



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Work Session

Friday, May 27, 2022, at 9:00 am

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

5/27/2022 - 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 Stefanie Weigand, Clerk of the Board Julie Lawrence, Deputy Clerk of the Board Erin Franklin, Judy Kendall (Human Resources), Human Resources Director Jacqui Lindsay, Public Services Director Lisa Freund, Thomas Carroll (Planning Department), Financial Services Director Craig Warner, Facilities Director Brian Griff, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

3. RV/CAMPGROUND UPGRADE LETTER DISCUSSION

Brian Griff shared with the Board the most recent updates to the State Fair Park Capital Improvement Plan, which was originally created in 2019, and went on to include projects at the baseball stadium. Bryan detailed which projects have been completed or are nearly completed, and which projects have yet to be addressed. Although the exact cost of remaining projects would be difficult to nail down, there is currently \$2,340,424.24 leftover in bond funds, plus \$449,819.40 leftover in Department of Agriculture grant funds, for a total of \$2,790,243.64. The Commissioners discussed how some of this funding could be used toward updating the RV/Campground area as requested by the Fair Association. Craig Warner stated that this would be possible because it still pertains to updating existing assets on the fairgrounds, and added that the first step is to hire an engineer to determine the scope and cost of the project. Brian said he would get in touch with HLA. Commissioner McKinney directed Julie Lawrence to draft a response letter to the Fair Association to inform them that the Board is supportive of exploring this project, dependent on an estimate of project costs.

4. 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS CONTRIBUTION REQUEST (10 Minutes)

Julie Lawrence shared that she received a request from the City of Yakima to ascertain if the Commissioners would be willing to contribute \$15,000 to the 4th of July fireworks display as they had done last year. Craig Warner confirmed that the revenue was available, and that he could add this to the County Budget going forward.

Commissioner McKinney and Commissioner Linde discussed contributing the same amount toward another fireworks display in the Lower Valley, potentially Sunnyside. They suggested the idea of different towns hosting the Lower Valley display in the future; Commissioner Linde said he would look into this. The Commissioners gave their assent to adding these fireworks displays into the budget going forward.

5. HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE (15 Minutes)

Judy Kendall and Jacqui Lindsay updated the Board on the request from the Sheriff's Office about increasing the PTO accrual rate of their new hire. After getting more information, Jacqui shared about a discussion back in February 2022 about the Sheriff's Office supporting the idea of allowing experienced lateral transfers to begin work at a higher rate of accrual. This would only apply to experienced lateral transfers – not new hires with little to no experience in dispatch. Jacqui added that the rest of the current dispatchers fall into the latter category and therefore would not qualify. With this defined parameter in mind, the Commissioners gave their assent to this request as a recruitment tool.

Judy went on to ask if a Department of Corrections employee's out-of-class request could be extended to August 1, 2022, while DOC Director Jeremy Welch continues efforts to recruit a new chief. The Board approved this request.

Finally, Judy shared a request from the Prosecutor's Office to move two of their "Attorney 3" employees from Increment 1 to Increment 3, based on both caseloads and years of service. Corporate Counsel Stefanie Weigand added that one of the employees had previous experience before coming to Yakima County, including military legal experience through JAG. The Board approved this request.

6. PUBLIC SERVICES (45 Minutes)

1. ARPA Invitation Letter: Lisa Freund shared a letter that Public Services proposed sending out to invite people to apply for ARPA funding. The letter includes information on how to apply, potential projects, application cycle and expenditure timeframes, project eligibility, and "shovel-readiness". Craig Warner shared that he believes there are many more applications on the way, based on the volume of phone calls to his department requesting more information. He added that some of these projects will take longer to put together and thus will probably need to utilize the latter round of funding. The Board approved Public Services' letter and directed Lisa to work with Julie Lawrence on the requested accompanying news release.

2. Solar Projects in Yakima County: Thomas ("Tommy") Carroll outlined for the Board a list of solar projects that have been approved or are awaiting approval in Yakima Valley, including: Goose Prairie (EFSEC Approved), Black Rock (Approved by Yakima County Hearing Examiner), High Top (awaiting EFSEC approval), and Ostrea (awaiting EFSEC approval). The Commissioners voiced their frustration at the current work-around for approval: entities that go through the Planning Department apply to Yakima County's Hearing Examiner don't have to pay a fee, and we can give local input on any project. Entities that can pay the \$50,000 fee to EFSEC (Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council) can get approval from the State, completely bypassing any local review. Commissioner McKinney had previously asked Don Anderson to look into the possibility of passing an ordinance against such workarounds. Stefanie Weigand stated that she did not have an update from Don. Tommy shared that WSAC and the State Legislature are also looking at putting a freeze on these applications due to the inconsistency in regulations: local government would have to put time and resources into researching and approving any application, and would have to be able to defend their decision if necessary; conversely, any application that goes through EFSEC only needs the governor's approval. The Commissioners agreed that while they are not necessarily opposed to these types of solar projects, local input should be required: the people of the community should have a voice in what their community looks like. Commissioner McKinney asked Julie Lawrence to follow up with Don about what legal options are available to the Board. Craig Warner informed the Board that Grant County's PUD was required to give back to the community as a result of all the dams they installed. The PUD paid for and manages new parks in the area, and additional funds will be used for installing broadband in the county. Tommy offered to send the Commissioners a link to provide feedback for the Informational Meeting and Land Use Hearing on June 1, 2022, regarding the High Top and Ostrea projects. In response to Commissioner Anderson's question, he added that all four projects are on a combination of purchased and leased land. Commissioner McKinney also raised the question as to which part of the state all this solar power will be directed. Lisa Freund shared links in the chat box to articles about protests in parts of Nevada and California over how these projects impact both communities and the environment.

7. AGENDA ITEM REVIEW (30 Minutes)

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

Julie clarified that a Certificate of Good Practice would be awarded from the County Road Administration Board to Matt Pietrusiewicz, accepting on behalf of the Yakima County Roads Department. Commissioner McKinney volunteered to make the presentation.

Regarding Resolution 146-2022 Craig Warner clarified that the Board decides which entities/departments receive Wildlife Refuge funds. The Treasurer allocates the funds each year and submits a resolution to the Board for approval in case the Commissioners would like to make any changes. Commissioner McKinney asked Julie to reach out to Fire District No. 5, one of the recipients, to see if they would do a presentation on this resolution during Regular Agenda.

Julie also noted that Agreement 152-2022 from Human Services was left off the agenda again until Director Esther Magasis could meet with the Board to discuss the Health District's response to the Board's questions.

8. ADJOURN

Commissioner Anderson MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner Linde SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 10:04 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

JUN 07 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*

