

# BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## Weekly Agenda Meeting

Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 10:00 AM

City Council Chambers, 129 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Yakima, Washington

- **PRESENT:** Commissioners Michael D. Leita, Norm Childress, Ron Anderson, Legal Counsel Don Anderson, Clerk of the Board Melissa Paul.
- **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.
- **RECOGNITION:** Recognition of Susan Remer; *Craig Warner, Financial Services Director, presenting:*  
**Craig Warner:** Good morning Commissioners, Craig Warner Financial Services Director and I need Susan Remer to come up here and stand next to me one last time. Sue is retiring this coming Friday on May 31<sup>st</sup> and I just wanted to go back through and tell you a little bit about Sue. I've known and worked with Sue for gosh, 30 years, Sue was actually the regional state auditor that did our audits for us, the City of Yakima, Central Washington University, et cetera. When I first got to know her, we were going through a big change in the way governmental accounting worked with Gadsby 34 and Sue was the guru and I say guru because Sue was not only the person that helped me understand a lot of it. (because at that point the Auditor's office could still do that), but she was also the person that was selected by the State Auditor himself to actually train all of the auditors in the State of Washington to be able to understand how to implement Gadsby 34 and you did a lot of training across the state.

**Susan Remer:** Most of it at Yakima County.

**Craig Warner:** Thank you, we are slow learners. Sue basically then was we were able to at one point a little over eight years ago we were able to bring her into the county to work with us and she has taken on some very large projects for the county as a whole. When the airport was jointly owned by the county and the city there were some concerns there and Sue went in and completely went through the process of figuring out where they were financially, which was not a good position, and ultimately got it to the point where it was transitioned over to the City of Yakima. She's also gone through and reviewed the Central Washington Fair books for the county. She has also worked with the Health District for quite a number of years now – 3 or 4 years, where they were going through a staff change Sue basically took things over and got them in order and they were able to come in and back fill staff. Her last big project she's been working on now for 4 plus years...

**Susan Remer:** About three and a half years.

**Craig Warner:** Sue has been working with the Clerk's office in the Superior Court, their transition to their new system and the issues related to some internal control issues they had. Sue has gone through and hopefully next Tuesday we have a resolution where we can hopefully put most of that to bed in terms of the balance of reconciling the bank account to those records. Sue is the instrumental part behind all of those projects I mentioned. She's a great friend. She has taught me more in the last 20 years than anybody I could mention and it's going to be hard to say goodbye. I'm hoping that she'll come back in and we can continue some high-level discussions we have at lunchtime-it's called "cribbage" and no the rumor that she's losing so much and that's why she has to retire is because she can't afford any more losing streaks on cribbage is not true. Even though Forrest wins all the time, it isn't because Sue lost she didn't have any more money to pay out the lunches. Anyway, Sue from the bottom of my heart I want to thank you, you've done so much for me in my career and the county as a whole and I want to say this honestly: I appreciate you letting me think I was in charge these last eight years when everyone knows who was.

**Susan Remer:** Any time. I have really enjoyed it. Thank you for all the opportunities, you have definitely made it interesting, not just Craig, the commissioners too. So, thank you it's going to be hard to leave. Its going to be sad but I have somebody at home who expects me to be there more often. So, I will still see you on occasion.

**Mike Leita:** Sue don't go away, I think we want to say a few words before I give you this award and our thanks.

**Norm Childress:** I'll start. Sue, I'm the most junior of the commissioners and I've worked with you for about five months and most of what I know of you is mostly from conversations with other people, but its always in the highest regards of your professionalism and your knowledge base and how you get things done. From a personal standpoint



I'll tell you the company morale in our office is helped by you. You're a card! You always smile and I was greeted my first day of work here as a commissioner, my while board, you drew a picture and a happy face and welcomed me and there's always the little surprise around and I appreciate that – your smile and your kind words and that goes a long way and I appreciate that in the time that I've known you, so thank you. Thank you very much.

**Susan Remer:** Thank you Norm.

**Ron Anderson:** Sue I want to add to that too. I've known, I've worked here with you for about two and a half years now and from day one I think we became really good friends and I'm going to miss you. But you still have the opportunity to buy a sewing machine...

