

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting Building and Planning Department – Conference Room Othello, Washington

December 10, 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.

Public Comment

Public Comment was received from:

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Vernon Shepherd, Lind	Farmer Relationships with County
David Lobe, Ritzville	County Relationship with EARH
Jake Mendez, Jr., Othello	Blankenship Farm

Approval/Addition of Agenda

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

Board of Commissioner Recess @ 9:09 a.m.

Board of Health Meeting Call to Order @ 9:09 a.m.

Board of Commissioner Meeting Reconvene @ 10:23 a.m.

Integrated Health Care Services

Commissioner Weise moved, Blankenship seconded, to *authorize the Chairman sign Agreement #K8618, between Washington State Health Care Authority and Adams County, for Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC), for the period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029.*

Motion carried.

2026 Adams County Budget

It being the time of 10:30 a.m., and the place set for the public hearing to consider the 2026 Adams County Budget; Chairman Garza re-convened the public hearing.

An overview of the proposed budget was provided by Commissioner Weise.

Press from the Ritzville Adams County Journal was present.

Public comment was received from Jake Mendez, Jr., Othello, Washington.

Chairman Garza closed the hearing at 10:44 a.m.

Finance Committee

The finance committee was called to order at 10:45 a.m. Present in addition to Treasurer Meise was Commissioner Chairman Garza; Vice Chairman Weise; and, Commissioner Blankenship. Auditor Hunt appeared virtually.

Treasurer Meise reviewed Current Expense cash flow forecast, comparing 2024 and 2025.

The finance committee adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Recess @ 11:22 a.m.

Reconvene @ 1:00 p.m.

Executive Session – Employee Evaluation

At 1:12 p.m. Chairman Garza announced the Board would recess into Executive Session for fifteen (20) minutes under RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) – “...to review the performance of a public employee. Building and Planning Director Lorenz was present.

At 1:32 p.m. the Board reconvened from Executive Session.

Five Year Homeless Housing Plan (2025-2030)

Director Lorenz, Adams County Building and Planning Department, presented the Five Year Homeless Housing Plan for review and adoption. Adoption of the plan fulfills the county’s statutory requirement under RCW

43.185C, to develop a local homeless housing plan aligned with Washington State goals to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Elements of the plan included:

1. Purpose
2. Background
3. Plan Development
4. Public Participation
5. Local and State Context
6. Current Homeless Response System
7. Future Needs and System Gaps
8. Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles
9. Goals and Strategies
10. Alignment with Local Plans
11. Public Participation Summary
12. Fiscal Impact

Lorenz noted Adams County has not had this type of formal plan in place and recommended adoption of the Adams County 2025-2030 Homeless Housing Plan as presented. The Board concurred with Lorenz and directed the clerk to prepare a resolution for adoption of the Plan at the next regular meeting.

Executive Session – Employee Evaluation

At 1:35 p.m. Chairman Garza announced the Board would recess into Executive Session for fifteen (25) minutes under RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) – “...to review the performance of a public employee. County Coroner Cutforth was present.

At 2:00 p.m. the Board reconvened from Executive Session.

Coroner

Commissioner Weise moved, Blankenship seconded, to *grant Adams County Coroner Cutforth a step increase from Range 2, Step 1, to Range 2, Step 2, on the Adams County Management Salary Schedule, effective January 1, 2026, based on achieving a satisfactory level of performance during the respective evaluation period.* **Motion carried.**

Adjournment @ 3:05 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