



**BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Meeting

Work Session

Monday, March 27, 2023, at 9:00 am

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

3/27/2023 - 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, County Engineer Matt Pietrusiewicz, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment Received.

3. COUNTY ROADS (30 Minutes)

Terrace Heights Drive Widening Project: Matt Pietrusiewicz described a section of Terrace Heights Drive between 31st and 41st that is only four lanes; the County would like to expand this section to five lanes to match the rest of the road. They reached an impasse with a property owner, and a judge ruled in favor of the County's public use necessity/eminent domain last week, but the property owner is appealing the decision. If the judge's decision is upheld, then the court must decide on the price for the land, and this process may affect the timeline for starting the project. In response to Commissioner Curtis' question, Matt confirmed that use of the funding for this project is not time-sensitive. The Commissioners thanked Matt for this update.

Intersection Safety Project: Matt went on to explain how he had been approached by the Yakama Nation Engineering about improving safety at certain intersections on the Reservation. They stated that they would work to secure grant funds for flashing stop signs if the County would then procure, install, and maintain the equipment. Ten intersections were identified and agreed upon back in February 2021, and over \$500,000 in funding has since been secured. Matt explained how safety measures like these flashing signs have been shown to help in the past. (Commissioner Linde also brought up the use of roundabouts in recent times.) If the County can procure the necessary materials without supply chain issues, the project can be completed sometime this spring. The Commissioners expressed their excitement for this project.

Engineering: Finally, Matt asked the Board to reconsider the decision made to reclassify three Right-of-Way employees (formerly "Engineering Technicians") as Program Representatives instead of including them in the Engineering pay plan, considering the fact that they help facilitate engineering projects. The reasoning stated for this decision was that these employees didn't perform these duties for a long enough percentage of time to classify under the Engineering pay plan. Commissioner Linde noted that these employees are also not engineers, despite falling under the engineering "family". After checking with Don Anderson to make sure that these discussions could occur openly and not in a Closed or Executive Session, the Board asked Matt to reach out to Human Resources to get copies of the updated Position Description Questionnaire (PDQ) for Program Representatives. They confirmed that they would schedule time at another Work Session to discuss this matter further with Matt, as well as Human Resources Director Jacqui Lindsay.

4. LOWER VALLEY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT DISCUSSION

The Commissioners continued their discussion of whether to allow this item to be placed on the August ballot, how many board members would be on the hospital district board, whether the board members would be elected by district or at-large, and what the final district boundaries would be. The Commissioners concurred that they were interested in a five-member, at-large board. After discussing factors such as distance and logistics affecting

residents' selection of a hospital, the Commissioners directed Don Anderson to reach out to the Auditor's Office with an updated recommendation of removing voting precincts 3503, 4003, 4109, 4303, 3105, 3601, 4002, 901, and 900 from the proposed hospital district boundaries, in an effort to get a revised map ready in time for Tuesday's Regular Agenda Meeting. Don also confirmed that he would be the one to write the ballot description and pamphlet summary; members of the public interested in writing "for"/"against" statements can reach out to the Auditor's Office. The Commissioners expressed their hope to wrap up discussion and make a decision at Tuesday's Regular Agenda Meeting.

5. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

In lieu of regular Commissioner Updates, Commissioner Curtis asked Commissioner Linde for his thoughts on the Fentanyl Epidemic Town hall that took place at Pacific Northwest University on March 23rd. Commissioner Linde provided a brief overview of the different speakers and topics discussed, including medication-assisted treatment programs in correctional facilities, and recent and future opioid case settlements, both of which are issues the Board will be discussing this year.

Commissioner Curtis also noted that, after relevant committee meetings, he would be speaking with the Board soon about making updates to the County's website.

6. NEW BUSINESS

No New Business.

7. ADJOURN

Commissioner Curtis MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner Linde SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 9:56 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

APR 04 2023



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*