



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting
Work Session

Friday, July 1, 2022, at 9:00 am

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

7/1/2022 - 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, Superior Court Administrator Jessica Humphreys, District Court Administrator Therese Murphy, Human Services Director Esther Magasis, Sheriff Robert Udell, Ana Johnson (Chelan County Behavioral Health Unit Program Manager), Human Resources Director Jacqui Lindsay, Code Enforcement Manager John Walkenhauer, Water Resources Manager Joel Freudenthal, Environmental Services Director David Haws, Planning Official Tommy Carroll, Public Services Director Lisa Freund, Financial Services Director Craig Warner, Facilities Director Brian Griff, Facilities Manager Keely Rice, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No initial public comment. Public comment was reopened by the Board at 9:23 a.m. for Nancy Newberry (Tieton City Council), who was not present for the initial comment period. Nancy asked what steps the Board is taking to resolve the Cowiche Sewer District issue. Nancy noted that this topic would already be up for discussion later in the agenda, but that she would not be able to attend the work session in its entirety. Julie Lawrence was directed to reach out to Nancy after the meeting with the Board's response, and Commissioner McKinney reiterated that she would also be able to access the recording of the meeting online.

3. TRUEBLOOD FUNDING DISCUSSION (15 Minutes)

Jessica Humphreys explained that Superior Court's portion of the True Blood grant ended July 1, 2022. The loss of these funds will affect one position in Superior Court and one position in Juvenile Court. Jessica Humphreys and Therese Murphy asked if they could use the one-tenth of 1% funds to cover the salary of the District Court employee who assists with Mental Health Court through the end of the year, allowing time to come up with a plan for 2023 and beyond. This would also allow time for further planning for how the one-tenth of 1% funds will ultimately be used. (Jessica added that Superior Court has additional funding to cover their affected position.) The commissioners gave their approval for this request. Commissioner McKinney noted that DCR funding is something the commissioners intended to use the Mental Health Sales Tax for in the future anyway. Craig Warner stated that the next step would be to have Esther Magasis and Human resources draft memorandums of understanding between the commissioners and the courts, as the funding comes through that department. Craig said he doesn't think it necessarily has to go through Agenda.

4. DCR DISCUSSION (30 Minutes)

Sheriff Udell explained that he had been researching counties who have their Designated Crisis Responder

programs integrated into their local government, instead of through an outside entity. Ana Johnson clarified that in Chelan County, they're still looking into integrating DCR's. She gave background on her experience in different positions at various agencies before joining the County, where she currently rides along with law enforcement. While she is not acting as a DCR, since the County is not a behavioral health agency, her previous experience in that role has taught her what they look for, and she works hand in hand with crisis responders. If the County were to move forward with becoming recognized as a behavioral health agency and integrating DCR's, they would need to get behavioral health licensing and have at least one mental health counselor on staff for oversight. Finally, Ana shared some different potential grant funding sources that could cover this type of program.

Commissioner McKinney noted that discussions around DCR's are happening in WSAC, WAPA, and law enforcement circles. Sheriff Udell noted that cuts to True Blood funding in our area, the County has lost a DCR and possibly one other position at the jail. We're currently down to one DCR in the County, and haven't had any qualified applicants. Esther Magasis stated that it was her understanding that Comprehensive initially didn't want another contract with the County because they were anticipating receiving State funding. They assured her their plan was not to cut positions – they would just keep fully funding them as long as possible and then utilize the County's offer later. Sheriff Udell responded that he received an email a couple weeks ago that they are cutting a position. Esther asked him to forward the email to her so she would look into it, and Commissioner McKinney offered a letter from the Board to Comprehensive if it would help.

5. HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE (15 Minutes)

Jacqui presented an out-of-class pay request from District Court for an employee temporarily covering a vacant position. The request would be for July – December if necessary, although the recruitment process is already underway. The Board gave their approval.

District Court also asked to change a filled position from Office Specialist to Financial Specialist (both B21 positions). This would have no budgetary or recruitment impact. The Board gave their approval.

Finally, Jacqui informed the Board that they would begin receiving data from the pay study over the course of three weeks starting next week.

