

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

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

January 13, 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.**

Payroll

Approve December 16-31, 2025 Payroll in the amount of \$561,142.98; and, Benefits in the amount of \$289,784.49 (Direct Deposit # Series 88359-88543; Benefit/Deduction # Series 1184998-1185008)

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	\$ 13,784.27
115	\$ 2,992.79
401	\$ 2,772.36
501	\$ 2,659.11
590	\$ 969.44
	\$ 23,177.97

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
001	\$ 41,727.79
001I	\$ 50,436.48
104	\$ 17,344.74
112	\$ 1,882.60
122	\$ 36.00
123	\$ 108.96
166	\$ 1,958.34
502	\$ 19,678.83
108	\$ 579.20
115	\$ 1,037.57
401	\$ 9,017.49
501	\$ 5,202.23
590	\$ 47,320.84
	\$196,331.07

Public Comment Policy Board of County Commissioners

Approve Public Comment Policy, for the purpose of establishing guidelines for public comment during regular Tuesday meetings of the Board; or, during special meetings or workshops, if otherwise specified by the Board.

Board Updates

Commissioners Garza and Weise had no updates to report.

Commissioner Blankenship traveled to Olympia last week and attending the pre-session LSC meeting reporting the following discussions:

- Renewable energy, solar panels, upcoming gigantic energy storage battery facilities, and the taxing format.
- A non-elected board, appointed by the governor, can strip a county sheriff of all powers, change the oath of the sheriff, and eliminate any reference to the Constitution.

- A phase in proposal, related to indigent defense, would raise the share of the state by 50% with the statutory requirement being zero until 2026.
- WACO is working on property tax senior and military exemptions.

Board Discussion/Decision Items

Human Resources

Manager Campbell provided updates on meetings she has attended. She is compiling information for collective bargaining sessions; updating insurances; and, updating the county web site as it pertains to her department.

Public Works

Interim Director Yaeger and Assistant Director Reynolds provided the weekly update on maintenance in all three districts, noting vegetation management in Othello and Lind with some tree trimming. Lind is also going through guardrail wood blocks and replacing, as needed. Crews are applying salt brine, depending on weather. Ritzville is working on Hills Road and Tokyo Road. The solid waste department is dealing with litter, due to winds, and recycling cardboard. Materials are in for several of the facilities projects and will be completed soon.

Additionally, Yaeger provided updates on the Herman Road Safety project; High Volume Corridor project; and, the Gotlieb-Hille Road bridge project.

Resolution No. R-001-2026

Commissioner Garza moved, Weise seconded, to *approve **Resolution No. R-001-2026 In the Matter of Notice of Call for Bids for Transportation Haul of Solid Waste Refuse.** Motion carried unanimously.* Bid opening is set for Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 1:30 p.m., in Room 202, of the Adams County Courthouse, Ritzville, Washington.

Equipment

Engineer Yaeger reported he would like to move forward with the replacement of the van in the sheriff's office. The amount budgeted for replacement of the van was \$110,000 off state bid; with an inmate enclosure, the cost is \$116,400. The Board provided **consensus authorization for the public works department to move forward with**

the purchase of a van for the sheriff's office in the amount of \$116,400.

Additional research is being conducted on obtaining a vehicle that will be able to utilize the inmate enclosure that was damaged in 2025.

Closed Session

At 10:20 a.m. Chairman Blankenship 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.” Human Resource Manager Campbell; Engineer Yaeger; and Assistant Public Works Director Reynolds, were present.

At 10:50 a.m. the Board reconvened from Closed Session.

Closed Session

At 10:50 a.m. Chairman Blankenship announced the Board would recess back into Closed Session for fifteen (15) 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.” Human Resource Manager Campbell; Engineer Yaeger; and Assistant Public Works Director Reynolds were present.

At 11:03 a.m. the Board reconvened from Closed Session.

