



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting
Work Session

Friday, July 15, 2022, at 9:00 am

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

7/15/2022 - 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, Deputy Clerk of the Board Erin Franklin, Human Resources Director Jacqui Lindsay, Public Services Director Lisa Freund, Water Resources Manager Joel Freudenthal, Planning Official Thomas "Tommy" Carroll, County Engineer Matt Pietrusiewicz, Financial Services Director Craig Warner, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

3. HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE (15 Minutes)

Jacqui Lindsay presented a request from District Court for out-of-class pay for an office specialist (B21) covering calendaring/DUI Court duties for a vacant program specialist (B23) position. The out-of-class pay would expire no later than December 31, 2022. The commissioners consented to this request.

Human Resources requested a promotion for an occupied B24 position to a C41 position; this individual would take on a senior/lead recruitment role to help spearhead the County's recruiting efforts. The commissioners consented to this request.

Jacqui also presented a request from Financial Services for a pay exception for a vacant accountant position. The new applicant selected for this position is former Yakima County employee who was at Increment 2 when he left the Treasurer's Office. The new request is to rehire him at an Increment 2. The commissioners consented to this request.

As a note, Jacqui reminded the Board and any guests that whenever a department wants to reclassify a position, it must undergo a job analysis with HR, then be reviewed by the Personnel Committee (made up of employees from Corporate Counsel, elected officials, department heads, etc.), and finally be approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

4. PUBLIC SERVICES (90 Minutes)

1. Bi-Weekly Water Issues: Lisa Freund reported that Water Resources did not have any new updates to share, but offered to answer any questions the Board might have. Commissioner Linde asked Joel Freudenthal for an update on drilling in the Ahtanum area. Joel reported that he is almost finished with water right transfer application and will be setting up a pre-application meeting with

Ecology soon. Commissioner McKinney asked for an additional update on Wenas. Joel responded that they've completed the initial purchase and sale agreement, and then it will follow a similar path to the Ahtanum project. He added that the Cowiche project will be more complicated.

2. Naches UGA Request: Tommy Carroll summarized how in March 2021, the Town of Naches submitted an emergency amendment request to expand their Urban Growth Area, explaining that they did not have enough available vacant land for residential development. Ultimately, the Board did not make a recommendation one way or the other. Naches has now submitted a new emergency amendment request in June 2022 with a revised proposal, including a different location for school district expansion and an alternate parcel of land being added to the UGA. The changes to the proposal are substantial enough to require completely restarting the process of going through the Planning Commission. Tommy explained that after receiving this proposal, the Planning Department would have to evaluate it under the land capacity analysis, write a report, and make a recommendation to the Planning Commission, who would then have to hold study sessions and a hearing and make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners. The Planning Department would then present those findings to the Board at another hearing before the proposal can be approved. Tommy suggested that the process could potentially be finished before the end of the year. Commissioner Linde commented that this new proposal looks much better and seems to make more sense than the last one in terms of location, proximity to infrastructure and growth, etc. The commissioners all gave their consent to send this proposal to the Planning Commission.

5. AGENDA ITEM REVIEW (30 Minutes)

Erin Franklin reviewed for the Board all Agenda items submitted for Tuesday's Regular Agenda Meeting.

Matt Pietrusiewicz explained Resolution 195-2022 was submitted as a stop-gap measure in response to rising prices of gas and diesel. He noted that diesel was \$2.66 per gallon one year ago, but has jumped to \$5.97 currently. While he already reviews these prices annually on January 1st, he felt a quicker response was necessary at this time to "staunch the bleeding", and proposed an adjusted rental rate of \$5.50 per gallon, anticipating that prices may drop back down a bit. He added that this is also important to get in place before the chip seal program starts in August, as it is an equipment-heavy operation. The commissioners all felt comfortable leaving this item on Consent Agenda.

Erin was directed to reach out to Esther Magasis and the Human Services team about Agreement 203-2022. Commissioner Linde was curious about how the grant funding outlined in this year's agreement compared to previous years.

6. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

Commissioner Linde updated the public that Board received 152 ARPA applications for a total ask of about \$155 million. The first installment of ARPA funds has arrived, and the Board anticipates receiving the second installment soon. He felt that there are many worthy ideas and projects that will make selection very difficult. He also felt that it will be important to help Yakima County cities and towns to complete projects that would be very difficult to fund on their own, and to try to match funds where possible to stretch ARPA funding as far as it can go. Finally, he acknowledged the whole county's concern about rising crime, including theft and violent crime, particularly in rural areas that may have resigned themselves to the belief that nothing can be done. Due to this widespread concern, Commissioner Linde felt it was important to highlight and move forward Application #37826: the regional crime lab proposal from Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG). He reported that nearly all the government and law enforcement officials he spoke to have expressed support for this project and how it would aid our ability to process evidence and solve crimes more quickly and efficiently. The request is for \$2.8 million, with a \$2 million match. He felt this request was time-sensitive and necessitated a quicker decision-making process.

Commissioner Linde MOTION: To Approve Application #37826 for the Regional Crime Lab and Instruct Staff to Begin Work on an Agreement with YVCOG.

Commissioner Anderson SECOND

Commissioner Anderson echoed Commissioner Linde's reasoning about the crime lab helping solve and close cases more quickly, and the benefits to various government and law enforcement agencies, including the Prosecutor's Office, the Department of Assigned Counsel, and the Department of Corrections.

Commissioner McKinney acknowledged this reasoning but opposed the motion on the basis that this application should go through the same selection process and timeline as the other applications, as had been outlined to the public. She also noted that law enforcement agencies such as the Sheriff's Office have submitted other applications that deserve equal consideration.

In Favor: Linde, Anderson

Opposed: McKinney

Motion Passes.

Craig Warner and Erin Franklin were directed to reach out to suggested Selection Committee members Lisa Freund (Public Services), Matt Pietrusiewicz (County Roads), and Daniel Clark (Corporate Counsel) to begin reviewing ARPA applications for eligibility and feasibility. Commissioner McKinney expressed hope that this process could be completed by August 15th, so that the Board could begin their review process immediately afterward.

7. ADJOURN

Commissioner Anderson MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner Linde SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 9:49 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