

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

The meeting was opened by Commissioner Daniels.

Commissioner Firth opened the public hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2019. Commissioner Firth stated that \$5,000.00 dollars had been approved for the county's share of new dispatch equipment but was not added to the budget. He explained to those present that the budget could be changed at that time but it could not increase. The total published budget could remain the same or be reduced which meant that the budget would need to be decreased in another category to accommodate the addition of the \$5,000.00 dollars. It was further stated that the \$5,000.00 dollars represented only 25 percent of the total cost for the equipment. The budget would need to reflect \$20,000.00 dollars for the dispatch equipment with three other entities paying \$5,000.00 each for their equal share.

A second question arose when discussing the raises for the two Sheriff's deputies that would be given exempt status. The clerk was unsure of the raise that would be given. Clarification was given that the officers would receive the requested merit increase only and not the cost of living that was asked for. This clarification would direct Officer Sherman to receive an additional one and one half percent increase. Sheriff Jones indicated that he would prefer to leave officer Williams as non-exempt stating that the one and one half percent raise for him would not make up for the loss of compensation time.

Deputy Probation officer Kristi Christophersen also made the request for more salary indicating that she is on call 24 hours per day and that she handles both adult and juvenile probationers while her counter parts in other counties make more money and deal with either adult or juvenile but not both. Her request was for a minimum of \$14.00.00 dollars per hour but she believes that job is worth a lot more.

Commissioner Daniels explained to all that were present that the budget process begins in the spring time and goes throughout the summer. The budget process needs to be followed and requests made early in the process so they can be considered early on, not at the budget hearing when the details should have been addressed. Commissioner Daniels emphasized the need for a step and grade scale going forward. Commissioner Firth suggested an increase to \$14.00 dollars per hour. This equals an additional \$.30 cent on top of the one and one half percent already being awarded. Commissioner Stokes agreed that the added money was justified.

Commissioner Daniels made the motion to approve the changes to the budget as follows. Increasing Officer Sherman by one and one half percent for an overall increase of three percent and changing her status to exempt, increasing probation officer Christophersen to \$14.00 dollars per hour, and adding \$20,000.00 dollars to the sheriff's capital budget for the purchase of new equipment for the dispatch center with \$15,000.00 dollars being contributed by other entities with the budget being reduced in the area of Justice unemployment line which will not be assessed this year and from the building fund.

Commissioner Firth seconded and the motion carried.

Commissioner Firth called for an audible vote and all were in favor.

Dave Colton discussed the dirt road beyond his farm north west of the Devil Creek reservoir exit on I-15. The concern is that the road needs work and with the increased traffic due to recreationist and cell tower construction in the area the road will deteriorate even quicker. He gave a recommendation for a product that he stated, will hold the road in place better than the dust guard if the road is prepared. The product was called Envirotek II. Commissioner Firth said he would speak with road foreman Scott Blaisdell to see what could be done with the road.

Public Defense Commission representative Jared Ricks talked with the commissioners about the next round of negotiated rule make meetings for public defense that will be held in the coming weeks. Commissioner Daniels indicated that the suggested case load study will increase the counties cost drastically as we will need to hire additional defenders. Jared asked that the county investigate what the expected increase would be and to report it to the state so that help could be requested. Jared asked if the representation at the first hearing had increased. The commissioners said they would need to find out and report back. It was reported that the county had received a subpoena for information regarding public defense in regards to a lawsuit in Ada County. This information will be given on September 17th, per the subpoena.

Stone fire station – Stone Fire Chief Janice Eberhardt reported that they are trying to build a new building in Stone for the fire district. She indicated that they are working on a grant which is asking for sponsorship from the county. What the sponsorship includes was unclear. Commissioner Firth indicated that the county could probably help with site preparation. Commissioner Stokes is going to speak with Kathy Ray from Economic Development, to see if she could help with the grant process.

County road near the industrial park – The County is exploring the option of working on the old highway on the east side of the fairgrounds for the purpose of redirecting truck traffic from South Main. Currently trucks are leaving the freeway at exit three and travel up the old highway from Cherry Creek to the industrial park to avoid the school zone and a tight turn from south main to exit 13. It is thought that although the old hwy. still passes the school, there is less traffic on this side of the school and it avoids the intersection in town. Mike Hess from Hess Pumice offered to work with the county and deed a section of land across from the industrial park entrance to the county for the purpose of creating a connecting road to the old highway. It was further said that grant opportunities might be available to help with reconstruction of the existing road.

Airport fuel – the sale of fuel at the airport has been leased to BMB inc. with the county being responsible for the equipment. As of late the honor system of fuel sales has not been working and fuel has been taken without payment. Mike Hess offered to cost share with the county to purchase a used pump that allows credit card transactions. It was estimated that a used pump would cost around \$3,000.00 to \$7,000.00 dollars.

Commissioner Daniels made the motion to approve the cost share and purchase of a used credit card fuel pump for the airport.
Commissioner Stokes seconded and the motion carried.

It was also reported that the beacon was not working and has been having trouble for some time. It was suggested that the time has come to purchase a new rotating beacon. The Cost was quoted at \$3975.00 dollars plus shipping.

Commissioner Daniels made the motion to approve the purchase of the new beacon. Commissioner Stokes seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Hess also asked if the road department could look at the road from Wrights Creek pumice mine and the perlite mine. He offered to assist in the crushing of gravel to lay on this section of road stating that it is due for a rebuild or overlay of gravel.

