

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting Adams County Public Services Building Othello, Washington

June 10, 2020
(Wednesday)

Call to Order @ 9:00 a.m.

Present:

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

[9:00:32 AM](#)

Integrated Health Care Services

Adams County Health Officer Dr. Brzezny reported on the recent increase in coronavirus cases in Adams County, noting 40% of everything seen in terms of cases has happened in the last two weeks. Yakima County has seen an exponential growth in cases, increasing the threat to Adams County. Dr. Brzezny noted the death rate is decreasing, however, COVID-19 case rates are increasing in Washington State.

Dr. Brzezny reviewed a need to minimize the impact of increased cases during holidays, protests and congregate settings with a goal of responsibly restarting society and the economy. Additionally, staffing needs to be sufficient to respond to the increases and projected continued growth in cases. If cases begin to grow exponentially and more hospitalizations are required, a reassessment of the current level of response will be necessary.

Integrated Health Care Services Director Guse reviewed the process her staff follows once a person tests positive and how contacts are made and followed up on. Guse noted additional staffing would be beneficial in making contact with infected people.

Dr. Brzezny presented a Phase 3 Safe Start Plan template for businesses or entities to operate in Phase 3 of Safe Start Washington. It is to be used

to prepare a COVID-19 Reopening Safety Plan to include physical distancing; protective equipment; hygiene and cleaning; communication; screening; contact tracing and disinfection of contaminated areas.

Public Health Nurse Karen Potts, RN, provided an update on cases being monitored within necessary timelines and the process staff is following to ensure contacts are being made and ensuring quarantined people are staying where they need to be. Food boxes are being delivered and errands ran, etc. to enable quarantined individuals to remain isolated when required.

IHCS Director Guse presented a draft job description for Public Health Investigator and requested two new positions to assist in the COVID-19 contact tracing. Additionally, Guse requested an additional half time public health nurse position. No action was taken at this time.

[10:08:13 AM](#)

[10:09:40 AM](#)

Emergency Management

Commissioner Marshall moved, Thompson seconded, to *authorize the Chairman to sign Agreement E21-045, in the amount of \$30,772, between Washington State Military Department, Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) and Adams County for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021; plus additional related documents – Debarment Form; and, Signature Authorization Form (full Board).* **Motion carried.** (Annual contract to provide radiological emergency preparedness relating to the Columbia Generating Station – funding for salary, goods, services and travel.)

Additionally, Commissioner Hartwig signed Director Weise's payroll certifications.

Weise reported that he reached out to department heads and elected officials regarding COVID-19 needs and received feedback regarding masks, sanitizer and barriers.

The Town of Washtucna and the damage from recent storm activity was discussed. Upon assessment of the damage, it was determined that declaration of an emergency was not appropriate.

[10:26:10 AM](#)

[10:32:19 AM](#)

City of Othello

City of Othello representatives Mayor Logan, Chief Schenck, Othello Councilpersons John Lallas and Gena Dorow met, along with Judge Benzel and Administrator Jessica Melo. Additionally present was Prosecutor Flyckt and Emergency Management Director Weise to continue negotiations regarding the district court agreement.

Judge Benzel reviewed her court's schedule and general safety standards that are to be met for courts to include weapons screening at public entrances; security cameras; and duress alarms.

Othello Police Department is willing to monitor the courtroom alarm system and surveillance system requesting they ring directly in to the Othello Police Department. Courtroom security to be furnished by Othello Police Department was discussed as well as the amount of officer time needed to satisfy those requirements. A locker system was discussed in correlation with a walk through metal detector as well as a detection wand.

Mayor Logan reiterated the city's original offer of \$140,000 annually, the county keeps all the fines and the city would provide a police officer for 8 hours a week for security in the courtroom and a three percent (3%) increase with a three (3) year contract. Judge Benzel does not feel eight hours is near enough to provide security in the courtroom.

At 11:13 a.m., City of Othello representatives requested a recess to discuss the matter.

At 11:21 a.m. Chairman Hartwig reconvened the meeting.

Mayor Logan noted they would need to further discuss the matter prior to providing an offer to address security. A follow up meeting was scheduled for June 24, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. in Othello.

[11:24:38 AM](#)

Adjournment @ 11:50 a.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