



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting
Work Session

Monday, July 25, 2022, at 9:00 am

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

7/25/2022 - 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, Facilities Director Brian Griff, Public Services Director Lisa Freund, Planning Official Phil Hoge, Planning Official Thomas "Tommy" Carroll, Financial Services Director Craig Warner, Department of Assigned Counsel Director Paul Kelley, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ron Pelson of Traditional Designs, Inc., (joining in-person) alluded to his item to be discussed later on the work session agenda: "Discussion – Type 4 Conditional Use Permit to Establish an Ag Tourist Operation for J Bell Cellars (Case Number CUP2021-00054)".

3. HISTORIC CONSERVATION PRESERVATION GRANT - LETTER OF SUPPORT

Brian Griff presented a letter of support to submit to the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation with our Historic Conservation Preservation Grant application paperwork. The total amount requested was \$815,000 for restoring the windows in the 1940's portion of the Courthouse (the 1960's portion was not eligible because of the siding project) and restoring the concrete cap/parapet wall. After reviewing current funds and other anticipated project costs, the County could afford a \$949,000 match for this grant. Utilizing this historic conservation preservation grant to update the windows in particular would make the Courthouse more energy efficient overall (and thus more compliant with HBR 1257), reduce strain on our heating and cooling systems, and result in cost savings in the long run.

Commissioner Linde MOTION: To Approve Letter of Support

Commissioner Anderson SECOND

Motion Passes Unanimously.

4. PUBLIC SERVICES (45 Minutes)

1. Discussion – Type 4 Conditional Use Permit to Establish an Ag Tourist Operation for J Bell Cellars (Case Number CUP2021-00054): Phil Hoge presented a land use application for a resort ag tourist operation roughly one mile north of Zillah. The owner wants to add a lounge, private club, restaurant, multi-use event space, wellness cottages, overnight cabins with parking, and eventually a hard liquor distillery. The site would continue to serve as a winery and an event venue. There has been some disagreement between the

Hearing Examiner, the Planning Department, and the owner (via Mr. Pelson) about whether the overnight cabins should be allowed in the pear orchard portion of the land, or should be more strictly contained to the "residential areas" of the property so as not to interfere with the agricultural use of the land. The applicant argues that this pear orchard is very old and thus not high-producing, and that these new endeavors will help fund continued agricultural use. Mr. Pelson had a meeting scheduled to discuss this further with the Planning Department at 2:00 PM that afternoon. In the meantime, Phil asked the commissioners if they would like to proceed with advertising for a hearing as recommended by the Planning Department.

Commissioner Linde MOTION: To Advertise for Hearing

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

(Commissioner Anderson stepped out.)

Motion Passes.

2. CWI Request to Use County Logo: The Forest Service Wildfire Risk Reduction Infrastructure Team reached out requesting to use the County's logo and web address on their website. As part of the US Forest Service's 10 Year Wildfire Crisis Strategy, the Central Washington Initiative will involve work on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest for landscape restoration and wildfire risk reduction. The team would like to highlight this work on their website and acknowledge local community partners.

Commissioner Linde MOTION: To Approve Use of Logo and Web Address

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

(Commissioner Anderson stepped out.)

Motion Passes.

5. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Letter to Governor Inslee: Commissioner McKinney brought up the proposed letter to Governor Inslee about rescinding Proclamation 21-14.5, requiring all state employees, including volunteers, to be vaccinated. Commissioner Linde had proposed some edits that he sent to Julie Lawrence.

Commissioner McKinney approved of these edits and stated that she would entertain a motion to have the Board sign and send the letter. Commissioner Linde asked to table the item until Commissioner Anderson could be present to review and vote. Commissioner McKinney stated that she would be absent from Friday's work session, but gave her approval to add her signature to the letter if the other two commissioners voted to approve it on Friday. She also asked Julie to forward this same draft to Victoria Reyes and Ryan Ibach to be distributed to the Health Board members for discussion on Wednesday.

2. Agenda Submission Discussion: Due to a recent abundance of late or last-minute Agenda submissions, Julie asked the Board about moving the submission deadline back to Wednesday at 2:00 PM to allow more time for the Board to review all documents, ask questions, and schedule staff for work sessions as necessary. Commissioners McKinney and Linde concurred that receiving time-sensitive documents last-minute has made it more difficult to thoroughly and properly review all items. Commissioner McKinney suggested (and Commissioner Linde concurred) that items be submitted on Wednesdays two weeks in advance as opposed to one. Craig Warner noted that Julie Lawrence and Erin Franklin need enough time to process and prepare all of the documents before sending them to the Board. He noted that Julie and Erin had stated they would be as flexible as possible and add urgent items of critical importance to the agenda as needed, particularly as the transition takes place. Craig informed the Board that Julie was already planning on hosting a training for staff involved in the Agenda submission process, and a recording would be made for training any new incoming staff. The Commissioners noted that they didn't want to call out any one department for late or last-minute submissions – their desire is simply for "best practices" in submitting early, and to avoid coming up against critical deadlines that make it difficult to reach out to staff with

questions or revisions.

3. A&E Documentary: Julie shared that Cold Case Files from A&E is planning on doing a documentary on a cold case here in Yakima, and requested permission to briefly film/photograph in front of Courthouse on Thursday, July 28, 2022. The commissioners approved this request.

4. Commissioner Updates: The Board decided to move Commissioner Updates to Monday since Commissioner Anderson had stepped out of the meeting and Commissioner McKinney had been out of town for most of the week.

5. Department of Assigned Counsel Felony Caseload: Paul Kelley sent an email to the commissioners yesterday, informing them that his department would be losing another felony lawyer in next couple weeks. Paul noted that the main question is how many cases remaining DAC staff can take on and still maintain standards. He shared some statistics and stated that DAC may have to begin limiting their caseload by informing the Court that they cannot take on additional cases.

The caseload limit is already set by the Courts at the state level. Don Anderson stated that he would like to inform Yakima County Prosecuting Attorney Joe Brusic and discuss the matter with him. Commissioner McKinney informed Paul that the Board would reach out to him again after Mr. Anderson has a chance to confer with Mr. Brusic. She noted that Departments of Assigned Counsel across the state are experiencing similar struggles hiring and retaining attorneys.

6. ADJOURN

Commissioner Linde MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

(Commissioner Anderson stepped out.)

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 10:13 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