



**BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Meeting

Work Session

Monday, January 30, 2023, at 9:00 am

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

1/30/2023 - 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, Cheri Kilty (YWCA Yakima Executive Director), Isabel Garcia, Addy Logsdon, Human Services Director Esther Magasis, Facilities Director Brian Griff, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment Received.

3. UPDATE FROM YWCA YAKIMA

Cheri Kilty, YWCA Yakima Executive Director, provided an update on the project to renovate the old St. Elizabeth Nursing Building to add additional domestic violence emergency shelter space. Isabel Garcia (Senior Housing Developer, Office of Rural Farmworker Housing) and Addy Logsdon (campaign consultant) were also present for questions. The building will offer 54 units with a total of 117 beds. The first floor has space for a dedicated men's suite, client services, administration, maintenance, and an addition with a lobby and ramp. The second and third floors will contain shelter rooms, client services, administration, and maintenance spaces. There is also an attic with space for mechanical. Cheri briefly discussed the scope of work, estimated cost, solicited sources, preliminary cost construction budget, proposed use of ARPA funds (if awarded), and project timeline.

Commissioner Linde asked if any of the work could be done in phases, or if the project requires full funding. Cheri answered that they are committed to the project no matter what, even if it means slowing the pace or working in phases. Commissioner Curtis asked whether or not the Hogback Steam Plant could still be utilized for heat. Cheri responded that not all of the rooms in the building still have their radiators, unfortunately; there is also no method of cooling the building currently. Their architects stated that a brand new HVAC system was the best option. In response to Commissioner Curtis' question about Lower Valley residents, Cheri stated that 40-50% of YWCA's clients are from the Lower Valley, and they will sometimes even pick clients up and transport them to the shelter if needed. They haven't had enough space for all the families in need over the last few years; this shelter will help with that. It is also the first domestic violence shelter in our region that accepts male clients, too.

4. HUMAN SERVICES

Esther Magasis presented a request to move the Human Services Department out of the County Courthouse and into to the 1st Street Building. With Dave Brown retiring from the veteran's program, she noted that she wouldn't want the remaining employee to feel isolated in that space, and feels that sharing the space would be good for team building. She also acknowledged that space in the Courthouse is currently at a premium, and moving out would allow more space for other County departments and programs in the building.

Commissioner McKinney felt these were all good points; however, she stated that she will not be ready to make a decision until the Commissioners figure out what departments may be moving in to the YCCC building if it is remodeled. Commissioner Curtis observed that if Human Services were to take up additional space in the 1st Street Building, this would take away one of the County's only available spaces for after-hours meetings. In

response to Commissioner Linde's question, Esther stated that she does not anticipate having space leftover, although there may be a small conference room area.

Commissioner Curtis asked Brian Griff when the Board would have an update on the YCCC building. Brian stated that HOK will likely set up a meeting with the Board in about 60 days or so. Brian, Esther, and Commissioner McKinney discussed which departments might be moving into the YCCC building, depending on available space. Commissioner Curtis also asked Esther about the cost of remodeling the 1st Street Building to accommodate her staff. She stated that Human Services has some leftover grant money available until the end of June, and as the department had been understaffed for awhile, they also have some available funds in their budget.

Esther went on to answer the Board's questions about one of Human Services' agreements on the upcoming January 31, 2023, Agenda. Agreement 21-2023 would reduce the Washington State Department of Commerce Emergency Solutions Grant – COVID 19 – by \$2.408 million. Esther noted that the County had fully funded every single eligible project that had applied, for a total of about \$1.929 million – not even the full amount available from the grant. Furthermore, the subgrantees haven't even fully spent all of the funds they were awarded, and Esther does not believe they will be fully spent by the deadline at the end of September. Thus, the funds need to be returned to the State to be spent elsewhere as needed.

Esther and Commissioner McKinney explained that the lower-than-anticipated spending could be in part due the strict regulations of federal grant money, making it more difficult to report and spend. The grant is also specific to COVID-19, and subgrantees have to be able to tie their spending to that purpose in some way. In response to Commissioner Curtis' question, Esther stated that Human Services could reopen the RFP and hope that additional organizations might apply with eligible projects, but that process would take several months, and potentially run too close to the deadline before funds could even be spent. It's also unlikely that the County would see many applicants, since so little funding was applied for originally. Commissioner Curtis stated that if there is a need in the community, it would be nice to utilize as much of the funding as possible, but if that isn't feasible, he is willing to return them. Commissioner Linde and Commissioner McKinney commented on the exponential influx of funds for Human Services over the past few years, and how it would be incredibly difficult to spend all of it – particularly the grant funding that comes with stricter guidelines. Esther agreed that returning money from a specific grant isn't always indicative of a lack of need in the community – sometimes it can simply be indicative of the usefulness of that particular grant.

#### 5. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

The Commissioners gave updates on individual committee/board assignments for the week of January 23, 2023-January 27, 2023.

#### 6. NEW BUSINESS

Julie Lawrence asked if the Board had a Commissioner in mind to appoint to the Yakima Greenway Board in an ex-officio capacity. Commissioner McKinney stated that she would be interested because of its connection to the East-West Corridor project. Commissioner Curtis concurred with Commissioner McKinney's reasoning. Commissioner Linde stated that he was not interested in the position for himself.

Commissioner Curtis MOTION: To Appoint Commissioner McKinney to the Yakima Greenway Board

Commissioner Linde SECOND

Motion Passes.

Julie also asked if the Board had a Commissioner in mind to appoint to the EMS Board. She noted that this board goes hand in hand with the OEM Board, to which Commissioner Curtis was appointed.

Commissioner McKinney MOTION: To Appoint Commissioner Curtis to the EMS Board

Commissioner Linde SECOND

Motion Passes.

Don Anderson noted for Commissioner Curtis that while many of the people involved in these boards are the same, the County funds EMS, and does not fund OEM.

7. ADJOURN

Commissioner Curtis MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 10:21 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

FEB 14 2023



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*LaDon Linde*

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LaDon Linde, Chair

Excused

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Amanda McKinney, Commissioner

*Kyle Curtis*

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Kyle Curtis, Commissioner

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