

## COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

Adams County Courthouse  
Ritzville, Washington  
Regular Meeting

August 8, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.  
(Tuesday)

### Call to Order

Chairman Weise called the meeting to order.

### Present:

Chairman Jay R. Weise  
Vice-Chairman Dan C. Blankenship  
Commissioner Miguel A. Garza (*left at 1:45 p.m. – Canvassing Meeting*)

### Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Weise led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Public Comment – None

### Approval/Addition of Agenda

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

### Consent Agenda

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

### Minutes

Approve Preliminary Minutes of July 25 and 26, 2023

### 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>Control Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
001	23-6996 – 23-7036	\$ 27,861.63

001	Hand Pays	\$	800.00
103A	23-7037 – 23-7038	\$	121.55
104	23-7039 – 23-7049	\$	15,924.45
112	23-7050 – 23-7051	\$	2,242.77
116	23-7052	\$	593.03
122	23-7053	\$	31.00
123	23-7054 – 23-7055	\$	2,301.52
131	23-7056	\$	2,975.26
166	23-7057 – 23-7064	\$	10,667.47
502	23-7065 – 23-7067	\$	1,774.31
115	1057 – 1065	\$	282,754.67
401	1066 – 1073	\$	6,408.72
501	1074 – 1075	\$	9,816.64
590	1076 – 1094	\$	71,870.53
	TOTAL	\$	436,143.55

#### **Consultant Agreement**

#### **Public Works**

Approve, based on the recommendation of Public Works, entering into a Consultant Agreement with Plateau Archaeological Investigations, LLC, Pullman, Washington, in the amount of \$7,485, to perform cultural resource consulting on Adams County’s Fiber to the Home Broadband project. (CP08012023)

#### **Interagency Agreement**

#### **IHCS**

Approve the Chairman to sign, via DocuSign, Interagency Agreement, No. 24-46108-100 between Washington State Department of Commerce, Housing, Division, Homelessness Assistance Unit, and Adams County for local document recording fees support for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025. (CP05242023)

#### **Correspondence – None**

#### **Board Updates**

Commissioner Garza reported he attended the open house at the Mormon Temple in Moses Lake last week; he attended the Aging and Adult Care meeting via Zoom; he will be attending the QuadCo meeting on Thursday; and, he did a site visit to the colocation in Othello.

Commissioner Blankenship reviewed the colocation in Othello during a site visit with Mark Kennedy and Engineer Yaeger; and, met with Avista Utilities along with John Culton and Kyle Niehenke.

Commissioner Weise reported on Collective Bargaining efforts.

### **Board Discussion/Decision Items**

#### **Human Resources**

Manager Campbell provided updates on certain job description modifications. Modifications to the personnel policy were reviewed with further workshops scheduled in the future. Additionally, Campbell reported the volunteer application form has been completed for the Emergency Management department.

#### **Public Works**

Public Works Director O'Brien provided the weekly update on road maintenance noting with the recent rain, roads are being graded. Additionally, O'Brien reported on Broadband permitting, solid waste, and facilities.

Engineer Yaeger reported on the Deal Road #2 project; Hatton Road Safety project; and the County Wide Crushing project. Additionally, Yaeger reported that he has received an email that two submitted HSIP safety projects were awarded full funding totaling over \$3,000,000,000.

Engineer Yaeger reported relocating the Othello radio antenna to the sheriff's substation will cost \$19,000 and Day Wireless is requesting a lease. Engineer Yaeger noted that the lease will be for a one (1) year term with automatic renewal.

#### **Executive Session**

At 10:23 a.m. Chairman Weise announced the Board would recess into Executive Session for thirty (30) minutes under RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) – "To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee". Additionally present were Civil Attorney Barden; Human Resource Manager Campbell; Public Works Director O'Brien; and, Engineer Yaeger.

At 10:48 a.m. the Board reconvened from Executive Session. No action taken.

#### **Coroner**

Prosecutor Flyckt reviewed Substitute House Bill 1326 noting the 2021 legislative session made substantial changes to RCW 36.16.030. This statute, up until January 1, 2025, lists elective officers in a county

providing that counties over 40,000 in population will have a county coroner. It goes on to provide that in counties with a population of less than 40,000 in population, the county prosecuting attorney will serve as the ex-officio county coroner. The default arrangement is that a county coroner must be elected. Two alternatives to that are (1) the legislative authority may determine that no coroner will be elected with the legislative authority appointing a coroner and overseeing the position; and (2) enter in to an interlocal agreement with an adjoining county for the provision of a coroner or medical examiner services.

A legislative decision is necessary prior to filing week in May, 2024. If no action is taken, the matter will default to an elected coroner with a salary based on the statutory minimum which is currently \$11,000.

Adjacent counties will be contacted to determine interest in entering in to an interlocal agreement for coroner services.

**Other Business – None**

**Permanent Minutes Signed**

July 18 and 19, 2023

**Executive Session – None**

**Recess @ 11:54 a.m.**

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

**Cost Allocation Plan**

Auditor Hunt reviewed the proposed 2024 cost allocation plan for Central Services noting the majority of the costs are known; will be allocated between departments; and, will be billed quarterly.

Additionally present were Central Services Staff Igbinoba and Boyer.

**Adjournment @ 2:03 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/Dan C. Blankenship, Vice-Chairman  
s/Miguel A. Garza Commissioner