



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Work Session

Friday, March 24, 2023, at 9:00 am

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

3/24/2023 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to Order at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Chair LaDon Linde, Commissioner Amanda McKinney, Legal Counsel Don Anderson, Clerk of the Board Julie Lawrence, Deputy Clerk of the Board Erin Franklin, Human Resources Director Jacqui Lindsay, Sheriff Robert Udell, Long Range Planning Manager Noelle Madera, Financial Services Director Craig Warner, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment Received.

3. HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE (15 Minutes)

Jacqui Lindsay presented two requests from the Sheriff's Office. The first was to officially institute a practice of hiring lateral deputies with 48 hours of sick leave frontloaded. The Commissioners have consistently approved these individual requests in recent times, and creating an official practice would remove the need to approach the Board with every request. Jacqui noted that this is 6 month's worth of accrual, and these new hires would not continue to accrue past that until after completing their first 6 months of employment. In response to Commissioner Linde's question, she clarified that this is for experienced deputies coming to Yakima County from other agencies. The Commissioners approved this request.

As a follow-up to the first request, the Sheriff's Office also requested to hire a new lateral deputy with 4 years of experience at a Step 5, despite the fact that there are only 6 steps in the Deputy Pay Plan, and the Commissioners have typically not made an exception beyond a Step 3 for that level of experience. Jacqui shared relevant data on the three deputies hired in 2022 for comparison. Sheriff Udell was present to explain the need to offer these pay exceptions, as so many law enforcement agencies are competing for deputies, and Yakima County only offers frontloaded sick leave and pay step increases in lieu of hiring bonuses. It is also more cost-effective to hire deputies with experience who can start work in the field more quickly, instead of spending additional time and money training new hires with little to no experience. Hiring this employee at a Step 5 would also mitigate the pay cut he would be taking, increasing the likelihood that he would accept the position. The Commissioners approved this request.

4. PUBLIC SERVICES (15 Minutes)

Noelle Madera led a discussion regarding a long plat application for a 9-lot subdivision, under the project name "Sauson Subdivision". This project went before the Hearing Examiner in February and will now come before the Board in a Closed Record Hearing. Planning staff recommended approval with conditions, and the Hearing Examiner upheld that recommendation. Noelle briefly referred to some neighbor comments and questions about the details of this subdivision. There is also a Recreation Space Requirement that the Hearing Examiner might want to discuss with the Board at the public hearing. This Commissioners directed Noelle to bring Commissioner Curtis up to speed once he's back in office, and then proceed with scheduling a public hearing.

5. AGENDA ITEM REVIEW (10 Minutes)

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

The Commissioners had no changes for the March 28, 2023, Agenda.

Commissioner Linde explained for the public that the apparent “gap” in meeting minutes is due to staff catching up on a number of lengthy sessions in recent weeks. Thus, meeting minutes may be approved slightly out of order over the next few weeks. Commissioner Linde also noted that he had previously requested that Agreement 72-2023 from the Sheriff’s Office be moved to Regular Agenda.

Commissioner McKinney noted some of her upcoming absences on County business may affect her ability to attend certain BOCC meetings.

6. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

Yakima Wellbeing Survey – Commissioner McKinney: Commissioner McKinney explained that the University of Utah is conducting a study on what attributes of small communities may contribute to residents’ overall health and wellbeing. Naches and possibly also Cowiche or Tieton are going to answer their survey, and Yakima County has also been asked to participate. Julie Lawrence shared the list of questions that were distributed to the Commissioners. In response to Commissioner Linde’s questions, Commissioner McKinney explained that other regions have also been identified besides just Yakima County, and the study will be for informational purposes, available to the public. The Commissioners approved this request, and Commissioner McKinney stated that she would fill out the survey and share her answers with the Board.

Letter of Recommendation for Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Citizen Committee - Commissioner McKinney: Commissioner McKinney explained that the YBFWR Board had reached out to her looking for a recommendation to appoint to a vacant position on the Citizen Committee, although that Board will make the final decision and appointment. Dave Lester was identified as a good potential candidate, and has voiced his interest in the position. The Commissioners approved this letter and directed Julie Lawrence to email it to the appropriate parties.

7. NEW BUSINESS

No New Business.

8. ADJOURN

Commissioner McKinney MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner Linde SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 9:35 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*