



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Work Session

Monday, September 26, 2022, at 9:00 am

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

9/26/2022 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT: Chair Amanda McKinney, Commissioner LaDon Linde, Commissioner Ron Anderson, Legal Counsel Don Anderson, Legal Counsel Stefanie Weigand, Clerk of the Board Julie Lawrence, Deputy Clerk of the Board Erin Franklin, Josh Weiss (Gordon Thomas Honeywell), Annika Vaughn (Gordon Thomas Honeywell), County Engineer Matt Pietrusiewicz, Facilities Director Brian Griff, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

3. 2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA DISCUSSION (60 Minutes)

Josh Weiss and Annika Vaughn from Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs presented a list of legislative priorities to the Board for their review and discussion. The three main categories were public safety (both statewide and county), water supply, and transportation. The items on the list had been generated from discussion with the commissioners at previous meetings.

Josh indicated that it will be important to be vocal and specific about public safety needs, including anecdotal situations like the juvenile shooting incident in Sunnyside this May. Commissioners Linde and McKinney voiced a strong desire to find better solutions for juvenile issues, as gangs are now purposefully utilizing their youngest members to commit crimes, knowing they will receive much lighter sentencing. There must be both meaningful consequences and meaningful support for those involved, to ensure they don't continue in the same lifestyle.

Commissioner Anderson suggested that if no other counties are putting an emphasis on this issue, then Yakima County may need to take the lead. Josh noted that it will be important to be as solution-focused as possible.

The commissioners also discussed the need for funding for design and preconstruction of a new jail facility.

Commissioners McKinney and Anderson noted that a new facility would be far more compliant with the State's energy standards, and a better layout would allow for more efficient organization of staff and lower liability due to flow of inmates. Commissioner McKinney remarked on the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic has had on so many public safety concerns: law enforcement staffing, EMS, mental health, etc., and suggested that might be another avenue through which to request funding. She and Commissioner Anderson remarked that a comprehensive public safety facility would be incredibly helpful, and referenced the ongoing discussion about remodeling the YCCC building for such a purpose. Josh agreed that having a building and a plan already in mind would very likely aid in securing funding.

In terms of water supply, Josh suggested including the water storage feasibility study as part of the section on YBIP. He also suggested adding another section requesting resources for the County's water bank.

Commissioner McKinney asked about exploring whether or not there is more funding available; Josh suggested waiting on making any specific requests until the budgets are made available. She also brought up the loss of Wymer for water storage, and the need to look for other smaller options for storage, in an effort to support the Office of the Columbia River Basin.

As for transportation, Josh explained the "fund swap" concept, where counties and cities could utilize funding through the state in order to avoid having to meet all the requirements of federal funds (e.g. matching funds). The

commissioners voiced support for this concept. Both Josh and the Board agreed that continuing to push for the extension of the .09 Economic Development Funds is less of a priority, as the funding will not run out until 2034.

Josh and Annika confirmed that they will reach out to the delegation for their input on this priority list. After the election, Annika will work with Julie Lawrence to get final Board approval and send the completed list to the delegation.

4. CITY OF YAKIMA PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS (15 Minutes)

Matt Pietrusiewicz explained that the City of Yakima has been making improvements to North 1st Street over the past several years, will now be continuing up to Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., and because they are using federal funds, they are required to have a certified agency administer those funds. It is common for the City to approach the County for this, but due to staffing issues, County Roads has hired a firm called Common Street to handle the right-of-way acquisition on behalf of the City. The County owns several parcels on that stretch of road, so construction easements will be necessary, as well as some changes to the configuration of and entrances to the County's parking lot. Thus, based on an independent appraiser's assessment, Matt is recommending the City pay the County \$60,000 in compensation to offset these costs. The Board agreed with the assessment, and decided to put that money towards necessary parking lot improvements, with any leftovers going into the general fund. Matt confirmed that he would also talk with ER&R about securing additional funding from them as well.

5. CLOSED SESSION

The Board met in Closed Session at 9:59 for an 11-minute step 3 grievance meeting as allowed by RCW 42.30.140(4)(a). The Board returned at 10:10, and no further action was taken.

6. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

The Commissioners gave updates on individual committee/board assignments for the week of September 19, 2022-September 23, 2022.

Commissioner Anderson asked that Commissioners McKinney and Linde, who both serve on WSAC committees, begin reporting on what is happening at the state level with WSAC and how it affects Yakima County, for public benefit.

Commissioner McKinney shared about her visit (along with other interested parties) to Washington D.C., meeting with congressional delegates from Washington State regarding the upcoming farm bill for the 2023 legislative session. Commissioner McKinney was able to meet with every representative except for Senator Patty Murray.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner McKinney asked about an update on the agreement with Clifton Larson Allen for their expertise in reviewing ARPA applications for eligibility and feasibility. Julie Lawrence explained that Craig Warner was not present at today's work session because he was currently on another meeting with CLA; however, he would give a report during New Business at Tuesday's Regular Agenda Meeting. The commissioners discussed the amount of funding that would be available for various projects, considering what has already been set aside for lost revenue and the crime lab, and anticipating the amount of match funding that would need to be set aside for broadband.

The Board decided that Ron Anderson would be the commissioner to attend the upcoming South Fork Tieton event on Friday, September 30th, as he is the YBIP representative.

8. ADJOURN

Commissioner Anderson MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner Linde SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

APPROVED DATE

OCT 04 2022

DATE/Minutes



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Amanda McKinney

Amanda McKinney, Chair

LaDon Linde

LaDon Linde, Commissioner

Ron Anderson

Ron Anderson, Commissioner

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

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