**Susan Remer:** Laughs

**Ron Anderson:** So, then you can't retire! But I echo what Craig said about you personally and about your professionalism and you're well regarded throughout the community of the county and all the areas both personally and professionally, so thank you very much.

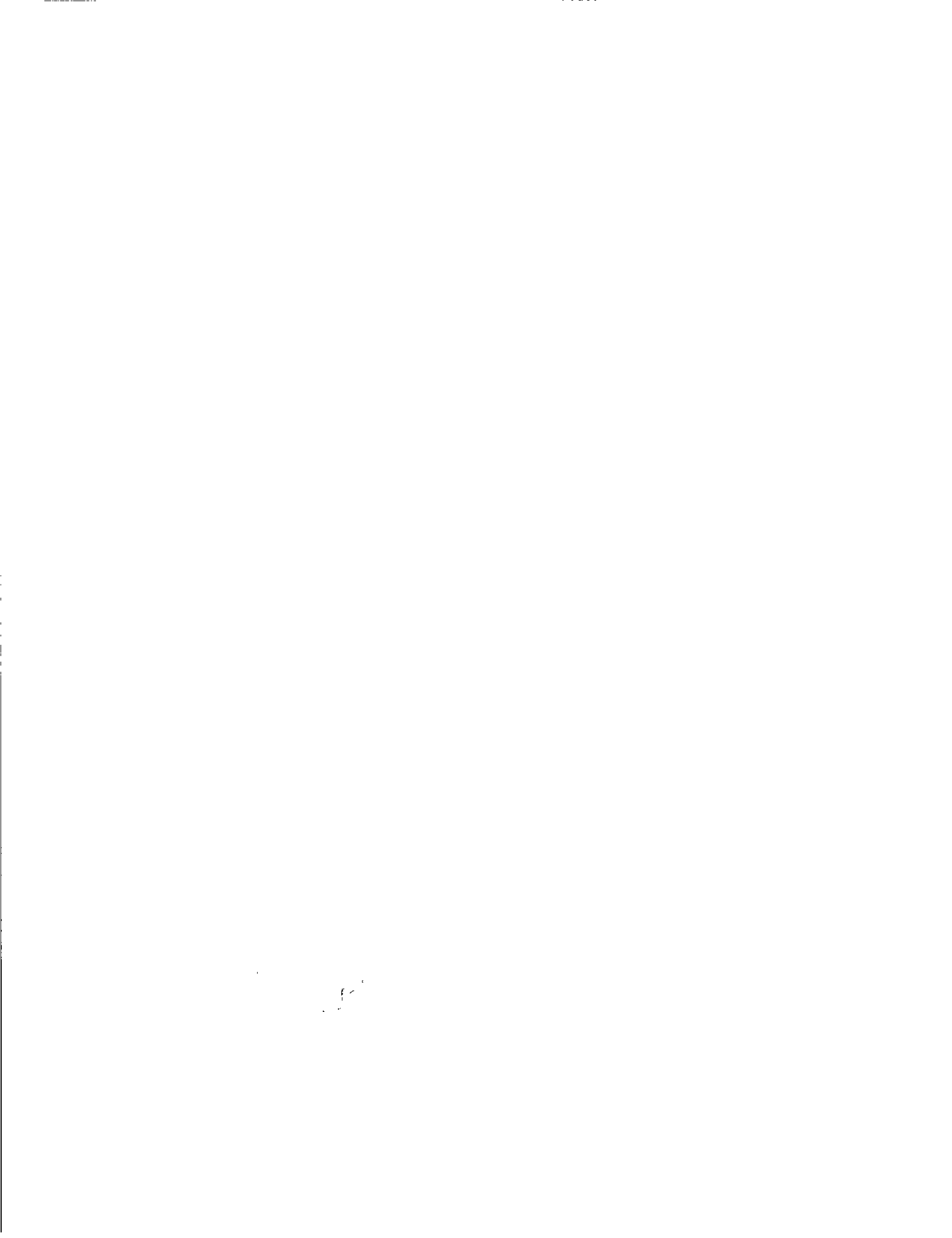
**Susan Remer:** Well thank you!

