

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

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

May 6, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.
(Wednesday)

Call to Order

Chairman Blankenship called the meeting to order.

Present:

Chairman Dan C. Blankenship

Vice-Chairman Miguel A. Garza

Commissioner Jay R. Weise (*left meeting at 11:23 a.m. for scheduled appointment*)

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Blankenship led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval/Addition of Agenda

Commissioner Blankenship moved, Garza seconded, to *approve the agenda as presented with the following addition:*

Approve Resolution No. R-019-2026.

Motion carried.

Resolution No. R-019-2026

Commissioner Blankenship moved, Garza seconded, to *approve* ***Resolution No. R-019-2026 In the Matter of Adopting the Modified Job Description for Position No. 1601 – Clerk of the Board.*** Motion carried unanimously.

Board Workshop – Department Updates

Central Services

Director Igbinoba provided the following updates:

- The county IT infrastructure in Othello suffered smoke and soot damage. Cost estimates are being received from vendors.
- The department is accelerating the Zero Trust Acceleration program. Grant funding is being utilized to support additional core control capabilities.

- The department continues to work closely with county district courts on their new court systems database. The new program will significantly improve the management of jury and court proceedings.
- The department is coordinating with Yesco to install a new digital sign at the health department office in Ritzville.
- The department is reviewing the printer contract lease agreement.

Replacement Equipment for Central Services

Commissioner Weise moved, Garza seconded, to *authorize Central Services to move forward with the purchase of replacement hardware in the amount of \$200,000.00 following the smoke damage at the Othello Tower site. The equipment is necessary to restore DR capability and limit exposure.* **Motion carried unanimously.**

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Director Stolsig's reported projects for April were addressing, parcel edits, plat or other land action reviews; and fire personnel locations for the Emergency Management department. Additionally, Stolsig noted short plats, consolidations and segregations have come through his office. Othello has added some ADU's; with the GIS department adding SSAP data to the county NG-911 system.

Emergency Management

Director Duffey's reported April projects included: working with Regroup to replace the CodeRed notification system currently in use. Additionally, Duffey reported on training attended in April. The Othello ambulance open house event is scheduled for May 21, 2026.

ReGroup Mass Notification Subscription Agreement

Commissioner Garza moved, Weise seconded, to *authorize the Chairman sign a Subscription Agreement for an annual subscription with ReGroup Mass Notification, in the amount of \$4,000 annually, for a three (3) year term.* **Motion carried unanimously.**

Tabletop Exercise

Director Duffey reported the tabletop cyber preparedness exercise, that was to be presented during the May 27, 2026 elected official forum, will need to be cancelled. The exercise is rescheduled to August 19, 2026 during the elected officials forum.

Building and Planning

Director Lorenz provided updates on the following:

- Planning Department items: BBEC Co submitted a solar project.
- Planning Commission items: working with AHBL on periodic comp plan update.
- Building Department items:
 - a. WUI Update (Wildfire Urban Interface).
 - b. 2024 Code implementation delayed until May 3, 2027.
 - c. Building Safety Month (the board signed a proclamation).
 - d. Inspector / code enforcement interviews will be held in May.
- Fire Marshal items: no activity to report.
- Code Enforcement items: no new activity to report.
- Proposed alternate work hours policy update – the Board is still considering the matter.
- No training courses are scheduled in the month of May.

Amendment to Adams County Code – ACC 17.69.340

Building and Planning Director Lorenz presented the proposed amendment to the Adams County Code establishing “ACC 17.69.340 – Gun Clubs and Shooting Ranges”.

The proposed regulation is intended to provide clarity for applicants, predictability for staff and decision-makers, and appropriate protections for neighboring property owners.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on April 9, 2026, during which staff presented the proposal and members of the public were provided an opportunity to comment.

The proposed development regulation amendment was reviewed pursuant to the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). A Determination of Non-significance (DNS) was issued on March 11, 2026. The SEPA comment period closed on March 24, 2026 and no significant environmental impacts were identified that could not be mitigated through the proposed regulations.

