

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting
Adams County Courthouse
Ritzville, Washington

April 12, 2023 – 9:00 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 Garza moved, Blankenship seconded, to *approve the agenda as presented*. **Motion carried.**

Board of Commissioner Meeting – Recess @ 9:01 a.m.

Board of Health Meeting – Call to Order @ 9:01 a.m.

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

Approval/Addition of Agenda

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

Health Officer Update

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

- COVID-19 emergency orders were terminated October 31, 2022

- Universal masking requirement in Washington was terminated April 2, 2023
- President Biden signed a bill ending the national emergency enacted by President Trump on April 11, 2023
- Interim recommendations for SARS-CoV-2 infection prevention and control in healthcare settings
- Influenza-like illness minimal in Adams County
- COVID-19 deaths have decreased
- Washington variants of COVID-19
- Vaccination recommendations
- COVID-19 incidence and mortality rate among the vaccinated and unvaccinated
- Marburg Virus disease outbreaks in Equatorial Guinea and Tanzania (similar to Ebola)
- Tuberculosis – no active cases in Adams County at this time
- COVID wastewater testing in Othello – Brendan Abonyi has requested a commitment from the City of Othello to have weekly testing at the wastewater facility with the state paying the cost. To date, the Health Department has not received a response from the city. Commissioner Weise noted that he will follow up with Othello city leaders.
- Waste Management Landfill – Grant County is agreeable to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Adams County to allow for solid waste assistance. No action was taken pending legal review.

Board Updates – None

Board Discussion/Decision Items

Commissioner Weise reviewed the layout of office space within the county-owned Cedar Street Buildings in Othello. Weise requested current offices in both the county services building and the Cedar Street building evaluate the space needed for their respective operations, inviting a discussion as to spacing needs and grouping of departments within facilities.

Other Business – None

Executive Session – None

Board of Health Meeting – Adjourn @ 10:16 a.m.

Board of Commissioner Meeting – Reconvene @ 10:16 a.m.

Board Workshop
Integrated Health Care Services

Director Guse provided a written report of staff activities and fiscal reports for the month of March, 2023.

Recess @ 10:17 a.m.
Reconvene @ 10:33 a.m.

Human Resources

Manager Campbell reported on the estimated number of employees that are interested in Spanish language proficiency testing pursuant to the ACCE Collective Bargaining Agreement.

The Board provided **consensus authorization for Manager Campbell to contact Avant Assessment and request a contract to provide Spanish language proficiency testing in reading, writing, listening and speaking.**

Manager Campbell will provide a memo to employees with pertinent testing information.

Small Counties WAPA meeting

Prosecutor Flyckt reported legislative reforms are coming to coroner offices in Washington, noting Adams County may need to create an elected position of coroner. Should that happen, facilities will need to be considered. Commissioner Weise requested Prosecutor Flyckt compile a list of actions necessary to work through the issue to provide structure to the process.

Adjournment @ 12:01 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