



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting
Work Session

Friday, June 3, 2022, at 9:00 am

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

6/3/2022 - 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, Clerk of the Board Julie Lawrence, Deputy Clerk of the Board Erin Franklin, Public Services Director Lisa Freund, Solid Waste Manager Karma Suchan, Planning Official Thomas Carroll, Human Resources Director Jacqui Lindsay, Human Services Director Esther Magasis, Financial Services Director Craig Warner, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

3. LOWER VALLEY TRANSFER STATION DISCUSSION (15 Min)

Karma Suchan presented a proposed draft letter from Public Services to the municipalities of Grandview, Mabton, and Sunnyside, addressing the concerns they voiced in response to the Board's previous decision to close the Lower Valley Transfer Station. Karma outlined how other landfills are within the cited 30-mile radius for rural areas, and noted that illegal dumping of garbage is happening even in areas that are just a few minutes away from landfills, so convenience and price aren't necessarily the main cause. She shared that, after pricing out waterline repairs for LVTS, it seemed apparent that the County would be "throwing good money after bad". The current suggestion is to keep LVTS open through the end of the year so that people and communities have ample time to prepare for alternate arrangements.

Lisa Freund suggested that garbage pickup could be mandated in these communities, and those that are concerned about equipment and personnel for expanded pickup could apply for ARPA funding to cover costs. Commissioner Linde shared that he went out to view the state of LVTS himself, and asked Karma for a cost breakdown for renovating the site. He added that community education about the reasonable cost of garbage pickup would be important, but also felt like he would like to see more planning take place and thus is not quite ready to close LVTS at this time. Commissioner Anderson asked for a price breakdown of what it would cost to build a few new transfer stations at different locations. Karma shared that one new transfer station would cost about \$6,000,000 total. Commissioner Anderson stated that he feels comfortable allowing time for preparation and then closing LVTS at the end of the year, especially considering the current loss in revenue (over \$400,000 annually). Commissioner McKinney agreed with Commissioner Anderson and highly encouraged Lower Valley municipalities to mandate garbage pickup.

Don Anderson asked about whether post-closure costs had been budgeted for, and Karma replied that there wouldn't be any for the transfer station itself. The closure funding for Snipes Landfill will likely run out in the next few years, which will need to be taken into consideration. She added for context that LVTS had 18,000 self-haul customers who brought in a total of 8,400 tons of waste in 2021, as opposed to 115,000 customers who brought in 35,000 tons in Terrace Heights. Karma agreed to present the price breakdowns requested by Commissioners Linde and Anderson to the Board at a future meeting.

4. SOLAR PROJECTS DISCUSSION (15 Minutes)

Commissioner McKinney shared concerns that an 8-mile stretch along the highway between Moxee and Hanford could be blanketed in solar panels, if the current High Top and Ostrea projects are approved by EFSEC. She asked Public Services if the Board could approve an ordinance modifying the land-use table to elevate these types of energy projects from Type 3 to Type 4, so that they would require the Board's approval if the company applies through the County instead of EFSEC. Lisa Freund confirmed this as an option, and Thomas (Tommy) Carroll added that another option would be to have the Planning Department conduct a county-wide evaluation to determine where the County should allow projects to be placed. He noted that the code could be modified to make a distinction between smaller energy producing companies (which would stay at Type 3) and larger energy farms (which would be elevated to Type 4). He also clarified for Commissioner Linde that the cost for permits and hearing examiner fees would only be about \$2,000-\$5,000, as opposed to the \$50,000 EFSEC fee, so this option would not place any greater burden on companies. Commissioner Anderson shared that while he does not necessarily want to discourage the solar industry, he believes it's important to protect local agricultural land and community voice in land use. The Board concurred and directed Tommy to move forward with the ordinance option. Tommy suggested that it could be completed by the fall if the Board wants to begin immediately. He explained that on Monday, they would draft what the proposed changes would be. Then they would present that to the Planning Commission at a study session and notify the Department of Commerce. The Planning Commission would review it and hold a public hearing. After the hearing, they would forward a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners, who would hold their own study session and public hearing before making a decision to approve the ordinance.

(Commissioner Linde stepped out of the meeting after this item to leave for another appointment.)

5. HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE (15 Minutes)

Jacqui Lindsay shared a request from District Court that a vacant position be reclassified from a Financial Specialist (B21) to Program Specialist (B22). The difference in pay would be \$2,292. The Commissioners approved this request.

Jacqui also presented a request from the Coroner's Office that a vacant part-time Office Specialist position (B21) be reclassified to a full-time Senior Program Analyst position (C43). The difference in pay would be \$31,630.

Craig Warner clarified that the Coroner is willing to use his one-time contingency fund to cover the cost, but there is not a clear plan in place to fund the position after 2022. He added that due to anticipated county-wide pay increases, the budget may be tighter, and the Coroner's Office is too small to make personnel cuts, so positions at other departments would likely be affected instead. The Commissioners agreed to table this request for now to give Jacqui and Craig time to collaborate on a financial strategy for this position.

Jacqui stated that the Sheriff's Office has an additional request in the pipeline for continued out-of-class pay that she will present next week.

6. AGENDA ITEM REVIEW (30 Minutes)

Julie Lawrence reviewed for the Board all Agenda items submitted for Tuesday's Regular Agenda Meeting.

Commissioner McKinney requested that Resolution 153-2022 and Resolution 154-2022 be tabled until the Board can get more clarity on the issue at hand.

Esther Magasis reported to the Board the responses she received to their questions at a previous meeting regarding Agreement 152-2022. The Office of Rural and Farmworker Housing confirmed that housing operators must still have a plan in place for isolation and quarantine of agricultural workers; this may become an ongoing requirement regardless of COVID. Yakima Neighborhood Health Services reported that 200 people received hotel/motel vouchers through their organization in 2021, of whom some were homeless, some were agricultural workers, and others were housed people with no separate space to quarantine. The average length of stay was 9 nights, during which time they received daily medical oversight, meals, and comfort kits. 176 of the 200 people were one-time recipients; the remaining 24 had COVID or needed to be COVID tested more than once. Esther stated that she would share the data about non-COVID-related hotel/motel vouchers in a separate future work session.

7. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

The Commissioners decided to table Commissioner Updates/General Discussion until Monday, when Commissioner Linde would be present.

Commissioner McKinney shared that Julie Lawrence and Erin Franklin would be working with Brynn DiMarco from Technology Services to create an online survey for the public to give input on how ARPA funding should be allocated. She also clarified that more discussion would take place on Monday about creating an ARPA advisory committee, but that the committee's role would be to advise only on eligibility for meeting ARPA criteria, not on actual project selection.

8. ADJOURN

Commissioner Anderson MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

(Commissioner Linde had previously stepped out.)

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 9:55 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

JUN 14 2022



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*

