

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

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

February 24, 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 (*virtually*)
Commissioner Jay R. Weise

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Blankenship led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment – None

Approval/Addition of Agenda

Commissioner Weise moved, Garza seconded, to *approve the agenda with the following addition:*

- *Discussion of former Weed District #51.*

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

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

Minutes

Approve February 10 and 11, 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	\$ 39,628.50
106	\$ 81.91
112	\$ 166.39
116	\$ 486.02
502	\$ 28,610.10
115	\$ 42,341.03
321	\$ 45,275.26
401	\$ 3,772.49
402	\$ 251.26
501	\$ 3,711.02
590	\$ 76,418.29
TOTAL	\$240,742.27

Official County Newspaper

Approve, pursuant to RCW 36.72.075, sending a letter to Ritzville Adams County Journal stating a desire for the Journal to serve as the official county newspaper from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, and to request pricing information

Board Updates

Commissioner Garza reported participating in a jail improvement project meeting, via Zoom, providing an update on that. Additionally, Garza reported attending the Port of Othello groundbreaking ceremony for their water tower project.

Commissioner Blankenship reported driving to Olympia last Wednesday for the Legislative Steering Committee meeting, providing updates on legislative activity.

Commissioner Weise reported working on collective bargaining matters and E911 matters, noting he is collecting information from statewide resources.

Correspondence

Jackie Wilhelm, Executive Director, Greater Othello Chamber of Commerce re: non-objection letter from Adams County to waive 20-day waiting period for their Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB) application

Chuck Boyd, Executive Director, Washington Counties Risk Pool re: request for letter of support for passage of SB 6239

Copy of email from Patrick Boss to Wenjuan Zhao re: QUADCO Communications and Freight Project Solicitation
Connie Agenbroad, CEO, Othello Community Hospital re: request for letters of support for federal grant

Board Discussion/Decision Items

Port of Othello

The Port was not available for their scheduled appointment.

Agreement for Use of Jail Services

Commissioner Weise moved, Garza seconded, to *authorize the Chairman sign a corrected copy of Interlocal Agreement for Jail Booking Services between Adams County and Lincoln County for inmate confinement at Lincoln County's jail, housing inmates at a daily rate of \$130.00 for the period February 18, 2026 through December 31, 2028.* **Motion carried unanimously.** Changes made to the contract were grammatical and do not affect the daily cost of confinement or the duration of the contract.

Adams County Noxious Weed Board

Weed District #51 existed in small portions of both Adams and Grant counties. Following five (5) years of inactivity, the Board of Grant County Commissioners dissolved Weed District #51.

Landowners in the former boundaries of Weed District #51 received a letter, dated September 16, 2025, from Eric Bell, Adams County Noxious Weed Control Board Coordinator, advising that ACNWCB would be taking over the responsibility of administering the state noxious weed law within the former district boundaries. The appropriate assessment rates for property owners within the former Weed District #51 boundaries will begin in 2026 and appear on the 2026 tax statement from Adams County.

The Board provided **consensus authorization to notify the Adams County Treasurer of the action to assess rates for property owners within the former boundaries of Weed District #51, noting Eric Bell's letter to landowners, dated September 16, 2025, is reflective of the proper assessment rates.**

Public Works

Interim Director Yaeger and Assistant Director Reynolds provided the weekly update on maintenance in all three districts; noting activities

include pulling shoulders; salt brine depending on weather; culvert extension and drainage projects; and, rock raking on gravel roads.

New legislation concerning household hazardous waste materials was reviewed.

Engineering updates were provided on various on-going projects, noting the Gottlieb-Hille bridge project documents have been forwarded to WSDOT for their approval; a field meeting is scheduled this week for the High Volume Corridor project; the Herman Road Safety project is moving forward; and, crews are close to starting the drainage structure removal and replacement project on Harder Road.

Assistant Director Reynolds provided a report on the Othello Broadband Project.

Road Levy Certification

Commissioner Weise moved, Garza seconded, to *authorize the Chairman to eSign the CrabDocSign Adams County 2026 Road Fund Levy Certification.* **Motion carried unanimously.**

County Clerk

Clerk Sloan reviewed a quote from QMS ScanPro, Carson, California, for a ScanPro device, with necessary software, for use in the Clerk's office. Commissioner Blankenship moved, Garza seconded, to *authorize the County Clerk to purchase a ScanPro 2500 Standard 550 microfilm scanner, in an amount not to exceed \$8,000.00. to be expensed from Trial Court Improvement Fund #119, with a \$300.00 maintenance fee to be paid annually.* **Motion carried unanimously.**

Othello Community Hospital Support Letters

The Board provided **consensus authorization to provide letters of support for Othello Community Hospital's Rural Labor and Delivery Capacity Expansion Project.** Recipients of the letters were Congressman Dan Newhouse; Senator Patty Murray; and, Senator Maria Cantwell.

Other Business

The Board provided consensus **authorization to provide, at the request of the Greater Othello Chamber of Commerce, a non-objection letter**

to the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board regarding the Chamber of Commerce awards banquet to be held February 27, 2026.

Permanent Minutes Signed

February 3 and 4, 2026

Prosecutor Office Staffing

Prosecutor Flyckt reported offering temporary employment to Katelin Davidson to assist the administrative assistant in the prosecutor's office with various duties. Ms. Davidson accepted the position and will begin employment with the county on March 2, 2026.

Executive Session

At 11:10 a.m. Chairman Blankenship announced the Board would recess into Executive Session for twenty (20) minutes under RCW

42.30.110(1)(g) – "To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee...".

Prosecutor Flyckt and Interim Public Works Director Yaeger were present. No action is anticipated.

At 11:30 a.m. the Board reconvened from Executive Session. No action was taken.

Closed Session

At 11:35 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." Prosecutor Flyckt and Interim Public Works Director Yaeger were present. Yaeger left the session at 11:47 a.m.

At 12:05 p.m. the Board reconvened from Closed Session.

Adjournment @ 12:06 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