



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting
Work Session

Friday, July 29, 2022, at 9:00 am

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

7/29/2022 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT: Commissioner LaDon Linde, Commissioner Ron Anderson, Legal Counsel Don Anderson, Clerk of the Board Julie Lawrence, Deputy Clerk of the Board Erin Franklin, Erica McNamara (SunComm), Financial Services Director Craig Warner, Human Resources Director Jacqui Lindsay, Public Services Director Lisa Freund, Water Resources Manager Joel Freudenthal, Solid Waste Manager Karma Suchan, Facilities Director Brian Griff, Facilities Manager Keely Rice, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

3. 911 PHONE SYSTEM UPGRADE DISCUSSION (30 Minutes)

Erica McNamara reviewed the request she presented to the Board at a previous work session, regarding updating the main system at SunComm as well as the backup center. They currently run on two different systems, and the idea is to unite the two and update hardware and software. The Board had previously requested that Erica reach out to her vendor to get the cost difference between three-year and five-year contracts. She noted that Craig Warner had shared concerns about depleting the reserve balance.

In response to Commissioner Linde's question, Erica explained that currently, in order to use the backup center, they have to transfer from the main 911 lines (which have vital automatic number and location information) to the regular 10-digit backup lines (which do not provide ANI/ALI data). She added that the backup center is not used often – roughly twice in the last year – but that it would also be made available to other agencies if needed, such as the Sheriff's Office. Updating the system would allow for greater redundancy in emergencies and allow for better communication between departments/agencies.

Craig explained his budgetary concerns in greater detail. He and Erica discussed the possibility of financing the project, requesting ARPA funding (the deadline for the first round of requests has already passed), or prioritizing upgrades from the primary center and putting the backup center on hold. Erica said she would reach out to the vendor about the cost of updating the two centers separately, with a one-year contract; she noted that this may take some time. Along with Commissioner Linde, they discussed how different aspects of their budget are funded by the County or by the City of Yakima. Both Commissioner Linde and Commissioner Anderson expressed that they would like to continue to review the information as it comes in, to ensure they make the best decision for the future.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE (15 Minutes)

Jacqui Lindsay reported that Human Resources did not have any new items to discuss.

5. PUBLIC SERVICES (30 Minutes)

1. Correction Conservation Easement Document Discussion Update: Joel Freudenthal explained that this item was added because of concerns that certain language (including an incorrect parcel number) needed to be corrected in an easement for the Gap to Gap program, and the changes would need the commissioners' signatures today in order to meet the deadline. However, Don Anderson and Joel worked diligently this week to contact the appropriate parties and their legal counsel to resolve the issue through normal channels before Friday's work session. The commissioners thank Don and Joel for their dedication in promptly resolving this matter.

2. Closure of the Lower Valley Transfer Station: Lisa Freund summarized the discussion surrounding the Lower Valley Transfer Station closure thus far. Commissioners McKinney and Anderson had voted to close the transfer station, effective December 31, 2022. Commissioner Linde had stated that he wanted to review additional options before voting. He reached out to Grandview, Sunnyside, Granger, Mabton, and Zillah for feedback, and received additional information and input from Public Services. He has now agreed to the closure at the end of the year, citing the dysfunctional scale at the site (which would cost \$1-2 million to replace) and the general lack of economic viability (the transfer station is costing the county nearly \$500,000 per year). Karma Suchan confirmed these statistics and added that the transfer station run by Yakima Waste System near Granger would be reopening to the public soon (it had been closed due to lack of staffing during the COVID pandemic). Commissioner Linde recommended a letter be sent out to the local municipalities from Public Services to inform them of the decision to close the LVTS, and that the transfer station near Granger will provide an alternative option in the near future (besides the Cheyne Road Landfill).

6. AGENDA ITEM REVIEW (30 Minutes)

Julie Lawrence reviewed for the Board all Agenda items submitted for Tuesday's Regular Agenda Meeting, and also gave a preview of the following week's Agenda items.

Commissioner Linde asked Don Anderson about any changes to the total reimbursement amount for Blake cases outlined in Agreement 233-2022, and Don responded that the amendment was just a change in format.

Brian Griff and Keely Rice confirmed for Commissioner Linde that Facilities' generator contract in Agreement 235-2022 was generally consistent with previous years' contracts.

Commissioner Anderson asked if Agreement 237-2022 from the Sheriff's Office is a renewal of a previous contract with Kittitas County; Julie stated that she believes it is.

Commissioner Linde asked about the fiscal impact for Resolution 204-2022 from Human Resources; Jacqui Lindsay replied that she would need to review the paperwork again before providing an answer.

7. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

The commissioners agreed to save updates on individual committee/board assignments until Monday's work session, when Commissioner McKinney could be present.

8. NEW BUSINESS

The commissioners had no new business to discuss.

9. ADJOURN

Commissioner Anderson MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner Linde SECOND

(Commissioner McKinney ABSENT.)

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 9:43 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

DRAFT