

## COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

### Adams County Courthouse Ritzville, Washington Regular Meeting

May 4, 2020  
(Monday)

**Call to Order @ 8:30 a.m.**

**Present:**

Chairman Roger L. Hartwig  
Vice-Chairman Terrance J. Thompson  
Commissioner John N. Marshall

**Meeting Cancellation**

The regular meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, 2020 is cancelled. Press will be notified.

[10:00:00 AM](#)

**Public Works**

Public Works Director O'Brien provided the weekly update on maintenance; solid waste; and fairgrounds. O'Brien noted he has had conversations with courthouse offices regarding barriers between staff and public and a temporary solution will be put in place by each individual office. Health Officer Dr. Brzezny will be consulted regarding design and materials for permanent barriers to meet health department requirements.

**Deal Road Widening/Surfacing & Deal #1 Project – Phase #2 (CRP-189) and Deal Road County Overlay Project #82-0011**

Commissioner Marshall moved, Thompson seconded, to *approve the Contract and Contract Bond for Central Washington Asphalt, Inc., Moses Lake, Washington for the Deal Road Widening/Surfacing & Deal #1 Project – Phase #2 (CRP-189) and Deal Road County Overlay Project #82-0011.* **Motion carried.**

**Engineering**

Engineer Yaeger provided updates on the following:

Deal Road Project, Phase #1, noting the project is nearing completion. Once complete, Central Washington Asphalt will move on-site to begin Phase #2 of the project.

Atkinson Road Project, noting construction is expected to take place between August and October with notice to contractors expected to be advertised in June.

Booker Road Bridge, the guardrail has been temporarily repaired and marked.

Additionally, Engineer Yaeger noted that complaints have been received, and resolved, regarding the condition of certain gravel roads being used during the wind farm construction project.

### **Fairground Rentals**

Public Works Director O'Brien noted that the fairgrounds commercial building is tentatively scheduled for rental events on June 13 and June 27, 2020. Under the governor's phasing program for Washington State, the county will still be under Phase 3, allowing gatherings of no more than fifty (50) people. Director O'Brien requested and received **consensus to cancel the rental events at the fairgrounds scheduled through the month of June, 2020.**

### **Elections**

Auditor Hunt discussed the possibility of renting the office adjacent to the health department, previously leased by Chicago Title. Auditor Hunt noted, to ensure that 2020 elections can be conducted and held, and observed with keeping social distance concerns, CARES act funding has been made available. Adams County will receive a grant of \$132,701.00 for the purpose of providing a secure location to process ballots and provide for social distancing requirements for workers according to guidelines. Hunt noted the former Chicago Title office is ideal for that purpose and CARES funding will allow for the cost of renting the building, under the federal guidelines, as well as purchase safety upgrades to ensure the integrity of elections. Board **consensus authorized Director O'Brien to conduct an on-site review of the former Chicago Title building, along with Auditor Hunt, to evaluate needs moving forward for an off-site elections office.**

[10:48:49 AM](#)

[11:00:04 AM](#)

### **Human Resources**

Human Resource Manager Perez reviewed a letter from State of Washington Health Care Authority (HCA). Due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency in Washington declared by Governor Inslee, the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) has created expanded criteria for

employees to be eligible for medical insurance through the county. An employee hired, or rehired, to respond to the COVID-19 emergency is eligible, as an option rather than a requirement, for the employer contribution toward PEBB benefits in any month they work a minimum of eight hours. At this time, Adams County does not anticipate a need to hire a number of additional employees due to the outbreak. The Board requested Perez return later in the afternoon for a decision once they have had additional time to consider the matter.

[11:14:16 AM](#)

**Recess @ 12:00**

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

[1:30:38 PM](#)

### **Memorandum of Understanding**

Deputy Civil Attorney Barden presented for review a *draft* Memorandum of Understanding Between the Adams County Board of Commissioners and the Adams County Sheriff's Deputies Association and Sheriff Wagner Regarding a Wage Premium of Four Percent (4%) for One (1) Corporal Specialty Designation. The Board felt the matter is best discussed with Sheriff Wagner present and available to provide comment on the MOU. A follow-up meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2020. This document is in addition to the bargaining agreement and will need to be signed by all parties and will need to be agreeable to the bargaining unit.

### **On Site Sewage Systems**

Deputy Civil Attorney Barden presented a *draft* On-Site Sewage System Policy. Attorney Barden noted the policy has been reviewed with State of Washington Department of Health and Adams County Environmental Health Director Timm Taff. There were minor changes in the policy from the original version, adopted in February, 2020. No action was taken by the Board pending review of the modified policy.

[1:54:03 PM](#)

[2:40:05 PM](#)

### **Human Resources**

The Board discussed HCA Contract #K1974 – PEBB 2020-03 COVID-19 Related Eligibility presented by Human Resource Manager Perez earlier in the day. The Board, by **consensus elected to not access and use PEBB 2020-03 COVID-19 eligibility coverage adopting expanded criteria for PEBB benefits to employees hired or rehired to respond to the COVID-19 emergency.**

[2:46:39 PM](#)

3:00:11 PM

**Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Thompson moved, Marshall seconded, to *approve the Consent Agenda*. **Motion carried.**

Preliminary minutes of April 27, 2020

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	1229 – 1255	\$ 78,209.02
001	Hand Pays	\$ 250.00
103	1256 – 1257	\$ 162.97
104	1257 – 1262	\$ 2,115.73
106	1263	\$ 1,291.00
122	1264 – 1266	\$ 5,929.06
123	1267 – 1268	\$ 3,201.00
131	1269	\$ 1,755.92
502	1270 – 1271	\$ 506.05
108	541	\$ 1,158.44
115	542 – 550	\$ 17,649.42
321	551 – 552	\$ 2,398.11
401	553 – 557	\$ 11,148.63
501	558 – 559	\$ 763.34
590	560 – 570	\$ 97,409.09
	TOTAL	\$223,947.78

**Stay Home – Stay Healthy Executive Order**

Commissioner Marshall moved, Thompson seconded, to *approve a letter being sent to Washington State Governor Jay Inslee requesting that Adams County, and the cities and towns within collectively, request the ability to immediately obtain a variance that will allow movement to Phase 2 of the Washington Phased Approach*. **Motion carried.**

3:02:20 PM

**Permanent Minutes Signed**

April 20, 2020

**Correspondence Sent**

Letter to Governor Jay Inslee re: request to apply for a variance from the state to implement Phase 2 of the Washington Phased Approach

**Correspondence Received**

Notice of Marijuana License Application re: Virginia Enterprises, 2310 W. Sutton Road, Suite A3, Othello (*change of location application*)

**Adjournment @ 3:15 p.m.**

Submitted:

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

Edited and Approved:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ADAMS COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
s/Roger L. Hartwig, Chairman  
s/Terrance J. Thompson, Vice-Chairman  
s/John N. Marshall, Commissioner