

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting
Adams County Courthouse
Ritzville, Washington

March 8, 2023 – 9:01 a.m.
(Wednesday)

Call to Order

Chairman Weise called the meeting to order.

Present:

Chairman Jay R. Weise
Vice-Chairman Dan C. Blankenship
Commissioner Miguel A. Garza

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Weise led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval/Addition of Agenda

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

Board of Commissioner Meeting – Recess @ 9:02 a.m.

Board of Health Meeting – Call to Order @ 9:02 a.m.

Present: Commissioners Weise, Blankenship and Garza; Adams County Health Officer Dr. Brzezny, IHCS Director Guse; Karen Potts; April May; and, Timm Taff (virtually)

Approval/Addition of Agenda

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

Public Comment – None

Health Officer Update

Adams County Health Officer Dr. Brzezny reported the following:

- On-going severe hospital inpatient capacity and emergency care challenges:
 - hospitals continue with exceedingly high census, most at 100 – 125% of capacity. Staffing is the main challenge.
 - ER's are full with consistent backups in waiting rooms.
 - Pediatric volumes, ED visit and bed occupancy continuing at very high levels.
- Masking requirements:
 - Starting April 3, 2023, Washington will no longer require universal masking in healthcare, long-term care facilities or correction facilities. Healthcare recommendations continue to apply. Hospitals may decide to continue their own masking requirements.
- Respiratory illness outbreak:
 - United States influenza-like illness activity by state and United States lab-confirmed flu hospitalizations.
- United States COVID-19 positive tests:
 - Variants BQ.1.1 + XBB.1.5. US COVID-19 hospitalizations.
 - COVID-19 deaths remain high.
 - SARS-2 concentration in wastewater.
 - COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths by vaccination status in Washington State
 - Seven-day incidence rate.
 - United States percentage of vaccinated children.
 - Serious cases of Covid increase long covid risk.
- Measles: What actions should schools be taking?
 - Enforcement of state requirements on MMR vaccine.
 - Monitor students' vaccination status.
 - Isolate and report any suspected cases of measles.
- Overdose deaths among Washington residents.
 - Community interventions, recognize opioid overdose; Narcan for all patients with any chronic opioid use, Narcan for cities, schools, law enforcement.
 - Schools to again entertain carrying Narcan (possibly under Health Officer order).
- Update on Adams County tuberculosis patient's treatment.

A draft ordinance relating to food service sanitation was included in the Board packet for review.

Board Updates – None

Board Discussion/Decision Items – None

Other Business

Waste Management

Public Works Director O'Brien joined the session and reviewed the Adams County Landfill and Recycling Center Agricultural Mitigation Plan prepared by Waste Management of Washington, Inc.

Additionally reviewed were the roles and responsibilities of each department during the process. Commissioner Blankenship notified the Board that he believes he has a conflict of interest in this matter and has recused himself from discussions upon being elected commissioner January 1, 2021. Prosecutor Flyckt noted, to the extent until there is a clear conflict, there is no reason for Commissioner Blankenship to not participate in meetings.

Executive Session – None

Board of Health Meeting – Adjourn @ 10:49 a.m.

Board of Commissioner Meeting – Reconvene @ 10:50 a.m.

Recess @ 10:50 a.m.

Reconvene @ 11:01 a.m.

Board Workshop

Integrated Health Care Services

Director Guse provided written updates on Integrated Health Care Services February, 2022 activities and staffing, noting the following positions remain unfilled:

- two (2) DCR/Therapist positions;
- one (1) Assistant Director position;
- one (1) Behavioral Health Billing Clerk position;
- one (1) IT Technician position; and,
- one (1) Prevention Coordinator position.

2022-2024 Consolidated Contract CLH31001, Amendment #11

Commissioner Garza moved, Blankenship seconded, to *authorize the Chairman to sign 2022-2024 Consolidated Contract CLH31001,*

*Amendment #11, between the State of Washington Department of Health and Adams County Integrated Health Care Services for an increase in funding of \$4,000 for a total contract award of \$2,706,974 for the contract period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024. **Motion carried.***

Adjournment @ 11:58 a.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