

## **COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS**

**Adams County Courthouse  
Ritzville, Washington  
Regular Meeting**

**August 23, 2021**  
(Monday)

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

**Present:**

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

**Emergency Management**

Emergency Management Director Duffey requested and received **consensus authorization for the issuance of a county credit card for Emergency Management Department use.**

**State Auditor Entrance Conference**

Heather Peterson, Audit Lead, reviewed the audit scope to include the financial statement audit for January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020; and a federal grant compliance audit for January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. The federal programs being audited are the Highway Planning and Construction Cluster; and, the COVID19 – Coronavirus Relief Fund. Additionally, the levels of reporting were reviewed.

The cost of the audit is estimated to be approximately \$20,500, plus estimated charges for travel time of \$2,600, plus travel expenses.

**East Adams Rural Hospital**

Corey Fedie, CEO, East Adams Rural Hospital, reviewed a request for funding for a mobile health clinic with a project budget of \$1,625,000. Federal funds of \$812,500 have been requested through Senator Maria Cantwell's office and, if received, will be combined with \$812,500 that will need to be raised locally. Fedie noted funding will be used to acquire a vehicle that will be retrofitted to become a mobile health clinic with two exam rooms; related equipment; infrastructure; and, improvements to the EARH electronic medical records systems to enable telehealth and remote electronic medical records access for the mobile clinic. Fedie is

requesting the county consider utilizing a portion of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to assist the hospital moving forward with the project. No action was taken.

### **Public Works**

Public Works Director O'Brien and Engineer Yaeger reported on the following:

- Road maintenance – seal coat operations are resuming this week; crack sealing was completed last week.
- Maintenance and Operations – Facilities Manager Sackmann is in the process of scheduling Camtek to address installation of duress buttons in Othello; and, in the process of scheduling Apollo for the plumbing repairs in the courthouse. Materials have been received for the juvenile department screens.
- Solid Waste – recycling of metals and cardboard is on-going.
- Booker Road Overlay project – a pre-construction meeting is scheduled for Tuesday with the project schedule to be confirmed at that time.
- Countywide Crushing – completed crushing at the Roxboro site, moving to the Stelzer site and from there to the Lind-Hatton site.
- Sheriff's Substation Evidence Building – RFQ's are due Monday, August 30, 2021. Director O'Brien reviewed an estimate of the timeline of the project.

### **Human Resources**

Human Resource Manager Perez reviewed the proposed Covid-19 Operations Plan. The Plan has been modified in response to guidance from the Governor's office regarding the statewide updated mask order, effective Monday, August 23, 2021. The Board is comfortable with the *draft* Plan and as information is received from the Governor's office, updated guidance will be forwarded to employees rather than waiting to update the plan. The adopting resolution allows for amendments without formal adoption.

### **Integrated Health Care Services**

Integrated Health Care Services Director Guse reviewed the recent proclamation from Governor Inslee requiring Covid vaccinations for all health care workers, noting the impact the proclamation may potentially have on her department.

Based on shared knowledge, approximately fifty percent (50%) of the IHCS staff have received the Covid-19 vaccination, with several staff stating they will not be vaccinated. Guse noted this mandate will also impact janitorial staff as well as contracted services.

Guse inquired as to vaccine documentation as well as the management of that information. Additionally, Guse noted she will research the documentation for religious and/or medical exemptions.

Prosecutor Flyckt advised there are some significant legal questions regarding the ability of the governor to order employees of the county to either be vaccinated or be fired or whether the Board or other elected officials can be mandated to terminate county employees based on vaccination status. Flyckt stated that it is his recommendation that the Board does not employ a process to force employees to be vaccinated or be terminated in their positions in trying to comply with the governor's edict.

Should challenges to the mandate be unsuccessful, the Board requested Director Guse proceed in obtaining specific logistical information as well as research exemptions to ensure county employees are prepared. Should IHCS employees choose to be vaccinated, or acquiesce to being forced, the process will need to begin soon to meet the deadline set by the governor.

**Recess @ 11:38 a.m.**  
**Reconvene @ 1:00 p.m.**

### **2022 Budget**

Auditor Hunt reviewed Funds #321, #322, #324, and #502.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

Preliminary minutes of August 16 and 18, 2021

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	21-2483 – 21-2502	\$ 34,895.17
104	21-2503 – 21-2530	\$ 22,951.72
106	21-2531	\$ 427.23
116	21-2532	\$ 110.05
123	21-2533 – 21-2536	\$ 9,703.96
502	21-2537 – 21-2541	\$ 2,710.22
108	1276 – 1278	\$ 716.60
115	1279 – 1284	\$435,834.75
321	1285 – 1286	\$ 15,737.97
401	1287 – 1291	\$ 25,474.65
501	1292 – 1298	\$ 2,126.00
590	1299 – 1323	\$ 20,379.29
	TOTAL	\$571,067.61

**Permanent Minutes Signed**

August 9 and 11, 2021

**Correspondence Received**

Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board – License Services  
re: Special Occasion License #072481 – WASBA-ORG (WSU Honey Bee  
and Pollinator Facility, 1485 Cunningham Road, Othello)

**Adjournment @ 2:58 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