

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting
Adams County Courthouse
Ritzville, Washington

May 20, 2020
(Wednesday)

Call to Order @ 9:00 a.m.

Present:

Chairman Roger L. Hartwig
Vice-Chairman Terrance J. Thompson
Commissioner John N. Marshall

[9:00:06 AM](#)

Assessor

Assessor Brewer requested and received **consensus authorization to begin the process of advertising for the position of Appraiser Trainee/Appraiser I and, for training purposes, an overlap in staff, up to two months, after filling the position.**

[9:22:30 AM](#)

[9:22:33 AM](#)

Treasurer

Treasurer Meise reviewed property tax collections for the first half of 2020. Additionally, Meise noted sales tax revenue is expected to be 20-30% less than projected. A finance committee meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2020 for the provision of additional details.

[9:24:12 AM](#)

[9:30:40 AM](#)

Phased Approach to Reopening Washington Plan

Economic Development Director McFadden reported the state of Washington has authorized Adams County to apply for a variance to move to Phase 2 of the phased approach to reopening. The health department and the health officer are preparing for the variance. McFadden is coordinating what is needed to prepare and the process necessary to have a viable variance package ready for submittal.

McFadden reviewed documents necessary to send a complete package to the state for a variance request to include:

- Health Officer Letter
- Variance Application

- COVID-19 Data
- Isolation Memorandum of Understanding
- Board of Health Order
- Board of Commissioners' Order
- Othello Community Hospital and East Adams Rural Hospital certifications of necessary PPE supply for 14 consecutive days.

Additional documents to be included:

- Emergency Management letter
- Sheriff's Office letter
- County Cover letter.

With the compilation of the above documents, Adams County is in a position to electronically file a formal application for variance to implement all Phase II modifications per the governor's safe start Washington plan, allowing the county's businesses to open if they so qualify under Phase 2. It is the recommendation of Director McFadden, based on the work and the documentation that has been prepared by the health department and health officer, to take the actions necessary to formally submit an application for variance.

Health Officer

Adams County Health Officer Dr. Brzezny appeared telephonically, summarizing his recommendation regarding an application for variance to implement Phase 2 per "Safe Start Washington". Dr. Brzezny stated his reasons for recommending a variance include:

1. Cases of SARS-CoV-2 ("Covid-19") in Adams County have decreased and stabilized.
2. Number of SARS-CoV-2 positive tests are declining.
3. Healthcare facilities in Adams County have sufficient and available capacity, per their assessment.
4. Public health investigations of individuals suspected or confirmed for COVID-19 and tracing of their contacts is aggressive and the results excellent.

Additionally, Dr. Brzezny stated the presence of Covid-19 in Adams County demands continued vigilance and a readiness to impose more stringent measures should the need arise.

The Board expressed appreciation to Dr. Brzezny and the entire health department for their dedication throughout the Covid-19 crisis.

Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Housing for Persons In Need of Quarantine/Isolation During the Covid-19 Crisis in Adams County

Commissioner Marshall moved, Thompson seconded, to *approve Memorandum of Understanding between Adams County Board of Commissioners, Acting in the Capacity of Adams County Board of Health, and the Empire Hotel, Ritzville, Washington, Concerning Housing for Persons Who Are in Need of Quarantine/Isolation during the Covid-19 Crisis in Adams County.* **Motion carried.** The document will be forwarded to Empire Hotel owners, Randy and Jeanette Dewitt, for their signatures.

Adams County Board of Health Order

Commissioner Thompson moved, Marshall seconded, to accept the recommendation of Adams County's local Public Health Officer, Dr. Alexander Brzezny, in regard to requesting a variance to implement all Phase 2 modifications of the Governor's "Phased Approach to Reopening Washington Plan". **Motion carried.**

No. of Votes For: 3 No. of Votes Against: 0 Abstaining: 0 Absent: 0

Adams County Commissioners' Board Order

Commissioner Marshall moved, Thompson seconded, to accept the recommendation of Adams County Board of Health to submit a phase variance application request to fully implement Phase 2 of the Governor's "Phased Approach to Reopening Washington Plan" and authorize Adams County Health Director, Vicki Guse, to submit the application to the Washington State Department of Health. **Motion carried.**

No. of Votes For: 3 No. of Votes Against: 0 Abstaining: 0 Absent: 0

Correspondence Requesting Variance to Allow Adams County to Move from Phase 1 to Phase 2 of the Washington Phased Approach to Reopening

Commissioner Marshall moved, Thompson seconded, to *approve sending a letter addressed to State of Washington Governor Jay Inslee; and, State of Washington Secretary of Health Director John Wiesman, DrPH, requesting a variance from the Stay Home-Stay Healthy proclamation allowing for Phase 2 implementation in Adams County.* **Motion carried.**

[10:22:44 AM](#)

Adjournment @ 11:45 a.m.

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

Edited and Approved:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ADAMS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
s/Roger L. Hartwig, Chairman
s/Terrance J. Thompson, Vice-Chairman
s/John N. Marshall, Commissioner