



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Work Session

Monday, March 6, 2023, at 9:00 am

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

3/6/2023 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to Order at 9:00 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, Public Services Director Lisa Freund, Code Enforcement Manager John Walkenhauer, Water Resources Strategic Manager Joel Freudenthal, Human Services Director Esther Magasis, Planning Official Tommy Carroll, Technology Services Director Dale Panattoni, Financial Services Director Craig Warner, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment Received.

3. PUBLIC SERVICES

Riverway Camp Cleanup for Spring Flooding: Lisa Freund explained the interjurisdictional cooperation that is necessary when organizing any cleanup areas in the Gap-to-Gap region, which is owned by a variety of different federal, state, and local government agencies. John Walkenhauer went on report on 2022 river encampment cleanups, during which 72.185 tons of debris was collected. This year, 6.75 tons of debris has been collected as of March 1, 2023. Cleanup efforts are mainly being focused on areas that are at risk of flooding due to snow runoff. In response to Commissioner McKinney's question, John described the process that Code Enforcement goes through before an encampment cleanup can occur, including outreach efforts and posting notice. He also described the types of debris they typically encounter, including drug paraphernalia and thousands of dollars in stolen shopping carts. Code Enforcement makes an effort to return stolen property and repurpose items when possible instead of just putting everything in the landfill.

Lisa went on to describe the Helicopter Cleanup that took place on October 5, 2022, which kept the County from having to drive vehicles through riparian areas in order to remove debris. A total of 6.54 tons of trash (collected in 79 bags and 3 bundles) was removed for a cost of about \$3,500. Funding from the Department of Ecology and the Department of Fish & Wildlife made this cleanup possible. Joel Freudenthal added that the Yakima Nation has also received funding from the Environmental Protection Agency for cleanups on tribal lands, and they may also make use of helicopters.

Per Commissioner Linde's question, John and Lisa confirmed that staff are tracking the hours they devote to cleanup. In response to Commissioner Curtis' question, John explained that Human Services will have another layer of data, tracking all encampments county-wide and where outreach has been conducted; this may include areas within City limits, as well. Commissioner McKinney noted how Yakima County has made an effort to take the lead in organizing cooperation with other jurisdictions and Esther Magasis went on to discuss how Human Services is working on outreach efforts and holding partners accountable for tracking outreach data more effectively. Commissioner McKinney stated that the combined efforts of Corporate Counsel, Human Services, Code Enforcement, and others will provide a multi-pronged approach to make it inconvenient for people to continue their lifestyles of illegal camping and drug use in Yakima County. Joel noted the damage this does to the environment between litter and homeless-related fires, despite the County's best efforts to revegetate and protect these natural areas.

Lisa explained the next steps in planning for spring floods, including holding a 2023 Community Cleanup Pilot Program Kick-off Meeting on Wednesday, March 29th, at 1 PM. John reaffirmed the need for multiple agencies and jurisdictions to work together on this issue, and no one has the budget or manpower to handle it on their own. In response to Commissioner Curtis' question about what should be done differently or better this year, Commissioner McKinney stated that the State needs to step up and get involved, and Joel expressed his belief that additional agencies will begin to take part and form official agreements. John also thanked the BOCC for their support.

Encampment Policy Update: Don Anderson reviewed the process of developing this policy this far. He started working on it in May or June 2022, and revisions were made in August. Esther Magasis had previously voiced concerns about why outreach policies and procedures were not more clearly defined; Don stated that these were purposefully left vague so that the County doesn't end up inadvertently limiting its outreach abilities. He also noted that it's tough for local governments to criminalize illegal encampments and other issues surrounding homelessness without leaving themselves open to class action lawsuits. Additionally, local governments would need the support of law enforcement agencies that simply don't have adequate staff or funding to handle this issue. Don recommended creating a policy instead of an ordinance because it will be easier to make changes as needed. He based his draft policy largely on Pierce County's, because it included helpful verbiage regarding personal property.

The Board discussed whether to keep the outreach portion of the policy vague, or to flesh it out more thoroughly. Commissioner McKinney stated that she would also like more information from the Sheriff's Office and the Prosecutor's Office on the enforceability of the policy. Commissioner Linde directed Julie Lawrence to schedule a time with Sheriff Udell, Prosecuting Attorney Joe Brusica, and Esther to discuss these issues at a future Work Session; Don was also directed to forward copies of the draft policy to the Sheriff and the Prosecutor for their review. Commissioner McKinney suggested that Commissioner Curtis set up an additional, separate meeting with Joe in order to get up to speed on some of the legal aspects of the policy and discuss any additional concerns.

