

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

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

**June 17, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.
(Tuesday)**

Call to Order

Chairman Garza called the meeting to order.

Present:

Chairman Miguel A. Garza
Commissioner Dan C. Blankenship

Absent:

Vice-Chairman Jay R. Weise

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Garza led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment – None

Board Updates

Commissioner Garza reported attending the annual ACDC meeting and attending, via zoom, the Aging and Adult Care meeting later the same afternoon.

Commissioner Blankenship also attended the annual ACDC meeting in Othello on Thursday. Additionally, Blankenship had a conversation with outgoing Ritzville School District Superintendent Don Vanderholm regarding the Early Learning Center project proposal previously brought before the Board. Mr. Vanderholm noted the district is still interested in the county's involvement in the project.

Approval/Addition of Agenda

Commissioner Blankenship moved, Garza seconded, to *approve the agenda with the following additions:*

1. *Discussion of fair board request during the public works session.*
2. *Integrated Health Care Services staffing request.*

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

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

Minutes

Approve Preliminary Minutes of June 3 and 4, 2025

Payroll

Approve May 16 - 31, 2025 Payroll in the amount of \$599,576.07; and, Benefits in the amount of \$313,544.87 (Warrant # Series 533310-533313; Direct Deposit # Series 85621-85815; Benefit/Deduction # Series 1184114-1184125)

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>Number of Vouchers</u>	<u>Amount</u>
001	32	\$ 66,578.55
0019I	1	\$183,738.61
103	1	\$ 7,829.46
103A	1	\$ 7,829.46
106	1	\$ 3,315.69
112	2	\$ 2,486.45
114	2	\$ 684.19
166	3	\$ 821.80
3231	1	\$ 462.76
502	7	\$ 1,571.40
108	909 – 910	\$ 1,484.81
115	911 – 917	\$232,782.87
401	918 – 921	\$ 33,686.68
501	922 – 927	\$ 8,359.86
590	928 – 940	\$ 68,760.36
	TOTAL	\$620,392.95

Correspondence

Becky Flint, Othello Community Fair Board re: request to replace lights at the Adams County Fairgrounds

Board Discussion/Decision Items

Human Resources

Manager Campbell reviewed key legislative changes in Washington State employment law, effective July – September 2025.

Public Works

Director O'Brien and Engineer Yaeger provided updates on road maintenance activities; Rodeo Lake; and various road projects. Additional updates were provided on the Solid Waste Management Plan.

Schoonover Road Project #1

Engineer Yaeger filed, pursuant to RCW 36.77.010, the Contract Plans and Provisions for construction of Schoonover Road Project #1 – CRP-180.

Adams County Fairgrounds

Becky Flint, Othello, requested Board authorization for the Othello Fair Association to replace thirty (30) outdoor pole lights. The project is a collaboration between Avista Utilities and Farmers' Electric. The total cost of the project is \$28,564 with an Avista rebate/grant of \$19,907 toward the project. The fair will be responsible for \$8,657. Adams County will bear no cost for the project.

The Board provided **consensus authorization for the Othello Fair Board to move forward with the lighting project at the Adams County Fairgrounds as stated above.**

Emergency Management

Commissioner Blankenship moved, Garza seconded, to *authorize the Chairman sign Contract #E25-043, Amendment #1, between Adams County, Washington State Military Department and Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC), in the amount of \$35,570, for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Motion carried.* The amendment reallocates funding and does not change the amount of the contract.

Closed Session

At 10:47 a.m. Chairman Garza announced the Board would recess into Closed Session for thirteen (13) 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 and Prosecutor Flyckt were present.

At 11:00 a.m. the Board reconvened from Closed Session.

Tax Title Property

Treasurer Meise reported citizen interest in purchasing county-owned tax title properties noting each has paid an application fee. A public hearing will be set to consider the sale of the following tax title properties:

1. Lots 9 and 10, Block 36, Othello, Washington.
2. Lot 1, Block 15, Clodius Suburb, Ritzville, Washington.
3. Part of Lot 6, all of Lots 7 through 10, Block 14, Clodius Suburb, Ritzville, Washington.
4. Lots 1 through 5, Block 14, Clodius Suburb, Ritzville, Washington.
5. All Lot 6 and Portion Lot 7 less portion deeded to state in Vol92/Pg269, Block 3, Washtucna, Washington.
6. Lots 5 and 6 and 1/2 each adjacent vacated alley and 6th Street, Block 51, Neilson Bros. 2nd Addition, Lind, Washington.

Integrated Health Care Services

The Board rescheduled the Integrated Health Care Services staffing request discussion to Wednesday, June 18, 2025.

Other Business – None

Permanent Minutes Signed

May 27 and 28, 2025

Recess @ 11:35 a.m.

Reconvene @ 1:00 p.m.

Adams County Planning Commission

Kyle Niehenke, Executive Director, Adams County Development Council, has requested appointment to a position on the Adams County Planning

Commission. Mr. Niehenke noted he has been attending Planning Commission meetings and is interested in the work the commission does.

Potential conflicts of interest were reviewed. Mr. Niehenke feels the Planning Commission is in place to represent the citizens of Adams County. As ACDC Executive Director, additional employment opportunities and increased tax revenue is his focus for Adams County.

No action was taken pending the presence of a full Board.

Adams County Countywide Housing Plan Policy

It being 1:30 p.m., and the time set for the public hearing on the Adams County Countywide Housing Plan Policy, Chairman Garza convened the hearing.

Anne Henning and Andie Lorenz were present. Press from the Ritzville Adams County Journal was present.

Mr. Lorenz provided a staff report on the matter, noting the countywide housing policies aim to:

- Promote a range of housing options that support affordability, accessibility, and sustainable development.
- Ensure that housing policies align with land use, infrastructure, economic development, and transportation planning.
- Encourage the preservation and rehabilitation of existing housing while supporting new development in appropriate areas.
- Address the unique housing needs of rural communities, agricultural workers, and vulnerable populations.
- Encourage rural housing to align with agricultural land preservation.
- Promote buffer zones between developments and existing farm activities.

No public comment was provided.

Chairman Garza adjourned the public hearing at 1:38 p.m.

Adjournment @ 1:45 p.m.

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

Edited and Approved:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ADAMS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

s/Miguel A. Garza, Chairman

-absent-

Jay R. Weise, Vice-Chairman

s/Dan C. Blankenship, Commissioner