



## BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Work Session

Friday, May 20, 2022, at 9:00 am

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

5/20/2022 - 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, Judy Kendall (Human Resources), Human Resources Director Jacqui Lindsay, Human Services Director Esther Magasis, Troy Havens (Water Resources) Water Resources Manager Joel Freudenthal, Director of Environmental Services David Haws, Public Services Director Lisa Freund, Financial Services Director Craig Warner, County Engineer Matt Pietrusiewicz, and guests.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

### 3. HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE (15 Minutes)

Judy Kendall presented two action memos from the Department of Assigned Counsel to the Board: one for a position moving from Increment 9 to Increment 11 (per policy and years of experience), and the other for a position moving from Financial Specialist (B21) to Program Representative (B23). The Board agreed unanimously to both.

Judy presented nine action memos from the Victim Witness section of the Prosecutor's Office, in an effort to reorganize and restructure jobs and job duties. These changes would include 5 Senior Program Representatives going to Program Coordinators (B24 to C41), 3 Program Coordinators going to Program Analysts (C41 to C42), and 1 Program Coordinator going to Senior Program Analyst (C41 to C43). The Board agreed unanimously to each request.

The final request Judy presented was from the Sheriff's Office, to advance the time-off accrual rate for a newly-hired dispatcher, based off of 15 years of experience primarily at SunComm. Jacqui Lindsay informed the Board that it has not been the County's policy or practice to advance an employee's accrual rate – only the employee's pay increment/step – and that agreeing to this request would have father-reaching consequences county-wide.

Commissioner Linde requested that this discussion be tabled for another week to allow time for HR to get more information about the request from CarriAnn Ross at the Sheriff's Office.

### 4. HUMAN SERVICES (30 Minutes)

Esther Magasis updated the Board that due to delays in the appointment process, she only has the initial three volunteers that were approved for the Scoring Committee – she has not been able to reengage the two additional committee applicants.

Commissioner McKinney asked Esther when the best time would be for the Board to make adjustments to new contracts with community partners, expressing a desire to review the programs of future applicants for grant funds. Commissioners Linde and Anderson concurred. Esther responded that the best time would be during the application process for grant funding – the Board already approves applications and awards funds, and thus could make any necessary changes to contracts during that phase. She noted that she had a work session set up with the Commissioners on June 10th, but said that she would schedule time for the 13th and as well. She assured

Commissioner McKinney that she would follow up with Rhonda Hauff about the questions asked at a previous work session.

The Board also asked Esther about the additional COVID funding mentioned in Agreement 152-2022. Esther explained that it was to bring the budget for the County's contract into alignment with the State's requirements.

The funds would be used for quarantine and isolation respite for people in the community who have nowhere else to stay, including agricultural workers. Commissioner McKinney asked for data and clarification about whether these services are still required, how often they're being utilized, and by whom – not wanting to take an important resource away from the agricultural community. Esther stated that she would reach out to the Health District and LNI to see what the current requirements are and if there is a timeline for phasing out these services. She agreed to follow up at Monday's Work Session.

## 5. PUBLIC SERVICES (60 Minutes)

1. Discussion – Resolution for Emergency Powers Granted to Directors: Lisa Freund informed the Board that from 1998 to 2020, the Board of County Commissioners had given the Director of Public Services and the County Engineer the authority to declare a public emergency, waive the competitive bidding process, and award all necessary contracts to fix whatever emergency issue had occurred (e.g. the recent water line break). Then, within two weeks, they were required to follow up by bringing an official resolution before the Board at Agenda for approval of whatever actions were taken. Matt Pietrusiewicz shared that, in an emergency situation where it may be difficult to get in touch with the Board, having streamlined processes (such as having the Chair sign) are very helpful for a quick response. He also suggested increasing the \$10,000 threshold for contracts needing Board approval, to keep up with inflation. Commissioner McKinney asked that Matt, Lisa, David Haws, Julie Lawrence, and Don Anderson work together to draft more clearly defined language to put parameters around what could be constituted as an "emergency" than what existed previously – for instance, an actual physical maintenance issue requiring immediate attention for public safety.

