

MEETING MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The meeting was opened by Commissioner Firth.

County road/Turkey Trail – Don Buehler came before the commissioners to question the road going through his property, extending from a county road to public lands. His claim is that it is a private road that he is now closing down stating that the public has other options to access the BLM land in question. Some of his claims are that the road has not been maintained by anyone other than himself. He indicated that there had been talk that this road was an access to a beacon used for the postal route in the early 1900's but claims that the maintenance for this beacon tower was accomplished by driving up the Arbon side of the mountain. Commissioner Daniels asked if his property was fenced against the BLM at which Mr. Buehler indicated that it was not and that he had an agreement with them. Commissioner Firth indicated that the responsibility of the county is to keep access to public lands open while at the same time protecting the rights of the private land owner. He suggested that a public hearing would allow all interested parties a chance to present evidence regarding the status of this road whether it is in favor or in opposition. This information will be used to determine the current status of the road. The Hearing will be set for February 26th.

911 phone system – Sheriff Jones reported that Alert sense is the company used by most of the other Idaho counties for their enhanced 911 phone system. He would like to switch over to their system as he believes the service will improve while the cost will be reduced. The current contract has two years left however the new company has indicated that they will waive the first two years payments if Oneida County will sign up. The annual cost after that will be \$3,800.00 dollars per year. Commissioner Daniels asked if county attorney Brower would look at the current contract to see if it contained a release clause.

Commissioner Daniels made the motion to approve contracting the 911 system with Alert Sense for the next three years with the first two years expenses waived.
Commissioner Stokes seconded and the motion carried.

Range Land Fire Protection Association – Chairman Firth reported on a meeting held in Arbon Valley to discuss the options for handling wild fires. One of the options is to create an association with surrounding land owners along with State and Federal departments. This association would receive training and help with obtaining equipment. They would become the first line of defense for fires in their district. This option would not cover structures.

Uses of county car – “rules of use” were discussed when the commissioner were approached about buying a new car for the assessor's office and elections department. It was suggested, that all departments could use this car for trips to meetings etc.. Employees are to schedule the county car for all travel to meetings etc. If the car is unavailable then they will drive their own vehicle and receive reimbursement at the IRS approved rate per mile. If the car is available and they choose to drive their own car, there will be no reimbursement. If two employees need it for the same day, preference will be given to the option that is traveling the furthest distance or serving the most people so as to save the most money.

It was brought to the attention of the clerk that the internet speed was inadequate for the needs of the county. It was recommended that it be increased as soon as possible.

Commissioner Daniels made the motion to increase the internet speed to 50 MBPS.
Commissioner Stokes seconded and the motion carried.

EMPG and SHSP grants - The EMPG grant was modified to show the actual amount spent during the latest fiscal year. Emergency coordinator Dan Williams reported that the larger backup generator was ordered and the bids for concrete and fencing were in. This project will be covered by the current SHSP grant.

Commissioner Firth made the motion to approve the EMPG grant modification as presented.
Commissioner Daniels seconded and the motion carried.

Arbon road weight limits – Twain Hayden asked the commissioner to consider increasing the weight that large trucks can carry on the Arbon Valley road. If they allow 129,000 pounds under the state guidelines, the axle weight would actually decrease. Questions were raised as to the possible increase in truck traffic with the new weight and if the current roads were in proper condition. It was noted that other counties have turned the overweight permits to the state for collection however the State is unsure as to how they should handle the permits. He indicated that he would like to have the counties support legislation and have one system under the state. He stated that some drivers think that having a state permits qualifies them for all county roads however this is not the case.

Some of the issues brought up with the new weight system includes off tracking of the second trailer, speed of the vehicle causing road damage, and possible testing of our roads by the state to see what their actual condition is. This topic will be addressed in February when the county meets with the legislature and other commissioners.

The claims and meeting minutes were reviewed.

Commissioner Daniels made the motion to approve the claims.
Commissioner Stokes seconded and the motion carried.

Commissioner Daniels made the motion to approve the meeting minutes as written.
Commissioner Stokes seconded and the motion carried.

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to hold the scheduled executive session per IC 74-206 (1)(f).
Commissioner Daniels seconded and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned following the executive session.



Max C. Firth, Chairman



Matthew L. Colton, Clerk