6. PUBLIC SERVICES (60 Minutes)

1. Water Issues: David Haws referred back to recent YCWRS meetings with the Yakima Association of Realtors, the Central Washington Home Builders Association, and the Washington Farm Bureau, to discuss potential changes to YCWRS. It became apparent that there are disagreements in how all parties are viewing portions of current water laws. David suggested that Corporate Counsel would need to make the final determination to ensure any changes to the YCWRS ordinance are legally defensible and that risk has been mitigated. Commissioner McKinney brought up the controversy striking the word "domestic": many people felt that this expanded the ordinance to virtually anything, despite explanations by County staff. Joel Freudenthal noted that current reviews are not limited to the domestic – the GMA requires review of all permits for water use. The Board was reticent to strike "domestic" from the ordinance at this time, and preferred to stay "minimally compliant" with State law, as was the original intent of the ordinance. The goal in making changes has been to make the ordinance "less onerous" for the public, where possible. Don Anderson noted that altering the ordinance too much would impact the GMA, and even reopen the local GMA to a variety of issues. Thomas "Tommy" Carroll added that the County's comprehensive plan was not appealed after being updated, so it was not found to be noncompliant; however, any new changes open the County up for an appeal at the GM Hearings Board.

2. Encampment Removal & Cleanup Policy: Don Anderson shared that after a recent WAPA training, he felt that Pierce County's encampment removal and cleanup policy has been tested in court and is more comprehensive than Spokane's, so he would prefer to begin a new draft policy based on that. Don, along with Lisa Freund and John Walkenhauer, discussed differences in requirements for storage time (and thus cost), posting of notice, definitions of personal property vs. stolen property, staff/department involvement (law enforcement or not), etc. John suggested the

need to update signage to specify no camping, no storage, and no fires on public property. The Board directed Lisa and John to keep working with Don, and to update the Board further when the draft policy is more ready to present. Lisa noted the additional need to figure out a plan for covering the costs of storage, and whether or not any grant funding may apply.

7. AGENDA ITEM REVIEW (30 Minutes)

Julie Lawrence reviewed for the Board all Agenda items submitted for Tuesday's Regular Agenda Meeting. No changes were made.

8. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Julie Lawrence shared a draft letter to be sent to members of the Cowiche Sewer District, as well as certain County officials, the mayor of Tieton, and the Governor's Office. The letter explains that while the Board is more than willing to make new appointments, no eligible candidates have applied at present. The two initial applicants rescinded their applications, and others who have expressed interest have opted not to apply. The commissioners each confirmed the amount of time and energy the Commissioners' Office and Corporate Counsel have put into examining the issue and trying to find eligible applicants, including meeting with Tieton City Council. Commissioner Linde noted there is a very limited applicant pool – about 45 homes. Craig Warner and Don Anderson concurred that although the remaining CSD commissioner won't let anyone into the building, the CSD will need to solve that issue – it does not fall within the Board's purview. The Board can only appoint – it can't take over the CSD. The commissioners each agreed to approve and sign the letter.

2. Commissioner McKinney stated that the Board of Health had voted to send a letter to Governor Inslee, imploring him to rescind his Proclamation 21-14.3 requiring COVID vaccinations for State workers, including State volunteers. The argument is that this is no longer necessary due to current numbers. Commissioner McKinney expressed a desire to send a corresponding letter from the Board of County Commissioners, as well. Commissioners Anderson and Linde stated that they generally concur with the idea and would be interested in seeing the draft. Commissioner McKinney confirmed it would likely be the same letter she's drafting for the Board of Health.

3. Brian Griff presented a request from the Downtown Association and the Yakima Valley Museum to host art and music events on the first Friday of the month for the next four months at Performance Park. He shared that the City no longer has their Economic Development Department, who used to handle these requests in the past. All permitting would still be done through the City; the County would only be providing ease of access. Keely Rice shared that she is not aware of food or drinks being served at this time, but the event may expand eventually (potentially involving food trucks). Facilities would ensure that electricity is available, no sprinklers are running, and the grass is mowed. Don Anderson confirmed that the County would have no liability for these events. The Board gave their approval.

4. Jacqui Lindsay returned with an additional request from Superior Court – Family Court. An applicant for an open Family Court Investigator position (Program Coordinator, C41) declined the job offer based on the salary. Of the applicants interviewed, this was the only one who strongly met the educational requirements. The individual also has 7 years of social work experience, which is necessary for conducting in-depth interviews with parents and children. Superior Court requested a pay exception to re-offer the position to this applicant at Increment 3. The difference in pay for the next six months would be \$1,539. Due to the candidate's specialized experience, the Board gave their approval.

9. ADJOURN

Commissioner Anderson MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner Linde SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 10:37 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

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