Ag-Tourism Ordinance Update: Tommy Carroll updated the Board that the Planning Commission made a recommendation on the ag-tourism language. Some additional questions and concerns have been brought up by the ag-tourism group, which are currently being addressed and will be discussed with the Board. They have also discovered some potential inconsistencies with other code. When it is time to review these findings with the Board, the Board will have the opportunity to make any necessary changes. Commissioner McKinney directed Tommy to send the appropriate documents to the Commissioners ahead of time for their review.

4. TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Information Technology Committee (ITC): Dale Panattoni discussed the recent revival of this committee, noting that it held its first meeting last week. In response to Dale's question, Don Anderson clarified that any changes that may need to be made to the committee's original charter will need to be brought before the Board for review. The original resolution approving the charter also details what County positions are to serve on the committee. Members serve in an advisory capacity to provide feedback to Technology Services from a departmental perspective.

Life-Cycling IT Equipment: Dale had an additional question about how Technology Services should handle former General Fund Equipment Replacement dollars now that TS has implemented its new equipment life-cycling plan as of 2023. He outlined the data and goals of this plan, noting that Public Services has opted not to participate this year. Dale stated that he was comfortable with this for the first year as Public Services already has its own specialized requirements and thus already has a good track record of keeping equipment up to date, but hoped they would be more comfortable participating next year. The Commissioners agreed that they felt this ought to be a Board decision for departmental consistency, but were comfortable giving a grace period for this year. Craig Warner noted that other counties have had the same issue with their Public Services departments, but after the first year, they bought in. The Commissioners expressed confidence in Dale and his team, stating their belief that if all departments participate, the County will be the better for it.

Commissioner McKinney MOTION: To Require All County Departments to Participate in Technology Services' Life-Cycling Program in 2024

Commissioner Curtis SECOND

Motion Passes Unanimously.

Returning to the main topic of discussion, Dale asked if Technology Services can use the old equipment replacing funding (presently about \$500,000 total) to get a jump start on life-cycling, or if they should return the money to the

departments. He and Craig explained the new funding system compared to the old funding system. Craig noted that some of the departments have already spent their share of the old funds, but others haven't; however, this money was set aside for the purpose of equipment replacement, and it will ultimately be used for that purpose. The Board agreed to have Technology Services retain the funds for life-cycling. Craig stated that he would prepare a resolution to this end as part of Financial Services' process for closing out 2022.

New Ticketing System Status: Dale updated the Board on the new ticketing system that was deployed by Technology Services on February 1st. In response to Commissioner Linde's questions, he confirmed that he would send the Board additional information about response timelines.

Application Status: Dale also shared spreadsheet showing all computer applications currently in use by the County, how critical each function is, who is assigned to respond to any issues, and the amount of time before each individual application might become outdated. In response to Commissioner Curtis' question, Craig explained why utilizing an annual capital improvement plan and setting aside a large pot of money for new software is not the best way to prepare for large software expenses.

KnowBe4 Training: Finally, Dale discussed the need to make this training more mandatory in order to help staff identify and properly respond to phishing attempts. He noted that despite the critical importance of cyber security, participation in this annual training is only at about 60% right now. The Board discussed various potential consequences, including the possibility of implementing a new policy where employees' credentials might be revoked if they do not complete their annual training. Dale was directed to reach out to HR for further discussion. On a somewhat related note, Commissioner Curtis asked Dale about tracking the return and cancellation of County mobile phones after an employee leaves the County. Dale stated that currently, many of the departments are responsible for their own mobile phones, but he would like to take this on eventually for consistency and tracking purposes.

5. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

The Commissioners gave updates on individual committee/board assignments for the week of February 27, 2023-March 3, 2023.

6. NEW BUSINESS

No New Business.

7. ADJOURN

Commissioner Curtis MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 11:59 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

APR 04 2023

BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

LaDon Linde, Chair

Amanda McKinney, Commissioner

Kyle Curtis, Commissioner

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