Resolution No. R-002-2026

Commissioner Weise moved, Garza seconded, to *approve Resolution No. R-002-2026 In the Matter of Adopting Salary Schedules for Non-Represented Adams County Employees.* Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Anthony Dailey (via email), Othello Fair Board re: Request to be placed on agenda

Attorney Carson Van Valkenburg re: Public Defense Quarterly Report for 4th Quarter, 2025

Attorney Andrea Crumpler re: Public Defense Quarterly Report for 4th Quarter, 2025

Andrew L. Kottkamp re: Land Use Hearing Examiner's 2025 Annual Report

Roni Holm, Chairperson, Adams County Library Board, #1 re: Terry Rice second term request, notification of one (1) vacant position

Recess County Commissioner Meeting @ 11:12 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 11:13 a.m. All members were present.

Chairman Blankenship moved, Vice-Chairman Garza seconded, to set the taxpayer appeal hearings for Wednesday, March 25, 2026, beginning at 9:00 a.m. **Motion carried.**

There being no further business, Commissioner Weise moved, Vice-Chairman Garza seconded, to adjourn the Board of Equalization meeting at 11:15 a.m. **Motion carried.**

Reconvene County Commissioner Meeting @ 11:15 a.m.

Closed Session

At 11:15 a.m. Chairman Blankenship announced the Board would recess into Closed Session for ten (10) 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 11:25 a.m. the Board reconvened from Closed Session.

Executive Session

At 11:27 a.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. Prosecutor Flyckt and Human Resource Manager Campbell were present.

At 11:42 a.m. the Board reconvened from Executive Session. No action was taken.

Adjournment @ 11:52 a.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

RESOLUTION NO. R-001-2026

**NOTICE OF CALL FOR BIDS
Adams County Department of Public Works**

Notice is hereby given by the Board of Adams County Commissioners that sealed bids will be received at their office in the Courthouse in Ritzville, Washington, **until 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 10, 2026**, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read for the transporting of Solid Waste Refuse from Adams County Transfer Stations to the Adams County Regional Landfill / Waste Management site, located in Washtucna, Washington.

Please identify bids on the outside of the envelope as:
“TRANSPORTATION HAUL OF SOLID WASTE REFUSE”

Specifications and bid forms are available at the Adams County Public Works Department office, 210 W. Alder, Ritzville, Washington, 99169 or <https://www.co.adams.wa.gov/231/Administration> “Adams County Solid Waste Refuse Transportation Contract” . Bids must be on the forms provided by the Public Works Department office and be attached to the County specifications. Bidder shall submit bid in separate sealed envelope addressed to the Adams County Board of Commissioners, 210 W. Broadway, Ritzville, Washington 99169.

The Board of Adams County Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive informalities or irregularities in the bids or in the bidding, if the best interest of Adams County will be served, or to accept the bid, which in their opinion serves the best interest of Adams County.

Bidders are advised that Adams County, being a municipal corporation, is exempt from Federal excise tax.

The Recipient, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the Department of Transportation issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises as defined at 49 CFR Part 23 will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex in consideration for an award.

Dated this 13th day of January, 2026.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-002-2026

**ORDER OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ADAMS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING SALARY SCHEDULES FOR NON-REPRESENTED
ADAMS COUNTY EMPLOYEES**

WHEREAS, salary schedules for non-represented Adams County employees are necessary and appropriate; and

WHEREAS, on December 23, 2025 the Board of County Commissioners adopted the 2026 Adams County Budget for the period from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Board approved a 2.7% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to all non-represented Adams County employees; and

WHEREAS, prior salary schedules have been updated to reflect said Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED the salary schedules are approved in the form attached hereto as Exhibit "A" for the following Adams County employees, effective January 1, 2026:

Adams County Non-Represented 7 Hour Employees
Adams County Non-Represented 8 Hour Employees
Adams County Exempt Employees
Adams County Management Employees.

DATED this 13th day of January, 2026.

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

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