

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

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

September 23, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.
(Tuesday)

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.

Public Comment – None

Board Updates

Commissioner Garza reported speaking with an Othello citizen regarding allowing the use of side by side vehicles on county roads.

Commissioner Blankenship reported last week he attended zoom meetings in advance of the upcoming legislative session.

Commissioner Weise had no activities to report.

Approval/Addition of Agenda

Commissioner Blankenship moved, Weise seconded, to *approve the agenda with the addition of further discussion of proposed Ordinance No. O-03-2025*. **Motion carried.**

Consent Agenda

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

Minutes

Approve Preliminary Minutes of September 9 and 10, 2025

Vouchers

Approve Vouchers audited and certified by the Adams County Auditor as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 and recorded on a listing, which was made available to the Board. These vouchers were listed as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
001	\$126,750.62
001 Hand Pay	\$ 2,558.75
103	\$ 647.12
112	\$ 2,337.46
114	\$ 439.61
116	\$ 2,446.09
119	\$ 350.00
323A	\$ 1,272.76
108	\$ 4,406.76
115	\$391,063.58
321	\$ 1,382.50
401	\$ 35,315.20
501	\$ 3,246.55
590	\$ 47,618.56
TOTAL	\$619,835.56

Correspondence

Sy Ruiz, Communications, Data, & Development Director, OIC of Washington re: thank you for support of the U.S. Department of Labor – Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Program grant

Opioid Settlement

The Board provided **consensus authorization for the Chairman to sign, via DocuSign, Washington State Allocation Agreement Governing the Allocation of Funds Paid by the Purdue Bankruptcy, Sacklers, and Certain Opioid Manufacturers (CL-1738565).**

Board Discussion/Decision Items

State Auditor Exit Conference

The exit conference for the 2024 Financial Statements and Federal Awards Compliance was conducted by Cindy Fitzporter, Audit Lead; Phillip Ventress, Audit Supervisor; and Brad White, Program Manager; SAO.

The financial statement and federal grant compliance audits for January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 produced no findings.

There were no significant deficiencies or materials weaknesses related to the financial statements. The COVID-19 – Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA) was selected as a major program in the audit with no federal award findings or questioned costs.

The audit report will be finalized and will be published on the SAO website.

The next audit is scheduled to be conducted in Fall of 2025 and will cover accountability for public resources for the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, with an estimated cost of \$28,000, plus travel expenses.

Public Works

Public Works Director O'Brien and Engineer Yaeger provided the weekly update on gravel road maintenance and engineering projects.

Broadband Project

The Board provided consensus **authorization for the public works department to move forward with ZeroDB providing the underground work to hook up two homes on Jackson Street in Ritzville.** The ground was included in the design footprint, however, the houses were not constructed at the time.

O'Brien reported an agreement with a locate company, as well as an agreement with NoaNet, has been forwarded to the Prosecutor's office for review.

The process of the county being provided Broadband services was discussed. No action was taken pending additional consideration.

Courthouse Evacuation Plan

The Board provided consensus **authorization for the public works department to work with DOH Associates, Wenatchee, Washington, to draft a courthouse evacuation plan as well as signage.**

Public Works Director Resignation

Director O'Brien announced his last day of employment with the county is September 30, 2025. An interim director will be appointed to serve until the position is filled on a permanent basis, effective October 1, 2025. Mr. O'Brien was thanked for his many years of service to Adams County.

Capitol Path Consulting

John Culton, along with Kyla Shkerick Blair, (appearing virtually); reviewed the economic development section of the state agenda. Culton noted an item discussed with Kyle Niehenke, Economic Development Director, was the previous governor's plan to eliminate the use of natural gas in the state. As such, there will likely be amendments to policies relating to natural gas. Additionally discussed with Niehenke were energy diversification; ADO funding; and, maintaining and increasing economic development for rural communities.

Culton reviewed topics of concern for the next funding cycle, as well as which projects will fit in with the priorities of each individual senator.

Other Business – None

Permanent Minutes Signed

September 2 and 3, 2025

Executive Session – None

Recess @ 11:51 a.m.

Reconvened @ 1:00 p.m.

Closed Session

At 1:15 p.m. Chairman Garza announced the Board would recess into Closed Session for ninety (90) 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; Human Resource Manager Campbell; Public Works Director O'Brien; Engineer Yaeger; and, Assistant Public Works Director Reynolds were present.

At 2:40 p.m. the Board reconvened from Closed Session.

At 2:40 p.m. Chairman Garza announced the Board would recess back into Closed Session for fifty (50) 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; Human Resource Manager Campbell; Public Works Director O’Brien; Engineer Yaeger; and, Assistant Public Works Director Reynolds were present.

At 3:23 p.m. the Board reconvened from Closed Session.

Adjournment @ 3:23 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