



**BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Weekly Agenda Meeting

Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 10:00 am

BOCC Basement Conference Room, Room 33B, 128 N 2nd Street, Yakima, WA 98901 or Zoom  
IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL

2/28/2023 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to Order at 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Chair LaDon Linde, Commissioner Amanda McKinney, Commissioner Kyle Curtis, Legal Counsel Don Anderson, Clerk of the Board Julie Lawrence, Deputy Clerk of the Board Erin Franklin, and guests.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment Received.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioner Curtis MOTION: To Approve Consent Agenda

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

Approved Unanimously.

Commissioner Curtis gave a reminder that all BOCC meetings are open to the public and can be attended both in-person or virtually. All meetings are recorded, and the meeting links and recordings can be found on the BOCC webpage.

5. COMMISSIONER

A. 2.6.23 Work Session Minutes

B. 2.7.23 Regular Agenda Minutes

6. CORPORATE COUNSEL

A. Resolution 47-2023

Denying Claim No. 7-2023 Filed by Jesus Lopez Hernandez.

Fiscal Impact: \$0.

7. COUNTY ROADS

A. Resolution 54-2023

Awarding Bids for the Purchase of Materials for the 2023 Gravel Road Surface Stabilization Program.

Fiscal Impact: \$1,100,000.

## 8. HUMAN RESOURCES

### A. Resolution 55-2023

Establishing a Temporary Hiring and Recruitment and Enhancement Program in the Department of Assigned Counsel.

Fiscal Impact: See Attached.

### B. Resolution 56-2023

Establishing a One-Time Retention Payment for All Current Attorneys in the Prosecuting Attorney's Office and Assigned Counsel.

Fiscal Impact: See Attached.

### C. Resolution 57-2023

Additions/Deletions to Budgeted Position in Department 410 (Prosecuting Attorney, District Court Division).

Fiscal Impact: See Attached.

## 9. HUMAN SERVICES

### A. Agreement 41-2023

Amendment A to Agreement with WizeHive, Inc., Granting an Additional License to Host the Mental Health Sales Tax RFP Program.

Fiscal Impact: Amendment Adds \$3,100 to the Original \$7,320 Contract.

### B. Agreement 42-2023

Program Year 2022 HOME Investment Partnerships Agreement.

Fiscal Impact: Agreement Provides Yakima County with \$553,797 in Affordable Housing Funds.

## 10. PUBLIC SERVICES

### A. Resolution 58-2023

Setting the Date for a Closed Record Hearing to Consider the Hearing Examiner's Recommendation for a 22-Lot Subdivision Known as Golden Ridge Phase 1.

Fiscal Impact: \$0.

### B. Agreement 43-2023

Professional Services Agreement with Aspect Consulting, LLC, for Development of a Yakima County Stormwater Master Plan.

Fiscal Impact: \$187,867 for Phase One.

## 11. SUPERIOR COURT

### A. Agreement 44-2023

Equipment and Services Contract & JOC Contract with CTI for Audio Video Equipment.

Fiscal Impact: \$292,885 Awarded by the Administrative Office of the Courts via Inter-Agency Reimbursement Agreement.

## 12. REGULAR AGENDA

### A. Resolution 53-2023

Approval of Findings of Fact in Support of Resolution 200-2022 Extending a Zoning Moratorium on Moderate to Large-Scale Solar Facilities Within the Unincorporated Areas of Yakima County.

Fiscal Impact: \$0.

Presenting: Planning Official Tommy Carroll

Tommy shared about the need for updated, more specific County Code to differentiate between larger commercial solar facilities and smaller private uses of solar energy. He also discussed the difficulties of handling the State's rapid approval of solar facilities, which in many ways runs contrary to its own Growth Management Act. Due to the involvement of agricultural land, the Planning Department has been reaching out to the Voluntary Stewardship Program, the Farm Bureau, the Department of Fish & Wildlife, the Department of Commerce, etc. for collaborative discussion. The goal is to get draft language for updated County Code to the Planning Commission by April, undergo the review process, hold a hearing in June, and get the Hearing Examiner's findings to the Board of County Commissioners by the August deadline.

In response to Commissioner Curtis' question, Tommy responded that the Commissioners can support staff by directing concerned citizens to Public Services Planning Division for more information, asking them to be patient, and explaining to them that the agricultural element complicates this issue. Commissioner McKinney stated that more than just an expedited timeline, she wants to ensure that the process is done well, especially with the State's current policies running contrary to its past environmental efforts. Commissioner Linde concurred, noting that if it was nuclear energy being discussed, the State would be requiring a much more thorough, vetted process.

Commissioner McKinney MOTION: To Approve Resolution 53-2023

Commissioner Curtis SECOND

Motion Passes Unanimously.

## 13. PUBLIC HEARING

### A. Public Hearing #1

Public Hearing to Consider Revising the Disposal Fees for Solid Waste at the Yakima County Landfills and Transfer Stations Operated by Yakima County.

Presenting: Solid Waste Manager Karma Suchan

Karma spoke on the findings of the Cost of Service and Rate Study, key issues facing the Solid Waste Division, examples of impacts of inflation, garbage cost per ton rates by county, and current fees. The new proposal is for a \$6 increase to the garbage tonnage rate in 2023, followed by additional \$2 increases in 2025 and 2027. Even after these increases, Yakima County will still have the lowest rates in the state.

