

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

**Regular Meeting
Adams County Courthouse
Ritzville, Washington**

August 20, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.
(Wednesday)

Call to Order

Chairman Garza called the meeting to order.

Present:

Chairman Miguel A. Garza
Vice-Chairman Jay R. Weise
Commissioner Dan C. Blankenship

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Garza led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval/Addition of Agenda

Commissioner Blankenship, Weise seconded, to *approve the agenda as presented*. **Motion carried.**

Board Workshop

Elected Official Forum

An elected official forum was held with the following present:

Treasurer Meise	Judge Palubicki
Auditor Hunt	Prosecutor Flyckt
Sheriff Wagner (virtually)	Judge Benzel (virtually)
Judge Russell	Assessor Rodriguez
Clerk Sloan	

Commissioner Blankenship reported receiving notices of funding opportunities and will begin forwarding to offices, while urging elected officials to bring potential funding opportunities to the Board for consideration.

Commissioner Weise addressed rumors circulating in the public regarding the financial position of the county, noting revenues are not meeting

expenditures and the county will face challenges ahead. Treasurer Meise noted many other counties are facing the same challenges.

The *draft* elected official salary ordinance was reviewed. Weise explained the process of the current salary commission and the difficulty in seating people on the committee. The proposed ordinance language ties elected official salaries to a percentage of a Washington superior court judge salary, as determined by the Washington Citizen's Commission of Salaries for Elected Officials. A declaration of hardship clause allowing for the freezing of salaries, should a financial hardship occur, was reviewed. Elected officials present requested language defining a financial hardship.

The Computer Use Policy for MFA mandated time and attendance payroll software was reviewed. Personal email accounts have been requested by payroll and will allow employees to access their payroll account.

Each elected official participated in a roundtable report on current activities in their respective offices.

Recess @ 10:43 a.m.

Reconvene @ 10:54 a.m.

Master Optical Fiber and Facilities Lease

Commissioner Blankenship moved, Weise seconded, to *authorize the Chairman sign Master Optical Fiber and Facilities Lease between Adams County and Ziply Fiber Pacific, an internet service provider (ISP), that operates or intends to utilize the portion of an optical fiber system and facilities within Adams County.* **Motion carried.**

Closed Session

At 11:15 a.m. Chairman Garza announced the Board would recess into Closed Session for thirty (30) minutes under RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) – “that portion of a meeting during which the governing body is planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken by the governing body during the course of any collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposals made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress.” Prosecutor Flyckt and Human Resource Manager Campbell were present.

At 11:45 a.m. the Board reconvened from Closed Session.

Recess @ 11:46 a.m.

Reconvene @ 1:00 p.m.

Auditor

Auditor Hunt was asked to address the Board regarding a wage increase that was implemented in her office without prior Board approval. The Board directed the wage range and step set for the accounts payable deputy be immediately corrected to reflect the established current classification for the position.

Adjournment @ 1:16 p.m.

Submitted:

s/Patricia J. Phillips, CMC

Clerk of the Board

Edited and Approved:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ADAMS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

s/Miguel A. Garza, Chairman

s/Jay R. Weise, Vice-Chairman

s/Dan C. Blankenship Commissioner