### 2. Bi-Weekly Water Issues:

- Troy Havens spoke on the FEMA CAV (Community Assistance Visit) Report. Since 1985, Yakima County has participated in the National Flood Insurance Program. As part of that, FEMA affords another voluntary program offering discounted flood insurance for people living in floodplains, depending on what other action steps their counties have taken with floodplain regulations. Troy informed the Board that due to changes in how flood risk is calculated, Yakima County is not classed at the same level as it was previously in order to receive benefits. The CAV visit was to allow FEMA to gather updated information so that it could give the County guidance on what changes need to be made. Troy stated that we need to meet with FEMA again so that they can provide more specific details on the changes they're requesting, and so that we can provide any additional information that they need. We will also need to update our floodplain ordinance again. Commissioner McKinney told Troy that the County can offer FEMA a letter from the Commissioners if it would expedite the process. The Board expressed frustration that the high cost of flood insurance is very cost-prohibitive to a lot of potential homebuyers who could otherwise afford certain housing.
- Joel Freudenthal updated the Board that he is currently working on paperwork for the Ahtanum/Wenas water procurement project, and will survey soon for the water right. He also discussed YBIP and the water banking grant program, and how they affect different entities and their goals. He is currently working with Ecology to discuss policy changes going forward. He informed Commissioner McKinney that he's still working on getting the grant application she requested from them.
- Joel also shared about the upcoming potential for flooding as spring temperatures finally begin to rise to more normal levels. The snow pack will be melting into reservoirs that are already full and soil that is already saturated from the extra precipitation this year. Water Resources is working with the outreach community to inform people camping illegally along the rivers and on small islands to evacuate. Lisa Freund shared that John Walkenhauer has been posting logs to allow for people to get across in case of emergency. She added that Esther Magasis is trying to spread the word through Human Services partners as well. Lisa noted that encampment cleanups can't occur during flooding and will be postponed until after the land dries out. David Haws suggested it may take until July. Commissioner McKinney requested documentation of any remnants Public Services finds of environmental impact from the garbage and refuse left behind from these illegal encampments. Lisa stated that 54 tons of garbage have been removed already from January to May alone, compared to the 79 tons in total last year. Commissioner Linde thanked Code Enforcement and the Department of Fish & Wildlife again for their partnership in these cleanups. Commissioner Anderson wanted to highlight the work the County is doing to keep our community and environment clean and safe.
- Troy wrapped up by highlighting the Nelson Dam Removal Project for water supply, fish passage, and riverine process improvements. Sequence 1 (2020-2022) is now complete, and Sequence 2 is underway. They hope to finish the project in March 2023.

6. AGENDA ITEM REVIEW (30 Minutes)

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

The Board reaffirmed its decision to wait on additional information from Esther Magasis at the upcoming Monday Work Session regarding Agreement 152-2022.

7. ARPA UPDATE (30 Minutes)

Commissioner McKinney stated that she would be sending out a draft of selection/sorting committee guidelines for ARPA applications. She suggested that as an outreach tool, the Commissioners send out a basic survey for public input about what community priorities may be. Julie Lawrence confirmed for the Board that six applications have been submitted so far.

Craig Warner suggested there may be many more applications in process, based on the number of calls he's received with questions about the Board's priorities. Commissioner McKinney encouraged him to direct people to the ARPA information posted on the website, and confirmed that the Board will look at the merits of each project and encourage applications during all phases of funding. Craig suggested that Corporate Counsel and other staff members would need to be involved in assessing which projects fit the ARPA guidelines; Commissioner McKinney concurred. Craig also updated the Board that he had just filed the application for the second half of the ARPA funding that morning; he stated that hopefully a response will come through in the next few weeks.

8. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. On behalf of County Roads, Julie Lawrence presented to the Board Resolution 142-2022: Authorizing the Chair of the Board to Sign a Local Agency Federal Aid Project Prospectus for the S. Naches Road #35 Deck Rehabilitation Project. This was a housekeeping item that County Roads was hoping to finish before the end of the week.

- o Commissioner Anderson MOTION: To Authorize the Chair to Sign the Project Prospectus
- o Commissioner Linde SECOND
- o Motion Approved Unanimously.

2. Tribal Council Meeting: Commissioner Linde and Sheriff Udell had a meeting early this week with Tribal Law Enforcement. The Sheriff's Office has been discussing the possibility of forming a regional crime lab, and invited the Tribe to partner in that. The Sheriff's Office also invited the Tribe to join the proposed county-wide radio system. Commissioner Linde felt that the Tribe seemed favorable towards the first offer, and would consider the second offer. He shared that they had agreed previously to the idea of jointly approaching the federal government to request resources to address crime on the Reservation, and felt that the Tribe seemed open to the idea of writing a joint letter to the congressional delegation. Tribal Law Enforcement wanted to confer with the Tribal Council, and Commissioner Linde wanted to confer with Corporate Counsel. The Board voiced their support for this course of action. Commissioner McKinney stated that Yakima County is the lowest serviced county in the state in terms of population density served by our Sheriff's Deputies. Anything the County can do to partner with Tribal Law Enforcement and the federal government to address mutual concerns about violent crime, drug and human trafficking, and gang issues is absolutely essential. Commissioner Linde confirmed that he will talk with Don Anderson about the joint letter and stay in touch with the Tribe. Commissioner Anderson thanked Commissioner Linde for all his efforts in building positive relationships with the Yakama Nation.

9. ADJOURN

Commissioner Linde MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner Anderson SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 10:59 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 3 1 2022

BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Amanda McKinney, Chair

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LaDon Linde, Commissioner

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