



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Work Session

Monday, July 31, 2023, at 9:00 am

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

7/31/2023 - 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, Human Resources Senior Manager Judy Kendall, Financial Services Director Craig Warner, Solid Waste Manager Karma Suchan, Code Enforcement Manager Tua Vang, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment Received.

3. 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 August 1, 2023, Agenda.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE (15 Minutes)

Judy Kendall presented three action memos to the Board. The first was a request from Juvenile Court to change a position's funding source from the CJS Fund to the Juvenile Court Fund. This is done periodically when grants are running low or about to expire, and then a new request is made to switch back to the original fund later on. The fiscal impact for the rest of the year would be \$35,600, to be absorbed by the department's budget. The Commissioners approved this request.

The second request was from Public Services: Building Fire & Safety, to reclassify an employee from a Senior Program Representative (B24) to a Program Coordinator (B25). This employee had been promoted from a B23 to a B24 on March 16, 2023, before the new contract was signed, but when it took effect as of June 1, 2023, the B23 position was reclassified as a B24, and the B24 position was reclassified as a B25; thus, the aforementioned employee didn't receive the full benefits of her promotion between March and June. This request to retroactively reclassify her position to March 16th is to correct that oversight. The Commissioners approved this request.

The third request was from Superior Court, for a policy exception to provide retired Judge Eloffson an access badge to utilize the employee entrance and courtrooms in Superior Court, Juvenile Court, and the County Jail while he serves pro-tem. Judy explained that this is done periodically for contracted attorneys or unpaid court interns who need access to the building prior to 8:00 a.m. Commissioner Linde thanked Judy for clarifying the precedent, and the Commissioners approved this request. Commissioner Curtis suggested that if the Board receives an increase in these requests in the future, it may be prudent to authorize the Chair of the Board to address them for greater expediency and efficiency.

Finally, Craig Warner presented a request from Human Resources Director Jacqui Lindsay, who has taken a leave of absence that might extend longer than anticipated. In her absence, she would like to ensure that Judy Kendall is compensated as an acting HR Director. Normally, an employee would be compensated at the next level up from their position, but in this case, that next level would be a direct report. Jacqui suggested that instead, the Board authorize a 15% out-of-class pay increase effective August 1, 2023, and while she is unsure of an end date, it would be no longer than 6 months. Craig clarified that out-of-class pay increases are usually 7% for a one-level increase, 15% for a two-level increase, and a maximum of 20% overall; Jacqui believes that 15% is a fair compromise in this instance due to the direct report position. The Commissioners did not have an objection to the pay, but agreed to continue discussion to Friday's Work Session in order for Commissioner McKinney to comment, and to allow time for the Chair to reach out to Jacqui to get a firmer end date in mind. Craig confirmed that he would pass along Jacqui's contact information to Commissioner Linde, and Julie Lawrence confirmed that she would add this item to the Work Session on Friday, August 4th.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION (20 Minutes)

(This item was pushed to after the Public Services discussion, in order to allow Commissioner McKinney to be present after a prior commitment.)

The Board met in executive session for 21 minutes at 9:49 a.m. to discuss current litigation allowed by RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). Commissioner Linde returned at 10:10 a.m. to extend the session another 10 minutes. The Board returned at 10:20 a.m., and no further action was taken.

(Commissioner McKinney was able to join this executive session. She was also present for the rest of the Work Session afterward.)

6. PUBLIC SERVICES (45 Minutes)

Karma Suchan and Tua Vang presented four possible alternatives to a traditional Free Dump Day, noting that Legal Counsel Dan Clark also helped provide guidance on what might constitute a gifting of public funds. Option #1 is a pre-registered Public Dump Day or Free Commodity Day (modeled after Douglas County), where those who living in unincorporated Yakima County could pre-register and receive a voucher with an assigned day and time to bring their load. The Commissioners noted that it might be difficult to limit this to just unincorporated areas of the County. Karma noted that the cost to the County would be approximately \$8,000 per event for staffing (Solid Waste and Code Enforcement) and disposal costs for 100 spots.

Option #2 is to expand the Commissioner Community Cleanup Fund. Currently, the BOCC sets aside \$10,000 annually to cover disposal costs for community cleanups. Potentially, the Board could work with non-profit groups that could volunteer labor and equipment for cleanups, and possibly focus on a different area of the County each quarter. This would mean that the only cost to the County would be disposal fees of \$44 per ton (not including specialty commodities); a large community cleanup typically brings in around \$1,320 in disposal fees (30 tons).

Option #3 is a Litter Credit Waiver Voucher Program (modeled after Pierce County), which would put the onus on property owners with code violations to take the proper steps to dispose of their garbage. This would involve Code Enforcement more than Solid Waste, and require a change to County Code. It would also require that all property taxes are paid and that drivers are licensed and insured, plus a reinspection of the property after the garbage is removed. The cost to the County in staff time and disposal fees about be approximately \$6,250 for 100 vouchers.

Option #4 is a voucher sent to all in unincorporated Yakima County for a one-time, garbage-only dump with a limit of 1 ton. The fiscal impact would be approximately \$4.3 million in dump fees, plus about \$30,000 for the mailing.

The Commissioners discussed the goals, challenges, pros, and cons of each of these options, and agreed that a multi-pronged approach might work best. They agreed to begin with 3 pre-registered dump days with 100 slots each – 2 days at Cheyne Landfill in the Lower Valley and 1 Day at the Terrace Heights Landfill in the Upper Valley. They asked Karma to look into dates sometime in September or October, and to let them know what the expected fiscal impact would be to Solid Waste's budget. Following Douglas County's model, advertising would begin about a month ahead of time, and Karma confirmed that she would reach out to them about their tracking/scheduling software. Tua added that Code Enforcement could also reach out to owners of nuisance properties to ensure they are aware of the opportunity. Ultimately, these pre-registered dump days would allow more time for the Board to reach out to community groups about organizing additional cleanup efforts in different areas of the County, and hopefully increase residents' excitement to get involved and invest in their communities.

7. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

The Commissioners gave updates on individual committee/board assignments for the week of July 24, 2023 – July 28, 2023.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Curtis mentioned a letter the Board received from Shinn & Son, Inc., about buying American-made equipment and supplies, and asked if he should respond with information about the County's procurement process? Commissioner Linde confirmed that he hadn't yet responded, and Commissioner McKinney noted that she had forwarded Mr. Shinn's contact information to Financial Services for staff to reach out about the procurement process. Commissioner Curtis stated that he would follow up with Craig Warner, and noted that the procurement process is largely mandated by the State.

Commissioner Curtis also mentioned an email from Joel Freudenthal regarding the Forterra proposal, and asked if the other Commissioners felt they would like a presentation from Forterra, or if they were satisfied with just the letter Joel attached. Commissioner Curtis stated that he doesn't feel a presentation is needed; Commissioner McKinney responded that she would prefer a presentation. Commissioner Linde shared that he still needs to review the letter, and will let the Board know his opinion afterward.

9. ADJOURN

Commissioner Curtis MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 10:44 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

AUG 08 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*

