



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Work Session

Friday, August 19, 2022, at 9:00 am

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

8/19/2022 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to Order at 9:01 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, Human Resources Director Jacqui Lindsay, County Engineer Matt Pietrusiewicz, Technology Services Director Dale Panattoni, Environmental Services Director David Haws, Water Resources Manager Joel Freudenthal, Financial Services Director Craig Warner, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

3. HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE (15 Minutes)

Jacqui Lindsay presented to the Board a request from District Court to add a temporary financial specialist position. The two existing financial specialists are currently on medical leave, and although they are due to return in September and December, there are reasons to believe that one or both may not return at all. The proposed new position would be limited to six months only (through February), allowing time for the current employees to return. If one or both of the current employees leave(s), District Court will then post for the open position(s), and the third financial specialist could apply for a permanent position. The commissioners gave their approval for this request.

Jacqui also presented a request for out-of-class pay for an employee in the Assessor's Office who has been performing higher level administrative supervisor duties. This out-of-class pay would run through December 31, 2022. Jacqui stated that the employee will already be reclassified in 2023 under the new pay plan. The commissioners gave their approval for this request.

4. COUNTY ROADS (15 Minutes)

Matt Pietrusiewicz shared his perspective on the aerial fiber line that Dale Panattoni had brought up at a previous work session. The section of property in question used to have a fence line beneath the cable; however, that space is now completely open, and the concern is that a County truck could accidentally snag the fiber line. Matt shared that his hope is to eventually use the area to stockpile sand; however, in the meantime, there is no need to have trucks going back and forth through that area. County Roads has already marked the fiber line with surveyor's tape and made employees aware of the potential hazard. Considering the large cost savings to be had by waiting to bury the fiber line until the YCCC building can be added to the Protected Ring Network, the commissioners felt that it would be most fiscally responsible to wait and address both tasks simultaneously.

Commissioner Linde stated that the YCCC project might be a year or more out in the future, if approved, and asked Dale how quickly his team could implement these changes when the time comes. Dale responded that since Technology Services already has the project quotes, the process would be relatively quick. With both Matt and Dale's responses in mind, and with the understanding of maintaining best safety practices in the meantime, the Board agreed to wait to address the fiber line until after a decision is made about the YCCC building.

5. PUBLIC SERVICES UPDATE (60 Minutes)

David Haws and Joel Freudenthal gave an update on the proposed changes to the Utilities Code, requested by the commissioners in 2021 in an effort to make the rules more common sense and less burdensome to the public while still remaining compliant with Water Code and GMA. The Yakima Association of Realtors, the Yakima County Farm Bureau, and the Central Washington Home Builders Association asked to be able to provide input and feedback in response to the County's proposed changes, and have met with the County on multiple occasions since the end of 2021. They have recently stated that they have no additional changes to the YCWRS Code itself, although they do have additional suggestions for improving YCWRS beyond the code.

In response to Commissioner Linde's question, David shared that one of the revisions was to extend the period of time for rebuilding a destroyed home (e.g. after a fire) and still retaining water rights from 18 months to 5 years, which is more in line with Water Code. Joel Freudenthal noted that another major change had to do with Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's) – if the structure was legally connected to the main building, then that use is exempt from YCWRS. The same would be true for converting any existing building to another use. In response to Commissioner Anderson's question, David responded that the aforementioned groups were amenable to these changes, as documented in emails and meeting minutes. Commissioner McKinney noted that these changes will ultimately be put forth to the community at a Public Hearing anyway.

Commissioner McKinney asked if the word "domestic" remained in place in the code; the Board had previously discussed striking it, but the aforementioned groups voiced concern about the implications of doing so, fearing that more businesses or developments would be affected. Joel explained that this is not the case. He noted that restricting the program to only "domestic" does not mean that businesses (such as the agriculture sector) are exempt – they still need access to water. There are a variety of zoning codes and uses that all have to be addressed. Joel noted that some of the confusion comes from conflating the provisions of the Water Code (the source of the Department of Ecology's authority) with the Growth Management Act (the source of the County's authority). In response to Commissioner Anderson's suggestion of solving one issue at a time, the commissioners agreed to leave the word "domestic" in place for now and potentially revisit it later. In the meantime, they opted to prioritize the other changes. The Board directed Julie Lawrence to reach out to Public Services about scheduling a Public Hearing on this matter.

6. AGENDA ITEM REVIEW (30 Minutes)

Julie Lawrence reviewed for the Board all Agenda items submitted for Tuesday's Regular Agenda Meeting, and also gave a preview of the following week's Agenda items.

Jacqui Lindsay noted that the County was nominated for the Lactation Support Award by a staff member in the Prosecutor's Office who had made use of the Nursing Mothers' Room since its upgrade in 2017. Staff from the Prosecutor's Office and from Human Resources will be present for the award presentation at Tuesday's Agenda Meeting.

The commissioners requested that Agreement 251-2022 be moved to Regular Agenda in hopes that the Sheriff's Office could give a presentation.

Commissioner McKinney also asked Julie to reach out to the Prosecutor's Office to ask if they could present more details once the grant funding comes through for Agreement 250-2022.

The commissioners had no changes for the August 30, 2022, Agenda.

7. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

The commissioners had no new updates to discuss.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Julie Lawrence asked the Board if they would be amenable to having the CEASE Citizen's Group make a presentation regarding solar development. The commissioners agreed to scheduling individual presentations.

9. ADJOURN

Commissioner Anderson MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner Linde SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 9:50 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

AUG 30 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*

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