

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

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

February 3, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.
(Tuesday)

Call to Order

Chairman Blankenship called the meeting to order.

Present:

Chairman Dan C. Blankenship
Commissioner Jay R. Weise

Absent:

Vice-Chairman Miguel A. Garza

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Blankenship led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment – None

Approval/Addition of Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

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

Minutes

Approve January 20 and 21, 2026 Preliminary Minutes

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	\$148,954.26
001H	\$ 189.49
001I	\$ 17,811.91
103	\$ 10,848.62
103A	\$ 20,884.18
106	\$ 3,603.40
111	\$ 28,000.00
112	\$ 1,241.00
114	\$ 262.00
116	\$ 1,069.50
122	\$ 49,750.00
166	\$ 3,564.89
323A	\$ 337.75
502	\$ 7,124.05
115	\$ 45,090.90
410	\$ 10,487.55
501	\$ 6,597.15
590	\$103,213.70
TOTAL	\$459,030.35

Board Updates

Commissioner Blankenship reported meeting with consultant John Culton, along with a representative from Senator Murray's office, noting it best for the BOCC to not request an allocation in Senator Murray's budget, but rather to focus on pushing the existing project in that office to the finish line.

Additionally, Blankenship reported attending the EWCOG meeting in Davenport, breaking at noon to listen to the WSAC virtual update. Discussed was a proposed Senate bill regarding law enforcement certification, eligibility requirements for applicants running for the office of sheriff, and the county of jurisdiction being responsible for the costs of background checks that will be required by the state.

Other topics included tests required by the state to obtain an onsite sewage inspector license, noting the time requirement to obtain said license may be lengthened. There is a shift to move elections to even years; reestablishing the indigent defense task force; and a move to expand the definition of rural counties.

Commissioner Weise reported working on budgeting and salary structures. Additionally, Weise reported researching the ability to use the .09 funds and a potential reconstruction of the current path Adams County follows for use of those funds.

Correspondence

Chris Faix, Executive Director, Port of Othello re: Funding Request for Water Tower Project

Board Discussion/Decision Items

Human Resources

Manager Campbell provided updates on departmental activities such as participating in a MRSC virtual training on employment law, sharing excerpts of the training with the Board. The public works director vacancy was discussed with a report on where the county is at in the advertising process.

Public Works

Interim Director Yaeger, Assistant Director Reynolds, and Facilities Manager Mattson reviewed the Othello Fair Boards' proposal for a new fair office at the Adams County fairgrounds. Yaeger and Mattson agreed with the concept of the building. The Board concurred with the recommendation of Yaeger for the Othello Fair Board to formally request the addition of a new fair office. In the county's response, fair board responsibilities will be outlined, as well as security measures, etc.

Yaeger provided the weekly maintenance update for all three districts. Ritzville crews will be moving to Washtucna for culvert repair on Watson Road. The solid waste department is continuing with recycling efforts. In facilities, the central services wall is close to completion; heating issues in the public services building continue.

Engineering updates were provided on the Gottlieb-Hille Bridge project; the Herman Road Safety project, and the High-Volume Corridors project.

Canvassing

During Commissioner Garza's health-related absence, Commissioners Blankenship and Weise will serve on the canvassing board for the February 10, 2026 Special Election for the time frame of January 22, 2026 through February 20, 2026 as follows:

February 17, 2026 – Commissioner Blankenship

February 19, 2026 – Commissioner Weise
February 20, 2026 – Commissioner Blankenship

Prosecutor Staffing

Prosecutor Flyckt provided updates on staffing in his office.

Closed Session

At 11:31 a.m. Chairman Blankenship announced the Board would recess into Closed Session for twenty (20) 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 11:51 a.m. the Board reconvened from Closed Session.

Other Business – None

Permanent Minutes Signed

January 6 and 7, 2026
January 13 and 14, 2026

Executive Session – None

Adjournment @ 11:51 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
-absent-
Miguel A. Garza, Vice-Chairman
s/Jay R. Weise, Commissioner