#### Public Comment:

No Public Comment Received.

#### Commissioner Comment:

Commissioner McKinney noted the need to stay on top of current legislation regarding landfills. She also asked about the rates for specialty items, and Karma noted that those will get raised as well.

Commissioner Linde asked how often people come from other counties to dump their waste because Yakima County's rates are so low. Karma shared that staff catches about 3-4 people per week during the summer,

and about 1-2 per week during the winter; these are just the ones who get caught. Commissioner McKinney asked that discussion continue with the Board about how to mitigate this issue; Karma confirmed that she would send over what she had been working on thus far.

In response to Commissioner Curtis' question, Karma confirmed that the County does have an ordinance stating that the landfill will not accept municipal solid waste (household garbage) from outside the County.

In response to questions from Commissioners Linde and Curtis, Karma also briefly touched on the landfill's gas collection system, noting that with the current design, the gas probably won't be sellable commercially. Finally, she noted the landfill is projected to reach capacity in 2031, but as technology keeps improving, waste can be better compacted, thereby extending the landfill's projected capacity.

Commissioner Curtis MOTION: To Move This Item to Resolution at a Future Agenda

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

Motion Passes Unanimously.

## B. Public Hearing #2

Public Hearing to Consider the Yakima County HOME Consortium Regarding the Use of HOME-ARP Funds.

Presenting: Brian Hedengren, Human Services

Brian provided background information on the HOME-ARP Program and the use of these funds, including qualifying populations and eligible activities. He clarified that this public hearing is to receive public comment, and then based on input, Human Services will present the plan at another public hearing.

### Public Comment:

Ken Jones (in person): Ken explained that he consults with Project Generating Hope, which operates Noah's Ark Homeless Shelter in Wapato. He thanked the Commissioners for their support for the program, briefly describing some of the services it provides. He shared the need for help to get people to move beyond emergency shelter services and into other services that will improve their situations long-term. He also noted that about two-thirds of their clients are Native American, with strong ties to their communities, and explained the program's desire to work with other partners to develop more affordable housing in that area.

Jereme Brooks (in person): Jereme explained that he is the Executive Director of the Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima and Kittitas Counties. He discussed the effects of housing instability on the community, and urged the Board to encourage multi-pronged strategies to address this issue. He suggested thinking beyond just building additional "brick and mortar" homes, or just offering additional homeless services, and instead going right to the root of the issue and helping increase housing stability by offering support services ahead of time before people become homeless.

Michael Kay (in person): Michael explained that he is the Executive Director of Camp Hope, a subsidiary of Grace City Outreach. He asked the Board to consider supporting nontraditional housing options, like expanding his organization's shipping container tiny home program ("Compassion Cabins") for clients who can't cope with congregate living due to past trauma. He noted that this type of housing is portable and could also be utilized in the Lower Valley.

### Commissioner Comment:

In response to Commissioner Curtis' question, Brian explained that the City of Yakima also received a one-time allotment of HOME-ARP funding and has its own HOME Program. In response to Commissioner McKinney's question, Brian explained that these funds are not limited to issues specifically stemming from COVID, like the County's ARPA funds. Brian and Commissioner McKinney also explained the long-term process of engaging the community and working with local service providers to develop the draft plan for use of these funds.

Commissioner McKinney noted that housing instability is partially a legislative issue, as recent energy policies have increased building costs and made affordable housing even more difficult to come by. Commissioner Linde concurred. He asked about the amount of funding and how flexible the requirements are for how it can be used. Brian responded that \$1.8 million is available, and that policy updates are continually being released

that have been fairly liberal thus far. He noted that usually reporting and monitoring requirements are usually the sticking point.

With no motion needed at this time, Commissioner Linde closed the Public Hearing.

#### 14. ARPA DISCUSSION

Commissioner Curtis suggested that the Board draft a resolution to document all of the ARPA applications that were awarded funding. In response to Commissioner McKinney's question, Financial Services Director Craig Warner stated that he would be in favor of this action, believing that it would help document the decision and allow applicants' projects to begin moving forward with a guarantee. He added that letters would be sent out to applicants whose projects were awarded funding, as well as to those who would not be receiving funding. Now that the County has contracted with Clifton Larson Allen, successful applicants will need to reenter their application information into CLA's system for tracking/documentation purposes, as CLA's system has more detailed, project-specific questions than the County's original questionnaire. Commissioner Linde concurred. He also asked that both sets of letters (for funded and unfunded projects) include lists of other potential funding sources; Craig confirmed that he would add this. Commissioner Curtis stated that he would work with Craig to prepare a resolution for next Tuesday's agenda. Commissioner McKinney noted for the public that the full list of approved ARPA applications is also already available on the County's website.

#### 15. NEW BUSINESS

No New Business.

#### 16. ADJOURN

Commissioner Curtis MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

All regular agenda meetings 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

MAR 28 2023

BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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LaDon Linde, Chair

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Amanda McKinney, Commissioner

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Kyle Curtis, Commissioner

*Constituting the Board of County Commissioners  
for Yakima County, Washington*

