

## **COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS**

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

**January 12, 2022**  
(Wednesday)

**Call to Order @ 9:00 a.m.**

**Present:**

Chairman Jay R. Weise  
Vice-Chairman Terrance J. Thompson  
Commissioner Dan C. Blankenship (*left the meeting at 1:45 p.m.*)

**Board of Health Update**

Dr. Brzezny, Adams County Health Officer, provided updates on the following:

- Local Omicron statistics
- Extraordinary virus transmissibility efficiency
- Different phases of the Omicron surge
- Severity of the Omicron virus (previously infected, vaccinations)
- Death rate in the U.S. as well as hospitalizations
- Estimated Omicron Modeling Assumptions (based on estimates of average vaccine effectiveness against Delta and Omicron)
- Vaccine and booster effectiveness (unvaccinated vs. fully vaccinated)
- Adams County cases per day
- Regional and eastern Washington hospital capacity
- Adams County schools COVID-19 rate (Benge, Lind-Hatton-Ritzville; Othello; Washtucna)
- Outpatient treatments for Omicron
- CDC/DOH isolation/quarantine changes

**Board of Health Composition**

A discussion was held regarding the restructuring of the Adams County Board of Health mandated by E2SBH 1152, which require local boards of health to expand their membership to include non-elected persons, and what actions are needed moving forward.

### **Timm Taff Health Officer – Environmental Health Report**

Environmental Health Director Taff provided a report on EH Department activities from December 8, 2021 through January 12, 2022, including staff updates; solid waste; renewal of permits for food establishments; septic installers; septic pumpers; and, recreational pool facilities.

### **Integrated Health Care Services**

Integrated Health Care Services Director Guse reported a vacancy of a .5 nurse position and requested authorization to advertise for a full-time nurse position. Guse noted she is currently approved for a .5 COVID nursing position also. The Board provided **consensus authorization for Director Guse to advertise for a full-time nursing position with half of the position designated for COVID responsibilities.**

Director Guse provided agency updates on COVID activities; ABCD Access to Baby and Child Dentistry program; and, a new system from CDC to identify individuals with TB needing follow up care.

Director Guse reported on Spokane ASO Fiscal Compliance Monitoring with no issues identified or recommendations received. Additional updates were provided concerning emergency housing; a Recovery Navigator Program incorporated within the current Spokane ASO agreement; and, meetings held and attended throughout the month of December, 2021.

### **Crisis Agreement 22ASO2646**

Commissioner Blankenship moved, Thompson seconded, to *authorize the Chairman to sign Crisis Agreement 22ASO2646 with Spokane County, a political subdivision of the State of Washington, by and between the Spokane Regional Behavioral Health (SCRBH), a division of Spokane County Community Services, Housing, and Community Development Department (CSHCD), (hereinafter “CSHCD SCRBH”) and Contractor identified as Adams County Integrated Health Care Services for a total contract award of \$431,100 for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.* **Motion carried.**

**Recess @ 11:31 a.m.**

**Reconvene @ 1:00 p.m.**

### **Public Works**

Public Works Director O'Brien provided the weekly maintenance update noting crews are applying salt brine and insuring culverts are clear.

Engineer Yaeger reported staff is preparing for a bridge deck project that will commence next week on Sutton Road, west of Highway 17, in Othello.

### **County Arterial Pavement Preservation Program (CAPP)**

Engineer Yaeger reviewed the 2022 County Arterial Preservation Program.

### **Public Works Apprenticeship Program**

The Adams County Apprenticeship Program was discussed with Director O'Brien reviewing the three phases of the program.

### **Solid Waste Long Haul Adjustment Proposal**

Director O'Brien reviewed the process in which to evaluate the adjustments of labor and operational costs, noting that by January 30 of each year the Public Works Department will review and evaluate costs and adjust properly. The solid waste contractor will then have until April 30<sup>th</sup> of the same year to make the decision to continue or not. The Board provided **consensus authorization for the Public Works Department to move forward with Director O'Brien presenting the proposal to the contractor for consideration.**

### **Shared Annual Leave**

Public Works Director O'Brien reported an employee in his department has requested use of the county leave sharing program. The Board provided **consensus authorization to allow employees to donate annual leave to an employee of the Public Works Department, Fund #115.**

### **Evidence Building**

Prosecutor Flyckt reviewed the architect agreement noting areas of concern. Director O'Brien will propose the recommended modifications to the architect firm for their consideration.

### **Deal Road Project #2**

Engineer Yaeger reviewed Resolution No. R-002-2022 for the purpose of establishing Deal Road Project #2 as County Road Project (CRP-197), defining the scope of work as well as establishing the estimated project cost of \$1,904,000. Said resolution will come before the Board for approval January 18, 2022.

### **Indigent Defense Contract**

Attorney Barrett Scudder introduced Attorney Dan Wu with a recommendation of Mr. Wu substituting for Attorney Brandon West in the current Indigent Defense contract. Mr. Scudder previously notified the

Board of Mr. West's request to be released from the contract, noting Mr. Wu is able to resume all of Mr. West's responsibilities by February 1, 2022.

Mr. Scudder reviewed Mr. Wu's qualifications and proposed preparing an amendment to the 2022 Public Defender Contract Addendum whereby Mr. West will be released from the contract with Mr. Wu added in his place. The Board provided **consensus authorization for Mr. Scudder to proceed with preparing an Amendment to the 2022 Addendum to the 2021-2025 Adams County Indigent Defense Contract.**

**Correspondence Sent**

House Appropriations Committee members Timm Ormsby, Chair; and, Drew Stokesbary, Ranking Member re: request for assistance in developing a solution for high water events on Sprague Lake (*joint letter from Adams County Commissioners and Lincoln County Commissioners*)

**Adjournment @ 2:23 p.m.**

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

Edited and Approved:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ADAMS COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
s/Jay R. Weise, Chairman  
s/Terrance J. Thompson, Vice-Chairman  
s/Dan C. Blankenship, Commissioner