

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

**Adams County Services Building, Othello
January 14, 1998**

The Adams County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 1998, in Othello, with Chairman Schlagel and Commissioners Wills and Logan present.

Commissioner Logan moved, Wills seconded, to authorize the chairman to sign the Specialty Care Provider Agreement with Community Health Network of Washington. Motion carried. Due to changes in Medicare, this and similar future agreements with other health insurance companies will provide mental health services on a fee for services basis. Staff within Mental Health will all be required to be certified to perform services under these contracts.

Community Counseling Director Brueske updated the board on staff changes in both the Ritzville and Othello offices; and, reported that Mental Health Contract changes now require that providers "have documented accounting procedures to ensure that accrued interest and excess reserve balances will be returned to the public mental health system within the Contractor service area". Discussion has already taken place with the County Treasurer and steps have been taken to ensure compliance at contract start date of October, 1997.

Robert Michik, on behalf of the "West Bench Road Community Organization" membership discussed with the board methods for solving the infrastructure problems in the area pertaining to safety and accessibility. A moratorium on building permits in the area has been in place until such time as these issues are addressed and resolved. The group requested assistance from Planning and Engineering to begin the process that would facilitate them applying for loans to complete the work. Following completion of the work, costs which would be assumed by the Organization membership, the County was requested to assume regular maintenance of the road/bridge. The matter will be forwarded to Planning and Engineering for follow-up.

It being the time of 10:00 a.m. and the place set for the public hearing on the Interim Urban Services Area in the panhandle of Adams County, Chairman Schlagel opened the public hearing.

Dee Caputo, Building and Planning Director, provided the historical background for the need for long term growth planning in the area; discussed the Task Force Work and premises for establishing an Urban Services Area; and, discussed the task of staff following approval to establish development regulations for the area and determining responsibility for enforcement.

Dee Caputo read a letter dated January 14, 1998, received from the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (on file).

Dave Anderson, Planner, explained and identified the proposed area to be included in the Urban Services Area.

Curt Andrews, Public Works Director for the City of Othello, discussed economic viability for the area and the need to protect agricultural land; discussed standards which will need to be established for the area involved; and, discussed water and sewer capacity currently available from the City and future expansion.

Keith Graham requested and discussed extension of the boundaries to accommodate some property southwest of the proposed lines.

Doug Buck made comments on the extension. A letter from Diane Olsen dated January 6, 1998, was read.

Task Force members addressed the specific area being requested for inclusion and how the County and City Planning Commissions interfaced and ultimately determined that the area should be excluded.

Comments were then heard from: Ken Kaylor, Maxine Taylor, Bob McCullough, Alan Hanks, Don Derifield, Les Clemons, City of Othello Mayor E. R. Kelley, Kelly Watts, and Everett Sanders.

Board consensus was that sufficient public testimony had been received for them to now be able to consider the proposal and to make a decision.

Chairman Schlagel closed the public hearing at 11:55 a.m.

The Board will make a decision regarding the Urban Services Area boundary on Tuesday, January 20, 1998, at 1:00 p.m. during regular session held at the Adams County Courthouse, Room 202, in Ritzville, Washington.

Bobbie Kegley, Othello, presented the board with a petition from citizens in the area near the Othello Golf and Country Club Estates requesting the county to build a safe and legal road shoulder on the south side of Bench Road near Thacker Road. The group maintained that the area in question had "no shoulder and is considered very unsafe for both vehicles and bike riders". The request and petition will be forward to the Public Works Department.

There being no further business to come before the board the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ADAMS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
s/W. L. Schlagel, Chairman
s/Bill Wills, Commissioner
s/Shawn R. Logan, Commissioner

ATTEST:
s/Linda Reimer, CMC/AAE
Clerk of the Board