



**BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Meeting

Work Session

Monday, May 2, 2022, at 9:00 am

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

5/2/2022 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chair Amanda McKinney, Commissioner LaDon Linde, Commissioner Ron Anderson, Legal Counsel Don Anderson, Clerk of the Board Julie Lawrence, Deputy Clerk of the Board Erin Franklin, Facilities Director Brian Griff, Financial Services Director Craig Warner, Public Services Director Lisa Freund, Human Services Director Esther Magasis, Technology Services Director Dale Panattoni, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

3. FACILITIES SERVICES (45 Minutes)

1. Historic Courthouse Grant Program: Bryan Griff presented the Board with a list of possible courthouse improvement projects that might be covered by this grant between 2023-2025, including upgrading the exterior windows in the 1940's section of the courthouse; replacing 50-60 original pneumatic mixing boxes around the courthouse that make thumping noises in the walls as they heat and cool the building (these would cost about \$1 million to replace simultaneously, or \$23,000 per box if replaced individually as needed); replacing the two boilers that heat the building (there are 2 for redundancy from the early 2000's that are functional but leaking); or replacing the 5 air handler rebuilds (which still have mostly original parts and not redundant). The Board directed Brian to get more information about the grant from Chris Moore to give them a better idea of which project(s) might be accepted, and if project funding could be matched.

Brian confirmed that the application isn't due until July 24, 2022, so there is time to gather more information. Commissioner McKinney noted that replacing the courthouse windows would be both cosmetic (preferred by the grant program) and practical (preferred by the Board). Commissioners Linde and Anderson concurred that replacing the windows would help with energy efficiency, potentially put less stress on the boilers, and make the courthouse more compliant with code.

2. Commissioners' Office Remodel/Security: As directed at a previous Work Session, Brian presented additional ideas to provide greater security in the Commissioners' Office, including installing a walled customer service vestibule with DSX badge access and "buzzer" entry (about \$9,800), and installing a 2-way keyed lock on the door between the Commissioners' Office and Financial Services. In the interest of providing additional security for Financial Services to address Craig Warner's concerns, Brian proposed installing DSX badging and a doorbell in Financial Services, or installing a walled customer service vestibule like the one proposed in the Commissioners' Office (for roughly the same price). He also addressed Craig's request for greater privacy and quiet for two Financial Services employees, pricing out walls, windows, and doors for two offices that would cost \$7,000 per office. After discussing the concept of a shared entrance/vestibule area between the Commissioners' Office and Financial Services, the Board decided to pursue two separate vestibules for security on both sides, and Brian and Craig were directed to discuss a separate proposal for office walls in Financial Services at a later time.

4. PUBLIC SERVICES (60 Minutes)

Lisa Freund discussed Spokane's approach to limit access along the Spokane River, and the possibility of fencing off areas around the Yakima River to allow for revegetation. She stated that per her discussions with Prosecuting Attorney Joseph Brusic, the County would need to offer due process to any homeless people illegally camping



along the river. There is already an ordinance in place about illegal camping along public property, but accompanying policies need to be drafted. Don Anderson added that he has reviewed similar policies drafted by Tacoma and Seattle, and that Spokane's is simpler and more straightforward. He stated that the County would need to detail the process of cleaning up illegal campsites, removing obstructions, storing belongings/materials, tracking ownership of items, defining what items are safe and/or sanitary to keep, etc. The Commissioners expressed a desire to refrain from storing stolen items like shopping carts, and Lisa asked about items that are broken and no longer functional. Esther Magasis confirmed that most personal items can be brought to homeless shelters, and clarified that the mental health sales tax can not be used to fund storage of personal items. The Board directed Don to start drafting policies even though the Spokane project has been delayed.

Commissioner McKinney also asked whether or not the County is required to provide motel vouchers or simply direct people to shelters, to which Esther responded that they simply have to offer people some place to go. She added that this is a topic of discussion at the upcoming Homelessness Coalition Meeting, and informed the Board that motel vouchers are only used on a very limited basis for those who aren't fit for a shelter, such as a pregnant woman during COVID, or other people during extreme winter weather. Commissioners McKinney and Linde expressed concern over police reports regarding evidence of criminal activity that occurs during these motel stays, where there is no oversight or enforcement of cleanliness, sobriety, or lawful behavior.

## 5. TECHNOLOGY SERVICES UPDATE (60 Minutes)

1. Staffing Updates: Dale Panattoni thanked the Board for offering a recruitment enhancement that he felt led to two new hires in TS. He added that the department is still looking to fill an IT Manager position and a Senior Engineer/Administrator position. Dale also informed the Board that policies regarding telecommuting have been significantly reigned in now that COVID restrictions have lessened. He shared that while so many team members worked from home, there was a lack of customer support at critical times, and team-building was adversely affected. With most everyone back in person now, he's already seen evidence of better communication and unity.

2. Project Updates: Dale discussed the continued staff preparation that needs to occur for the anticipated Wi-Fi upgrade in the Courthouse. He shared that the County's Cyber Security requires use of Multi Factor Identification for policy renewal in the fall. This will be deployed this summer for any remote access, but requires a Microsoft feature that will cost \$125,000 not currently budgeted, so Dale will look into shuffling the budget and projects around to absorb the cost. Dale also asked the Board for any suggestions on communicating the need for updating Microsoft's required monthly security patches to staff. Commissioner McKinney suggested adding the directive to staff into the subject line of the monthly email. Looking to the future, Dale shared that he is working on budget season, reviewing and revising ILA's, and reviewing and revising IT policies with Human Resources. He also expressed a desire to resurrect the Information Technology Committee, which had been formed by a resolution, used to be chaired by a commissioner, and met monthly to provide an avenue for communication and input. The Board directed Dale to send the original resolution to Julie to be discussed further at a future meeting.

## 6. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

Commissioners gave updates on individual committee/board assignments for the week of April 25, 2022-April 29, 2022.

Commissioner Linde mentioned that Patricia Byers and Naila Duval had expressed some confusion at a recent Board of Health meeting about a particular clause in the Board of Health ordinance regarding expiring terms for elected officials. He suggested that the wording of this ordinance might be worth striking or changing in the future.

Julie Lawrence asked the Board how they want to address the County Roads Proclamation Request for 2022 National Public Works Week. The Board agreed unanimously to give an acknowledgement like they did last year, rather than a proclamation, and Commissioner Anderson suggested that Matt Pietrusiewicz could be invited to make a comment.

Julie also mentioned that Commissioners McKinney and Linde would be absent from the Work Session scheduled for Friday, May 13th, 2022. The Board agreed unanimously to cancel that meeting.

## 7. ADJOURN

Commissioner Anderson Motion: To Adjourn

Commissioner Linde SECOND

Motion passes to Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 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

MAY 1-0 2022



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Amanda McKinney*

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Amanda McKinney, Chair

*LaDon Linde*

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LaDon Linde, Commissioner

*Ron Anderson*

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Ron Anderson, Commissioner

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

5/17/2020