Rocky Mountain Power – Representative Steve Liechty paid a courtesy visit to the commissioners to report on the activities of his company in Oneida County including customers served, taxes paid to the county and services offered. The topic of a new franchise agreement was brought up. Steve brought a boiler plate agreement for the county to review. The commissioners asked county attorney Cody Brower to review the agreement and to make recommendations. Cody will work on the document and present his recommendation at a later meeting.

Chairman Firth excused himself from the meeting for another obligation and asked Commissioner Daniels to act as chairperson in his short absence.

Cory Meurer came to the commissioners to ask about the current status of a road located on the Malad Summit. It was found that the road is in the Malad West subdivision however the county has been plowing snow on this road for some time. Cory said that he recently purchased the land and said that the road seems to cut across the corner of his lot. His reasoning is that the power company has placed a power box in this same location and they usually put them in the road right of way. The current road cuts on the inside of the power box and onto his lot. With the road being in a subdivision and the question of the power company right of way, it was decided that further investigation would need to be done before a decision could be made.

Road and Bridge – Lisa Baker explained that the ERF grant needed to be amended to reference changes in the amount of the award.

Commissioner Daniels made the motion to approve the amendment to the ERF grant. Commissioner Stokes seconded and the motion carried.

Lisa also presented paperwork for the LHRIP grant closeout. This is a 2009 grant that has concluded. It was noted that at this time no notice of future money for this grant has been given.

Commissioner Daniels made the motion to sign the closeout of the LHRIP grant. Commissioner Stokes seconded and the motion carried.

Event Center Status – Darin Daniels reported that they are looking for someone to draw up the plans sufficient to use for the bid process. The question was raised if a shower could be placed in the restrooms in lieu of one of the stalls. It was also noted that some of the utilities would need to be relocated and rebuilt. Darin also asked if the option of leasing to own was still an option as this could make the process a lot easier.

A grant agreement form for the Public Defense grant was presented for signature.

Commissioner Daniels made the motion to sign the PDC grant agreement.
Commissioner Stokes seconded and the motion carried.

The claims were reviewed for payment.

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

Meeting minutes from the August 13th, meeting was reviewed.

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

Emergency Services – Dan Williams introduced Darin Letzring who has taken the job of field officer over the southeast Idaho area. Darin explained a grant opportunity for hazard mitigation improvements. The grant would require a county match of 25 percent. A letter of intent would need to be submitted by September 7th, to be eligible.

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to apply for the hazard mitigation grant.
Commissioner Daniels seconded and the motion carried.

Darin reported that the current EMPG grant has some money remaining. It was suggested that the county use the money rather than giving it back to the State.
Projects will be explored to help utilize the money. It will require a 50 percent match.
The 2016 SHSP grant will need to be extended or returned as well.

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to hold the SHSP money for future expenses.
Commissioner Daniels seconded and the motion carried.

Parks and Rec. – Carol Howe reported that the upgrades budgeted for this year will not be complete until the first part of October. She asked if there was anyway to hold the money over to the next budget. The job was awarded on bid and a set fee was agreed upon, The clerk suggested that the check could be printed at the end of September and then held until the work was complete thus taking the money out of the current budget.

Commissioner Daniels made the motion to write the checks at the last of September and then hold them until the work on the swimming pool is complete.
Commissioner Firth seconded and the motion carried.

Probation asked about usage of the county car. It was reported that all departments were allowed and even expected to use the car when available. It was suggested that the usage be tracked for the purpose of seeing if a second car would be justified. Sheriff Jones offered the use of one of his vehicles to probation if they needed a car after hours.

Building permits – Loren Ward, residence; Thayne Winchester, shop; Kevin Hoffman, two sheds.

Commissioner Daniels made the motion to approve building permits for Loren Wards home, Thayne Winchester's shop and two sheds for Kevin Hoffman.
Commissioner Firth seconded and the motion carried.

Commissioner Daniels made the motion to move into the scheduled executive session per IC 74-206(1)(d) to hear information on medical indigent applications.
Commissioner Stokes seconded and the motion carried.

Following the discussion the executive session was vacated.

Commissioner Daniels made the motion to deny indigent application #10-2019-00002 due to the applicant being non indigent per Idaho Code. Patient has means to pay the bills.
Commissioner Stokes seconded and the motion carried.

Commissioner Daniels made the motion to suspend the second application, #10-2019-00004, pending further investigation.
Commissioner Stokes seconded and the motion carried.

During the discussion for employee benefits renewal in August the commissioners were informed that the company administering the COBRA insurance, Integra Flex, was merging with NueSynergy. The commissioners approved the new company and have before them now, a contract for this service.

Commissioner Daniels made the motion to approve and sign the contract for COBRA insurance administration from NueSynergy.
Commissioner Firth seconded and the motion carried.

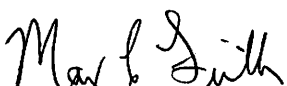
Computer Arts Inc. supplies the county with many different software packaged for the administration of daily activities in several offices. They have sent a renewal agreement for software and maintenance of these packages to the commissioners for signature.

Commissioner Daniels made the motion to approve and sign the CAI agreement for computer software and maintenance of their programs used by various offices.
Commissioner Firth seconded and the motion carried.

A quote for a fence to be placed around the new communications tower at the court house was given. Other options will be sought out before a decision is made.

Monica Marino met with the commissioners two years ago and requested a hold be place on her property taxes for a house that she lives in. The house was part of a court case and she was hesitant of paying the property taxes until she knew if the court would award her the house. The commissioners were informed that the case was now settled and the property was awarded to her. The commissioners asked that arrangements be made to have her come to a future meeting to discuss the situation.

The meeting was adjourned.



Max C. Firth, Chairman



Matthew L. Colton, Clerk