

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting Adams County Public Services Building Othello, Washington

July 8, 2020
(Wednesday)

Call to Order @ 9:00 a.m.

Present:

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

[9:00:05 AM](#)

Integrated Health Care Services

Adams County Health Officer Dr. Brzezny reported on COVID-19 statistics including:

- level of cases across the United States;
- daily new cases in the United States increasing;
- death rate in the United States decreasing;
- historical trend of Washington cases; and
- number of hospitalizations in Washington state.

As of July 7, 2020, there are 191 positives cases in Adams County and, within the last three days, 28 positive cases have been reported.

Dr. Brzezny reported the challenges in controlling the disease include droplet spread; airborne spread; work/home spread; test turnaround time/late reporting; staffing; and, increased mobility and movement. Additionally, Dr. Brzezny is projecting a continued rise in cases through the summer season.

Environmental Health Director Taff reported on potential fines businesses may incur through the Department of Labor and Industries should they choose not to follow or enforce the Governor's masking order. RN Karen Potts provided an update on COVID-19 testing results in the Othello area.

Additionally, Dr. Brzezny provided updates on a tuberculosis case in Adams County; West Nile virus; blue/green algae in area waters; and, wildfire smoke.

Investigator Positions

The Board provided **consensus authorization for Director Guse to hire two (2) additional FTE investigator positions in her department to provide investigative duties during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Public Health

Commissioner Marshall moved, Thompson seconded, to *authorize the Chairman to sign the following agreements as presented:*

- *Contract No. K2734, Amendment #2, between Washington State Health Care Authority and Adams County Health Department for an increase of \$49,240 for a new maximum contract total of \$98,480 for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2022. (Amendment increases funds, adds definitions, extends the term for continuation of ABCD Dental Services.)*
- *Health Care Authority Data Share Agreement – in connection to ABCD Dental Services Contract No. 2734, between Washington State Health Care Authority and Adams County Health Department for the purpose of:*
 - *to identify, describe and protect the Medicaid data being provided by HCA from Provider One to the receiving party i.e. Health Department;*
 - *data to be shared under agreement is necessary to help Medicaid clients in accessing oral health care; and*
 - *RCW 70.02.050 allows for disclosure without patient authorization on a need to know basis for provision of health care.*

Motion carried.

Department of Health

Economic Development Director McFadden reported the state Department of Health is providing funds to support marketing around the state through the use of public service announcements related to COVID-19. The additional funds, in the amount of \$12,500, are approved within a current contract through the state. The messaging will be available in English and Spanish languages in two separate videos and will note the importance of

masking and social distancing. Additionally, flyers, posters, and handouts will be distributed as part of the messaging. Further discussion will take place with the state in working out the details of the grant funds with McFadden taking the lead in collaborating with a publication company to assemble the materials.

[10:22:12 AM](#)

[10:22:34 AM](#)

Resolution No. R-039-2020

Commissioner Marshall moved, Thompson seconded, to *approve Resolution No. R-039-2020 In the Matter of Extending the Closing of County Facilities for All Non-Emergent Business and Visits, Directing that County Department Heads Under the Administration of the Board of County Commissioners Reduce Staff to Essential Operating Positions and Consider Options Such as Telecommuting and Working from Home so as to Limit Individual Exposure and Making Similar Recommendations to the Elected Officials of Adams County and to the Courts of Adams County. Motion carried.* This closure shall remain in effect through the close of business on July 31, 2020, or until further order of the Board.

[10:25:32 AM](#)

[10:28:28 AM](#)

Emergency Management

Emergency Management Director Weise provided an update on county emergency management activities. Additionally, Weise reported face masks have been distributed throughout Adams County. Masks have also been made available to the court system.

[10:35:06 AM](#)

District Court Position No. 2

Judge Benzel, along with Administrative Assistant Melo, **requested and received consensus authorization to purchase barriers to aid in the separation of public and staff in the courtroom.**

Economic Development

Economic Development Director McFadden discussed the possibility of an additional person in his department as well as a remodel of the Public Services Building once the Building and Planning department has fully relocated to their new office.

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-039-2020

IN THE MATTER OF EXTENDING THE CLOSING OF COUNTY FACILITIES FOR ALL NON-EMERGENT BUSINESS AND VISITS, DIRECTING THAT COUNTY DEPARTMENT HEADS UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REDUCE STAFF TO ESSENTIAL OPERATING POSITIONS AND CONSIDER OPTIONS SUCH AS TELECOMMUTING AND WORKING FROM HOME SO AS TO LIMIT INDIVIDUAL EXPOSURE AND MAKING SIMILAR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ELECTED OFFICIALS OF ADAMS COUNTY AND TO THE COURTS OF ADAMS COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Adams County Board of Commissioners have adopted a resolution declaring an emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic response; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. R-019-2020 was adopted March 16, 2020 ordering the closure of county facilities, for a minimum of fourteen (14) days, for all non-emergent business and visits, directing the county department heads under the Administration of the Board of County Commissioners reduce staff to essential operating positions and consider options such as telecommuting and working from home so as to limit individual exposure and making similar recommendations to the elected officials of Adams County and to the Courts of Adams County; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. R-020-2020 was adopted March 30, 2020 extending the closing of county facilities; and Resolution No. R-027-2020 was adopted April 27, 2020 further extending the closing of county facilities; and, Resolution No. R-029-2020 was adopted May 15, 2020 further extending the closing of county facilities; and, Resolution No. R-031-2020 was adopted May 26, 2020 further extending the closing of county facilities; and Resolution No. R-033 was adopted June 15, 2020 further extending the closing of county facilities; and

WHEREAS, to protect the health and safety of the public and reduce the possible exposure to COVID-19 it is necessary to extend the closure through the close of business on July 31, 2020.

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Adams County Board of Commissioners:

1. All department heads under the administration of the Board of County Commissioners are directed to have all non-essential employees to remain at home, or perform work from home, and to operate on reduced hours.
2. Recommends that all Adams County elected officials employ measures similar to those directed of department heads.
3. Further recommends that the District and Superior Courts operating within Adams County continue with enactments of emergency measures as set forth in Washington State Supreme Court Order 25700-B-602, and subsequent orders of such Court.
4. This order shall be deemed effective July 16, 2020, and shall remain in effect through July 31, 2020, or until further order of the BOCC.
5. All employees affected by this emergency resolution will continue to be paid in accordance with their existing salary classifications.

DATED this 8th day of July, 2020.

ATTEST:

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

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

Approved as to form:
s/Randy J. Flyckt, Prosecutor
WSBA #29302