



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Work Session

Friday, January 20, 2023, at 9:00 am

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

1/20/2023 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT: Chair LaDon Linde, Commissioner Kyle Curtis, Legal Counsel Don Anderson, Clerk of the Board Julie Lawrence, Deputy Clerk of the Board Erin Franklin, Facilities Director Brian Griff, Financial Services Director Craig Warner, County Engineer Matt Pietrusiewicz, and guests.

EXCUSED: Commissioner Amanda McKinney

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment Received.

3. FACILITIES SERVICES

Brian Griff addressed Commissioner Curtis' questions about the Capital Improvement Plan. He had previously answered one question about why the Public Services/County Roads remodel had not been listed in the plan: that project is coming out of a different funding source.

Additionally, Commissioner Curtis asked about the grant application for updating the windows in the 1940's section of the Courthouse. Brian explained that only that section of the Courthouse is on the historic registry and thus eligible for the grant, and if approved, the new windows must maintain the historic nature of the building. Facilities received a quote for \$600,000-\$650,000 for the new, energy efficient windows. He noted that the County would need to provide match funding, but that this could be applied as other projects in that section of the building, such as the Superior Court remodel project. Brian stated that it's his understanding that the County's application made it into the top 10 list of projects being recommended to Governor Inslee for funding; however, there may not be enough funding available for all 10 projects. In response to Commissioner Linde's question, Brian added that the County could reapply next year if needed. He also noted that he had included repair/replacement of the concrete cap on the parapet on top of the 1940's section of the building in the grant application,

Finally, Commissioner Curtis had asked about REET (Real Estate Excise Tax) funding. Craig Warner explained the source and requirements for this funding in further detail. Brian added that Facilities will be dipping into its reserves until the YCCC building is remodeled and has tenants, and getting his Capital Improvement Plan approved would allow him to utilize REET funding for necessary projects in the meantime. He noted that, if approved, he would start looking into the Main Jail emergency generator project right away in order to get a better idea of cost; he would also look into the Main Jail elevator battery back-up power project.

Commissioner Linde thanked Brian for adding the Juvenile Justice security control panel to his list, as previously discussed. Craig also asked Brian to add a column to his plan detailing which projects would utilize what funding stream, so that Commissioner approval for funding can be easily documented. Craig noted that, per conversations with Jennifer Richter in the Auditor's Office, projected REET funding this year might drop by 25-33%, due to higher interest rates cooling down the housing market. This may limit what capital projects Facilities is able to accomplish. However, the County is carrying over \$750,000-\$1,000,000 in REET fund reserves from 2022 that could help offset this decrease.

4. AGENDA ITEM REVIEW (15 Minutes)

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

The Commissioners had no changes for the January 24, 2023, Agenda.

Matt Pietrusiewicz was present to answer any questions about Agreement 15-2023, regarding the Toppenish to White Swan railroad line lease with Yakima Rail LLC (formerly Columbia Rail). He noted that the company's name has changed a number of times over the years. He explained that the company wanted an updated 10-year lease so that they could recoup their investment from a new business agreement with Shinn & Sons. They were the only company that applied for the lease, so the County is not making as much on the railroad line as it did back when there was more competition; however, the County is still able to put money away in reserves, and Commissioner Curtis pointed out that Yakima Rail takes on the liability and upkeep of the rail line, which also benefits the County.

5. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

The Commissioners reviewed a list of four questions to be used for the upcoming Yakima Valley Regional Library Board candidate interviews. The questions included:

1. Why have you decided to seek this position?
2. What do you see as the greatest concerns or challenges to our library system?
3. Do you feel that libraries are a place for pornographic or offensive materials?
4. What changes do you think, or hope, will occur in our libraries in the next 5-10 years?

They opted to add a 5th question: "Is there anything else you would like to share?" to allow candidates to add any other pertinent information about themselves. They also discussed potentially changing the verbiage of Question #3 if they could think of better phrasing before the interviews. Julie Lawrence stated that the interviews had been scheduled for Monday at 9:00 a.m. during the regular Work Session, and that the candidates would be appearing in person.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Curtis asked if the Board had anything planned for Judge Elofson's final day, such as a certificate or award. Commissioner Linde stated he didn't think the Board had done anything special for other retiring judges in the past, but that it could be a nice gesture, since the Board has presented longevity certificates to other staff members. Julie Lawrence was directed to reach out to Superior Court to check Judge Elofson's availability. Commissioner Curtis suggested the January 31st Agenda would potentially be a good date for this.

7. ADJOURN

Commissioner Curtis MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner Linde SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 9:34 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

JAN 31 2023

DATE/Minutes



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

LaDon Linde

LaDon Linde, Chair

Amanda McKinney

Amanda McKinney, Commissioner

Kyle Curtis

Kyle Curtis, Commissioner

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