The Commission found the following:

1. The proposed amendment is consistent with the Adams County Comprehensive Plan policies supporting rural land use compatibility and public safety.

2. The minimum parcel sizes and separation distances help ensure that shooting ranges uses are located where impacts to surrounding properties are minimized.
3. The required range design standards, including berms, backstops, and safety fans, promote containment of projectiles and safe operation.
4. Lead management and environmental planning requirements address potential soil and stormwater contamination associated with range activities.
5. Requiring a noise mitigation plan allows site-specific evaluation and mitigation of sound impacts on neighboring properties.
6. The Conditional Use Permit (CUP) process ensures each proposal receives detailed review and allows appropriate conditions to be imposed where necessary.

Based on the findings above, and the record developed during the public hearing, the Adams County Planning Commission recommends that the Board of County Commissioners adopt the proposed amendment creating AC 17.69.340 – Gun Clubs and Shooting Ranges. No action was taken pending additional consideration.

Proposed New Chapter 17.73 – Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)
Building and Planning Director Lorenz presented the proposed New Chapter 17.73 to the Adams County Code, establishing regulations for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) within unincorporated Adams County.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on April 9, 2026, during which staff presented the proposal and members of the public were provided an opportunity to comment.

The proposed regulation was reviewed pursuant to the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). A Determination of Non-significance (DNS) was issued on March 11, 2026. The SEPA comment period closed on March 24, 2026 and no significant environmental impacts were identified that could not be mitigated through the proposed regulations.

Key Provisions include:

1. One hundred (100)-foot setback for large and utility-scale systems (may be reduced with an approved hazard mitigation analysis).
2. Fifty (50)-foot setback for community-scale facilities.

3. Three hundred (300)-foot separation from off-site dwellings for larger facilities.
4. Maximum structure height of twenty (20) feet.
5. Six (6)-foot security fencing and landscape screening when adjacent to residential uses.

The Commission found the following:

1. The proposed chapter provides clear regulatory framework for emerging energy storage technologies while ensuring protection of public health, safety, and the environment.
2. The proposed ordinance establishes clear development standards, aligns with state and national safety codes, and ensures accountability through commissioning and decommissioning requirements.

Based on the findings above, and the record developed during the public hearing, the Adams County Planning Commission recommends that the Board of County Commissioners adopt a New Chapter 17.73 – Battery Energy Storage Systems to the Adams County Code. No action was taken pending additional consideration.

Executive Session

At 10:55 a.m. Chairman Blankenship announced the Board would recess into Executive Session for fifteen (15) minutes under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) – “To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation...”. No action is anticipated. Prosecutor Flyckt was present.

At 11:10 a.m. the Board reconvened from Executive Session. No action was taken.

Adams County Development Council

Kyle Niehenke, Executive Director, Adams County Development Council, provided an update on active projects and business development to include:

- Ongoing engagement with multiple industrial prospects across food processing, aerospace, advanced manufacturing, logistics, semiconductor, and energy-related sectors.
- Infrastructure and site readiness.
- Opportunity Zones (OZ 2.0).

- State and federal engagement / advocacy.
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).
- Workforce and community engagement.
- Organizational impact and focus.

Adjournment @ 12:13 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

RESOLUTION NO. R-019-2026

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

**IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING THE MODIFIED JOB DESCRIPTION FOR
POSITION NO. 1601 – CLERK OF THE BOARD**

WHEREAS, job descriptions are periodically reviewed for accuracy; and

WHEREAS, the current job description for Position No. 1601 – Clerk of the Board does not fully outline the duties relevant to the position.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the job description for Position No. 1601 – Clerk of the Board is hereby modified to reflect up-to-date duties of this position as set forth in the attached document.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Position No. 1601 – Clerk of the Board will remain classified at Range EE3 on the Adams County Exempt Employee Salary Schedule.

DATED this 6th day of May, 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