

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

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

January 6, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.
(Tuesday)

Call to Order

Chairman Blankenship called the meeting to order.

Present:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Blankenship led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment – None

Approval/Addition of Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

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

Minutes

Approve December 2 and 3, 2025 Preliminary Minutes
Approve December 9 and 10, 2025 Preliminary Minutes
Approve December 15, 16, and 17, 2025 Preliminary Minutes
Approve December 23, 2025 Preliminary Minutes

Payroll

Approve December 1-15, 2025 Payroll in the amount of \$559,782.08; and, Benefits in the amount of \$85,288.20 (Warrant # Series 533336; Direct Deposit # Series 88171-88358; Benefit/Deduction # Series 1184989-1184997)

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	\$113,157.88
103	\$ 600.00
103A	\$ 723.60
104	\$ 21,719.27
112	\$ 975.14
123	\$ 3,095.79
166	\$ 2,311.12
108	\$ 1,668.35
115	\$ 10,238.44
301	\$ 4,803.20
321	\$ 7,726.26
401	\$ 5,224.59
501	\$ 3,686.15
590	\$ 11,543.42
TOTAL	\$187,473.21

Agreement for Professional Services**Building and Planning**

Approve Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement for Professional Services between AHBL, Inc., and Adams County

Board Updates

Commissioner Garza reported perusing vouchers and reviewing emails.

Commissioner Weise reported reviewing revenue streams and collecting information.

Commissioner Blankenship reviewed the importance of conducting monthly workshops on budgeting. Additionally, he is reviewing the open public meetings act and public comment policy.

Correspondence – None

Board Discussion/Decision Items

Human Resources

Manager Campbell reported updating salary schedules with 2026 wages. 2026 Washington labor law posters need to be ordered; she will be checking with departments and offices on the number needed. TASC documents are being prepared.

Public Works

Interim Director Yaeger provided the weekly maintenance update, noting Othello is working on hydroseeding; patching potholes as they are discovered and watching weather for salt brine application. Lind crews are repairing a guardrail that was damaged on Rosenoff Road. Ritzville has started a fill project on Hills Road between Schoessler and Rehn Roads.

Additional updates were provided on solid waste activities and facilities, noting the boiler system at the Ritzville maintenance shop is being worked on; a wall and door is being installed at Central Services to assist with the cooling of equipment; and, an exhaust fan needs to be replaced at the Ritzville health building.

Engineering

Engineer Yaeger provided updates on the Herman Road Safety project design. Additionally, an update was provided on Rodeo Lake water levels.

Broadband Fiber to the Home – Phase #2 – Othello

Blue Mountain Telecommunications failed to execute the contract and contract bond with Adams County. Based on the recommendation of the Public Works Department, Commissioner Garza moved, Weise seconded, to *approve Contract and Contract Bond between North Sky Communications, LLC, Vancouver, Washington, and Adams County, as the second lowest responsible bidder in the amount of \$6,843,770.85, for the Adams County Fiber to the Home – Phase #2 – Othello project.*

Motion carried unanimously.

Sackman Road Bridge (CRP-201)

Commissioner Garza moved, Weise seconded, to *authorize the Chairman sign Supplemental Professional Services, Agreement #1 (original agreement number CRP-201), with Nichols Kovich Engineering, PLLC,*

Veradale, Washington, for construction phase services for the Sackman Road Bridge #411-3 Reconstruction Project, CRP-201, in the amount of \$47,344.78. Motion carried unanimously.

Senator Mark Schoesler

Washington State Senator Mark Schoesler met with the Board to discuss various county matters prior to the legislative session commencing in Olympia.

Recess County Commissioner Meeting @ 11:00 a.m.

Other Business

Board of Equalization

The Adams County Commissioners, in their capacity as the Board of Equalization, convened with Chairman Blankenship calling the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. All members were present.

Ex-parte rules were reviewed.

There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Garza moved, Commissioner Weise seconded, to adjourn the Board of Equalization meeting at 11:02 a.m. **Motion carried.**

Reconvene County Commissioner Meeting @ 11:02 a.m.

Commissioner 2026 Budget

The Board reviewed the 2026 Budget for Fund #005. The Board has been tasked with reducing Fund #005 in the 2026 budget by \$21,608.

Recess @ 11:52 a.m.

Reconvene @ 1:00 p.m.

Permanent Minutes Signed

October 28 and 29, 2025

November 4 and 5, 2025

November 12, 2025

November 25 and 26, 2025

Executive Session

At 1:08 p.m. Chairman Blankenship announced the Board would recess into Executive Session for five (5) minutes under RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) –

“...to review the performance of a public employee. Additionally present was Prosecutor Flyckt.

At 1:13 p.m. the Board reconvened from Executive Session. No action was taken.

Closed Session

At 1:15 p.m. Chairman Blankenship announced the Board would recess into Closed Session for sixty (60) 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 Sheriff Wagner were present. Commander Watkins arrived at 1:17 p.m. Human Resource Manager Campbell arrived at 1:20 p.m. Sheriff Wagner and Commander Watkins left the session at 2:04 p.m.

At 2:15 p.m. the Board reconvened from Closed Session.

Closed Session

At 2:16 p.m. Chairman Blankenship announced the Board would recess back 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; Human Resource Manager Campbell and Interim Director Yaeger were present.

At 2:44 p.m. the Board reconvened from Closed Session.

Executive Session

At 2:45 p.m. Chairman Blankenship announced the Board would recess into Executive Session for fifteen (15) minutes under RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) – “...to review the performance of a public employee. Additionally present was Prosecutor Flyckt.

At 3:00 p.m. the Board reconvened from Executive Session. No action was taken.

Adjournment @ 3:00 p.m.

Submitted:
s/Patricia J. Phillips, CMC
Clerk of the Board

Edited and Approved:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ADAMS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
s/Dan C. Blankenship, Chairman
s/Miguel A. Garza, Vice-Chairman
s/Jay R. Weise, Commissioner