**Mike Leita:** Well Sue, it's been a pleasure, as the other Commissioners have said, to have worked with you and to have had those light moments and it's always healthy to laugh and to keep things in perspective. But there is no more important perspective in county government than watching over the taxpayer's money. And making sure that those funds are being appropriately allocated and allocated with the utmost integrity for the purposes for those monies have been entrusted to the county for. You exemplify impeccable expertise in that you – its always imperative that the commissioners know where we stand financially, not just in general terms, but to the penny, and you've been able to do that. You were charged with a very difficult situation where one of our offices was in complete disarray and you were asked to take that task on and ferret through many trials and tribulations to reconcile those longstanding abnormalities that existed financially within that department and through your expertise, through your insight, through your professionalism we now can say here next week, as Craig said, that we have brought that period of financial darkness in our county to closure. Its always an ongoing effort and you will be missed for protecting our interests on behalf of the taxpayers. You know I think it was just before you came that the commissioners about that time, about 10 years ago, the commissioners decided to form a financial services department that had a special position inside the Board of County Commissioners to give the commissioners absolute certainty where we stood on these issues. Craig mentioned some of those issues, and we can not just accept okay when it comes to financial issues, we can only accept perfection and it has to balance to the penny, if you will. And so, I know you have a lot of your cohorts here, the Auditor is here, and our public services financial director and people that you've interreacted with and I think we are all here today to say thank you, So Sue thank you and come forward and receive this plaque.

**Susan Remer:** Thank you.

• **CONSENT ITEMS:** Approved as Presented.

FUNDING LEVEL: A=No Impact B=Under \$100,000 C=\$100,000-\$500,000 D=Over \$500,000				
DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DESCRIPTION	FUNDING LEVEL	ACTION
Auditor Charles Ross, Auditor	RESO 169-2019	Changes to Auditing Officers for Specific Funds:	B	APPROVED
Commissioners Michael D. Leita, Chairman	Voucher/Warrant	Certification of Claims Clearing Warrant No. 665854 through 666405 in the net amount of (596,995.36):	A	APPROVED
	Minutes	Approve Agenda Minutes of 5/21/19:	A	APPROVED
Department of Corrections Ed Campbell, Director	BOCC 136-2019	Interlocal Agreement for Inmate Housing Between The City of Federal Way and Yakima County in YCDOCC Facilities:	B	APPROVED



FUNDING LEVEL: A=No Impact B=Under \$100,000 C=\$100,000- \$500,000 D= Over \$500,000

DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DESCRIPTION	FUNDING LEVEL	ACTION
Human Resources Jacqui Lindsay, Director	RESO 170-2019	Adopting Revision to Policy HR-003, Yakima County Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy:	B	APPROVED
Public Services Lisa Freund, Director	RESO 171-2019	In the Matter of Setting a Date for a Public Hearing on the Terrace Heights Water System Plan and Proposed Water Use Efficiency Goals:	A	APPROVED
	RESO 172-2019	In the Matter of Accepting as Complete Contract for FC3681-Y9 and G2G Riparian Planting Project:	A	APPROVED
	BOCC 137-2019	Execute Public Works Contract Between Yakima County and Safeguard Abatement LLC for the Lead Hazard Control Program, Project; LD16-042a3, for Hector & Gloria Mendez:	B	APPROVED
	BOCC 138-2019	Execute Public Works Contract Between Yakima County and Safeguard Abatement LLC for the Lead Hazard Control Program, Project; LD16-049, for Roberto & Martha Rocha:	B	APPROVED
	Agreement BOCC 134-2019	Execute Amendment No. 2 for the Homeowners' Agreement with Barbara Williams, Property Owner, for the HOME Rehabilitation Loan Program, Project No. HM 14-0029:	B	APPROVED

• **REGULAR AGENDA:** Approved as Presented.

FUNDING LEVEL: A=No Impact B=Under \$100,000 C=\$100,000- \$500,000 D= Over \$500,000

DEPARTMENT	ITEM	DESCRIPTION	FUNDING LEVEL	ACTION
Human Resources Jacqui Lindsay, Director	BOCC 139-2019	2018-2021 Agreement By and Between Yakima County and Yakima County Law Enforcement Officers Guild, Uniformed Deputy Sheriffs. <i>Judy Kendall, Presenting</i>	B	APPROVED

Approved this 4<sup>th</sup> day of June 2019



Michael D. Leita, Chairman  
Excused

Norm Childress, Commissioner



Ron Anderson, Commissioner




Melissa Paul, Clerk of the Board

