

## COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

### Regular Meeting Adams County Courthouse Ritzville, Washington

**July 14, 2021**  
(Wednesday)

*The meeting was held virtually via GoToMeeting.*

#### **Call to Order @ 9:00 a.m.**

#### **Present:**

Chairman Dan C. Blankenship  
Vice-Chairman Terrance J. Thompson  
Commissioner Jay R. Weise

#### **Board of Health Update**

Dr. Brzezny, Adams County Health Officer, provided updates on the Covid-19 virus, noting the following:

- The Delta variant is accelerating in the United States.
- Adams County hospitalizations are decreasing.
- There is a small portion of the DELTA variant in communities, however, forecasts predict an increasing rate.
- Covid incidence rates in Adams County are down.
- Masking is still recommended for unvaccinated individuals.
- In 2021 there are fewer reported outbreaks of Covid-19 in agricultural and food processing settings with cases among H2A workers extremely rare.
- Vaccine initiation rate is approximately 70%, CDC has the rate at 75% for Washington State.

Additionally, Dr. Brzezny reported on air quality in Washington State due to smoke caused by wildfires and the effect of such to an individual's health.

Environmental Health Director Taff and Karen Potts, R.N. reported on departmental activities, noting outreach is being conducted regarding vaccination efforts for farm workers. Additionally, Potts noted there are currently five (5) active Covid cases in Adams County.

Amanda Zepeda and Gloria Ochoa reviewed the functions of the Behavioral Health Department and provided updates on activities.

### **Mental Health**

Commissioner Weise moved, Thompson seconded, to *approve the Professional Psychiatrist Services Agreement between Adams County Integrated Health Care Services and Nicole Avila-Parker, ARNP, PMHNP-BC, to provide qualified medical professional services for a fee of \$225 per hour with travel to be compensated at \$60 per hour..* **Motion carried.**

Commissioner Weise moved, Thompson seconded, to *authorize the Chairman to sign Memorandum of Understanding between Coordinated Care of Washington, Inc., and Adams County, for the purpose of formalizing the payment to Adams County of 2021 Behavioral Health Enhancement Funds.* **Motion carried.**

### **Environmental Health**

Commissioner Weise moved, Thompson seconded, to *authorize the Chairman to sign Interlocal Agreement No. 1061-34-2026 between Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and Adams County Health Department to provide for the issuance of food worker cards for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2026.* **Motion carried.**

### **Public Health**

Commissioner Weise moved, Thompson seconded, to *authorize the Chairman to sign 2018-2021 Consolidated Contract #CLH18235, Amendment #21, between State of Washington Department of Health and Adams County Health Department for an increase of \$4,400 for a total contract award of \$2,515,810.* **Motion carried.**

### **Prevention**

Commissioner Weise moved, Thompson seconded, to *authorize the Chairman to sign Contract K3902, Amendment #4, between Washington State Health Care Authority and Adams County Health Department for an increase of \$260,000 for a total contract award of \$486,000 for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.* **Motion carried.**

### **IHCS Billing Clerk Position**

Esther Zepeda, formerly a temporary employee, was hired into the full-time position of IHCS Billing Clerk. Based on the recommendation of Director Guse, the Board provided **consensus authorization to place**

**the employee at Range 6, Step 2, of the Adams County Non-Union Salary Schedule.**

**Service Animals**

Director Guse requested guidance on allowing animals in county buildings. Prosecutor Flyckt will review the policy of service/comfort animals and report his findings.

**Executive Session**

At 11:38 a.m. Chairman Blankenship announced the Board would recess into Executive Session for fifteen (15) minutes under RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) – “To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment...”. Additionally present were Integrated Health Care Services Director Guse and Prosecutor Flyckt.

At 11:27 a.m. the Board reconvened from Executive Session. No action taken.

**Vacation of Alley in Original Cunningham**

Commissioner Blankenship moved, Thompson seconded, to *authorize the Chairman to sign Quit Claim Deed from Adams County, Grantor, to James Lee Stewart, Grantee, pursuant to RCW 36.87 and Adams County Resolution No. R-012-2020, for a portion of an alley between Lots 1 & 2, Block 7, Original Cunningham; and Lots 9 & 10, Block 7, Original Cunningham, all in Section 33, Township 16 North, Range 32 EWM, in Adams County, Washington; and related Real Estate Excise Tax Affidavit.*

**Motion carried.**

**Lind-Hatton #5 Road Project (CRP-185)**

Commissioner Thompson moved, Weise seconded, to *approve Pay Estimate #2, in the amount of \$289,237.52, to HLT Construction, Inc., Ephrata, Washington, for work completed June 1, 2021 through June 22, 2021, on the Lind-Hatton #5 Road Project (CRP-185).* **Motion carried.**

**Recess @ 12:04 p.m.**

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

**Employee Evaluation**

Executive Session was held under RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) – “to review the performance of a public employee.” Employee evaluation was held from

1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Clerk of the Board Phillips and Prosecutor Flyckt were present.

**2022 Budget**

Auditor Hunt met with the Board to review and plan for 2022 budgeting deadlines and departmental workshops moving forward.

**Adjournment @ 2:20 p.m.**

Submitted:

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

Edited and Approved:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ADAMS COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
s/Dan C. Blankenship, Chairman  
s/Terrance J. Thompson, Vice-Chairman  
s/Jay R. Weise, Commissioner