Minutes)

Julie Lawrence reviewed for the Board all Agenda items submitted for Tuesday's Regular Agenda Meeting.

Commissioner McKinney asked to table the discussion of Agreement 152-2022 until Human Services Director Esther Magasis is back in the office to provide additional information.

Public Services Director Lisa Freund updated the Board that Ross Huffman from the Department of Fish & Wildlife and Ryan Ibach from the Yakima Health District would be presenting at Regular Agenda on Tuesday.

Commissioner Linde asked Corporate Counsel Don Anderson to clarify what types of changes could be made to the Board of Health Ordinance at Tuesday's upcoming Public Hearing. Don stated that changes to verbiage and other types of simple changes could be made, but nothing significantly outside the scope of what was noticed to the public.

4. Forest Service - Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (60 Minutes)

1. Travel Management: Victoria Wilkins spoke on the issue of managing off-road cross-country travel on forest lands that currently results in the destruction of environmental resources. Recent federal legislation requires that all national forests address this problem, and the Forest Service is wanting to handle it at the ranger district/county level instead of trying to address the entire Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest at once. The goal is to amend existing forest plans and close the forest to off-road cross-country travel by electric and motorized vehicles. Over-snow vehicles have not yet been addressed; neither have non-motorized trails. Ryan Calhoun asked additional clarifying questions on behalf of County Roads. No roads would be closed, and no fire response efforts or legal utility use would be affected.

2. Infrastructure Law Funding for the Central Washington Initiative: Kari Grover Wier and Aaron Stockton spoke about the Central Washington Initiative landscape (covering about 2.45 million acres across Chelan, Kittitas, Okanogan, and Yakima Counties) that was chosen for the initial round of infrastructure funding, specifically for wildfire risk reduction, implementing the Forest Service's 10-year wildfire crisis strategy. This will be a joint effort by government, tribal, and private entities, focusing on fuel reduction (tree spacing/density), forest health, and some aquatic restoration.

5. PUBLIC SERVICES (60 Minutes)

Following up from discussions in 2021, Lisa Freund, Noelle Madera, and Olivia Story presented a comparison of various local codes regarding short term rentals (Airbnb's), in hopes of updating County Code to address problems and concerns unique to short term rentals as opposed to traditional bed and breakfast facilities. Noelle and Olivia agreed to do additional research on local winery tourism and the City's policies on off-street parking. The Board decided to review the materials presented and hold one last work session for discussion and clarification before moving the proposal to a public hearing.

6. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Reciprocal Updates Between the City of Yakima and Yakima County: Commissioner McKinney shared that she had previously asked Julie Lawrence to make sure the Commissioners' contact list of local cities and towns was updated, for the purpose of sending out Commissioner newsletters, agenda items, and meeting links. The Board then discussed the idea of occasional meetings with each city or town to update them on County business. The Commissioners would meet with the cities/towns in their districts and discuss a similar agenda of goals and priorities at the beginning of the year; they would then follow up mid-year with progress updates. Julie was directed to reach out to local contacts to set up meetings around July/August 2022.

2. Lunchroom Access for Phoenix Security: Julie Lawrence (speaking for Ron Rogers from the Sheriff's Office, who was called away on other business) presented a request from Phoenix Security. Their security guards currently do not have staff badges for the Courthouse, and thus cannot utilize the staff breakroom, giving them nowhere to go for their lunch breaks. Craig Warner reminded the board that the reason a badge reader was put on the breakroom door was because of the open marketplace: there are cameras to record any theft, but the badge reader allows for identification of any potential perpetrators. The Board agreed to assign individual badges to Phoenix Security guards that will allow access solely during lunchtime hours. The Commissioners felt that, because Phoenix employees are present all day, every day, like County employees, this exception could be made for these particular contracted workers.

3. Lower Valley Transfer Station: Commissioner Linde shared that he was approached by Cus Arteaga, the City Administrator of Grandview, about how the LVTS would affect various cities in the Lower Valley. He expressed a desire to welcome each city's concerns and ideas into the conversation, while also keeping in mind the County's fiduciary responsibilities in this matter. Karma Suchan updated the Board that she had a meeting scheduled this morning to meet with Cus, and that she has a Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. She and Commissioner Linde discussed the need to get input from Granger, Sunnyside, and Mabton, as well, before moving ahead with the closure. Commissioner Anderson added that this is a great opportunity to implement the aforementioned communication with local city governments.

4. HR Goldenrods:

- Jacqui Lindsay presented two requests from the Prosecutor's Office for extensions of an MDT grant for the Child Advocacy Center – one for a senior program representative, and one for an office assistant. Funding for these positions would be extended to June 30, 2024. The Board approved both requests. The Prosecutor's Office also requested a reclassification of a vacant office specialist position (B21) to program coordinator (C41), which the department hopes to hire for in June. The Board approved the request, as the difference in pay would be absorbed by the Prosecutor's 2022 budget. Jacqui clarified that these types of reclassifications will become more frequent as departments seek to hire primarily high-capacity employees in order to "do more with less".
- Jacqui also presented requests from the Sheriff's Office to frontload 48 hours of sick leave into the leave banks of three new lateral deputies. The deputies' leave banks would then be "frozen"; they would not continue to accrue additional leave until after working enough time to have accrued the original 48 hours under normal circumstances. The Board approved these requests.

5. The Commissioners gave updates on individual committee/board assignments for the week of May 9, 2022-May 13, 2022.

7. ADJOURN

Commissioner Anderson MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner Linde SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 11:11 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

MAY 24 2022

BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Amanda McKinney, Chair

LaDon Linde, Commissioner

Ron Anderson, Commissioner
*Constituting the Board of County Commissioners
for Yakima County, Washington*

