



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Work Session

Friday, August 11, 2023, at 9:00 am

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

8/11/2023 - 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, Human Resources Senior Manager Mayling Chin, Monique Favreau (Human Resources), Financial Services Director Craig Warner, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment Received.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board met in executive session for 19 minutes at 9:01 a.m. to discuss current litigation as allowed by RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). Commissioner Linde returned at 9:20 a.m. to extend the session by an additional 10 minutes, and at 9:30 a.m. to extend the session by an additional 15 minutes. The Board returned at 9:45 a.m., and no further action was taken.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE (15 Minutes)

Judy Kendall, Mayling Chin, and Monique Favreau were present to discuss action memos and HR policies with the Board. Judy began by explaining that a temporary position in District Court that the Board had recently agreed to extend for an additional year is now ready to be changed to regular budgeted position. They are comfortable that the grant money funding the position is stable. The Commissioners approved this request.

Mayling then presented an action memo for 15% out-of-class pay for Judy while HR Director Jacqui Lindsay is out on extended leave. This matter had been discussed by the Board at the past two Work Sessions. Judy would receive out-of-class pay retroactively from August 1st through October 31st, at which time the Board will reassess as needed. The Commissioners approved this request.

Monique proceeded to address some of the questions HR has received regarding the risk of fentanyl exposure for those opening mail. There have been two counties in Washington State with exposure incidents. HR staff has been researching this issue, and is recommending that those involved in mail sorting and distribution utilize personal protective equipment (PPE) while handling the mail, including nitrile gloves and N95 masks. She noted that Financial Services and District Court have already implanted this practice. Craig Warner stated that he has been in touch with Tony Miller at the Office of Emergency Management, who has since provided the County with 6 cases of nitrile gloves that will be accessible to all department staff in the mail room; Commissioner Linde asked HR to notify all departments of this. He also asked about technology that can detect traces of drugs, and Commissioner Curtis noted that DOC utilizes a service like this for the jail, but that it would be complicated to implement countywide.

Mayling added that DOC Director Jeremy Welch also suggested that the County keep Narcan on hand in case of an exposure incident; however, from HR's research, this is something that is up to the departments whether to implement. The Commissioners discussed the benefits and challenges of keeping Narcan on hand and training employees in its use, including cost and liability. They directed Human Resources to discuss this matter with the Central Safety Committee in order to get a sense of employee feedback, as well as reach out to the Health District for their expertise. Monique noted that the next SCC meeting would take place in September, and Commissioner Linde suggested that a representative from the Health District also be invited to that meeting. In terms of policy, Judy and Mayling pointed out that the existing policy regarding exposure could be updated and amended to include verbiage specific to this issue, and confirmed that HR will look into this. Mayling added that they will also reach out to the counties who experienced exposures to find out what precautions they have taken since then.

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 August 15, 2023, Agenda.

Commissioner Curtis asked when Agreement 215-2023, transferring the assets and liabilities of the dissolved Cowiche Sewer District, would take effect. Don Anderson stated that the City of Tieton has already approved this transfer at their city council meeting, so once the County does the same, this item will essentially be approved and effective like a contract. However, the County Treasurer and Auditor also want a court order for authorization, so the County will file jointly with the City of Tieton to get this from Superior Court.

Commissioner Linde directed Julie to ask Human Services Director Esther Magasis to be present at Monday's Work Session to discuss Agreement 210-2023.

In response to Commissioner Curtis' question, Julie confirmed that any written public comments in relation to the public hearing on extending the solar moratorium will be forwarded to the Commissioners and the Planning Division.

6. LABOR ATTORNEY DISCUSSION (15 Minutes) - Commissioner Linde

Commissioner Linde explained that, due to budget concerns, and Board has been evaluating all expenditures in effort to cut costs. He suggested that the Board explore the possibility of alternative options to handle labor contract negotiations, to see if there are any firms that might be able to meet the County's needs at a lower cost. Commissioners McKinney and Curtis were both amenable to having Corporate Counsel conduct this cost savings analysis. Don Anderson suggested a more informal process than an RFQ, as the Board would be interested in more than just a firm's qualifications, and stated this process would probably take a couple weeks. The Commissioners agreed to direct Corporate Counsel to compile a list of labor attorney options for the Board's review, evaluated based on cost, efficiency, and availability.

7. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

The Commissioners did not discuss any updates.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner McKinney explained that in addition to discussing Agreement 210-2023 at Monday's Work Session, she would like Esther Magasis to also discuss whether Human Services has any verbiage in its contracts specifying that partner agencies require that all clients must reside in Yakima County, and that the partner agencies can't bring clients in from other counties to receive services. She would like to confirm that this is not happening, and take steps to prevent it from happening in the future. Commissioners Linde and Curtis concurred.

9. ADJOURN

Commissioner Curtis MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

APPROVED DATE
DATE/Minutes

AUG 22 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*

