



## BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Work Session

Monday, June 12, 2023, at 9:00 am

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

6/12/2023 - 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 Stefanie Weigand, Deputy Clerk of the Board Erin Franklin, County Prosecutor Joe Brusica, Public Services Director Lisa Freund, Code Enforcement Manager Tua Vang, Joe Poire (Broadband Consultant), Human Services Director Esther Magasis, and guests.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment Received.

### 3. ENCAMPMENT POLICY DISCUSSION (30 Minutes)

Commissioner Curtis shared his proposed edits to the encampment policy draft, with additional feedback from Commissioner Linde, Commissioner McKinney, Tua Vang, Lisa Freund, and Esther Magasis. Tua Vang was named the County Designated Contact for any questions from the community about a particular Emphasis Area. The Board agreed to continue discussion at Friday's Work Session (June 16th), with the goal of placing the final draft on next Tuesday's Agenda. Commissioner Curtis noted that he would push some of his Work Session discussion items to the following Friday's Work Session (June 23rd) to allow adequate time. Joe Brusica confirmed that his team would provide a legal review of Sections 11.2 and 11.3 regarding the use of identifying facial photos from encampment cleanups, in preparation for the June 16th Work Session, as requested by the Board. Erin Franklin was directed to forward the suggested encampment policy draft edits to the group, as well as Public Services' rough estimate of cost per year of implementation.

The Commissioners each observed that the goal of this policy is not to end homelessness, but to ensure that both homeless persons and the rest of the public are safe and critical environmental areas are protected. The Board's hope is that a byproduct of this policy would be to move people closer to outreach services and other resources.

Commissioner McKinney added that even cities like San Diego and Portland are reversing course and moving in this direction.

### 4. BROADBAND DISCUSSION (45 Minutes)

Esther Magasis noted that the WSBO Digital Equity & Inclusion Plan deadline is approaching, and Yakima County's plan will be ready to be turned in by Wednesday. Afterward, WSBO will take all the plans and work with a company called Guide House, and then turn the State's plan into the Federal government sometime in November 2023. WSBO will also reach out to Yakima County soon to get under contract for the grant funding the County has already been awarded. Esther noted that County Engineer Matt Pietrusiewicz will be taking the lead on this from an infrastructure standpoint on behalf of Public Services. Public Services Accounting Manager Carmen Hayter commented that Matt plans to reach out to the Board set up a work session soon to more clearly define expectations.

In response to Commissioner Curtis' questions, Joe went on to outline his predictions for next year's timeline and order of operations. Esther noted that selection of project areas isn't solely based on population density and cost-effectiveness; the digital equity component ensures that residents in need of service who wouldn't normally receive it will get the service they need. There is a public safety component to this, as well, increasing vital cell service in remote locations in the event of highway accidents, stranded motorists, or other emergencies. Joe also discussed the ARPA money the Board had wisely set aside for State and Federal grant match funds. Although the \$11.3 million grant the County was just awarded waived the match requirement, there will be plenty of other opportunities going forward to utilize these funds. An additional \$50 million in Federal matching funds will also be made available, particularly for high-need areas with digitally-inclusive plans, but this won't go far when split across the entire state.

## 5. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

Letter of Support for the DUI Court Program: Commissioner Linde explained that District Court Administrator Therese Murphy had requested the Board's support as they reapply for funding for this program. The Commissioners voiced their support for this program and agreed to sign this letter of support; Commissioner McKinney gave authorization for use of her signature stamp.

The Commissioners gave updates on individual committee/board assignments for the week of June 5, 2023-June 9, 2023.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Curtis asked if he would be able to attend the National Association of Counties (NACo) Conference coming up in July. Commissioner McKinney is the BOCC's representative for NACo, but she noted that she believes there is precedent for more than one Commissioner to attend, and expressed how valuable she has found these conferences as a Commissioner. Commissioner Linde stated that he did not have any objections to Commissioner Curtis attending, either. Commissioner Curtis confirmed that he would inform the Clerk of the Board if he decides to attend the conference, in the event that a Work Session might need to be cancelled.

## 7. ADJOURN

Commissioner Curtis MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 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

JUL 11 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*