

MEETING MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The meeting began in the court room to accommodate visitors observing the swearing in of newly elected officials. Commissioner Stokes opened the meeting by leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then asked Clerk Colton to offer an invocation.

Bill Lewis and Robert Christophersen were sworn in as commissioners by Clerk Colton. With a full quorum the three commissioners discussed their first action item of selecting a chairman. Commissioner Stokes indicated that he has been serving as a commissioner for two years and should be given the position of chairman. Commissioner Christophersen indicated that he has known Commissioner Lewis for a long time and feels that he has all the qualifications to be chairman.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to have Bill Lewis serve as chairman. Commissioner Lewis seconded and the motion carried.

Chairman Lewis swore in Assessor Kathleen Atkinson, Clerk Lon Colton, Coroner Brad Horsley, Magistrate Judge David Hooste and Treasurer Jan Edwards. The meeting then went into recess until 10:00 am and the new officials mingled with those in attendance.

The meeting was called to order in the commissioner's room by Chairman Lewis. The first action item was to assign the various duties to each commissioner. Commissioner Stokes provided a list of assignments for each member of the board as he thought they should be divided. After a short discussion, Chairman Lewis indicated that he wanted each commissioner to choose which assignments he would have oversight of. He began with Commissioner Stokes then Commissioner Christophersen and then himself. Each one choosing a single department or entity they would like to work with. After several rounds the responsibilities were divided up as outlined below.

Commissioner Stokes – Probation/Court liaison, Planning and Zoning, Airport, Veterans, Senior Citizens, Public Defense Commission/States Assistant United States Attorney.

Commissioner Christophersen – Road and Bridge, Weeds, Fair board, Waterways, Behavioral Health, *Public Health*, Economic development, Parks and recreation.

Chairman Lewis – Southeast Idaho Council of Governments, Building facilities, Hospital, Soil Conservation, Landfill/IDAWY, Juvenile Detention.

Commissioner Stokes made the suggestion that all departments make their own decisions and address the board on a monthly basis with recommendations. This will take some of the load off the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). If there is an emergency then it will be taken to the BOCC for discussion and decision. This recommendation comes after attending meetings hosted by Idaho Association of Counties director Seth Grigg. It was emphasized that there should be no unilateral decisions by the commissioners. Department head should manage their own departments and no single commissioner should supervise any one department. This would mean that the separation of assignments would be for participation only and not decision making. Attorney Brower voiced agreement with the suggestion stating that all departments should manage themselves with large decisions and emergency decisions

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coming before the BOCC. Commissioner Christophersen questioned who would have the authority to hire and fire individuals. Commissioner Stokes suggested that the BOCC would do it as a body.

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to amend the assignments to include the provision that the BOCC manage the non-elected officials as a board with all major decisions coming before the board. Commissioner Christophersen seconded.

Further discussion ensued. Sheriff Jones clarified that this is only for non-elected department heads stating that elected officials are in complete control of their respective offices within the bounds of the allotted budget from the commissioners. Secretary Lisa Baker from the Road and Bridge department was concerned because, on occasion, they try to purchase equipment from the Federal surplus however this property usually is purchased rather quickly. Her concern is that there is no time to get commissioner approval to purchase before the item is picked up by someone else. It was stated that approval could be given by the board after the revenues have been verified to support the budget at which the department could start shopping and purchases could be made.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the assignments as discussed. Commissioner Stokes seconded and the motion carried. All commissioners approved.

Supervisor reports –

Assessor – A property tax reduction notice has been put into circulation and sent out. New this year is the 100% disabled veteran tax break. Personal property documents will be sent out this month. A letter seeking information from the local farms has been sent out as well in hope of gaining good sales and production information for appraisals in our county. Department of Motor Vehicle is keeping quite busy with many customers coming from other counties that have long wait times.

Road and Bridge – Lisa Baker informed the commissioner of a meeting with IDAWY personnel who want to tour our landfill and gain a better understanding of our process and quantity of materials handled on a regular basis. Supervisor Steve Ward will be on site at the landfill to answer questions and the commissioners are all invited. She also reported that the last of the paperwork has been filed for the closure of the old landfill and the operation plan for the current landfill.

An agreement was drawn up a while back whereby selling gravel from the stone pit at the rate of \$1.50 per ton for the “Narrows” project. Lisa asked if the pricing was still good and if she could use the document as is.

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to approve the sale of gravel from the Stone pit to Western Construction Co. at the rate of \$1.50 dollars per ~~ton~~ Yard. for work on the Narrows. Commissioner Christophersen seconded and the motion carried. All commissioners approved.

Once the construction company has signed the agreement, Lisa will bring it before the board for final signature.

Treasurer – The December tax collection is complete and is greater than recent years. Only one property in danger of going tax deed but the owner is working to get it paid.

Extension agent – Jacob Rickman reported that things have been a bit slow in the extension office due to the weather. He is currently working to complete a grant whereby installing owl boxes throughout the county. This will encourage the owl population for the purpose of helping control the rodent problem. Another opportunity for the youth that he is working on will give them exposure to robotics. Jacob is working with several other counties in his efforts.

Probation – Jill reported that they have eight participants in drug court currently with one close to graduation. District six Trial Court administrator Kerry Hong is helping Jill look for funding to hire a part time person to help with drug testing.

Sheriff – The new intoximeter is running now and his department has been trained on its use. The ISP scanners and printers that were received in conjunction with the E-ticket system, have all been installed in the vehicles and they are waiting for training on this new system. The new dispatch system has been installed and they are waiting for this training as well. The Solacom system for the new E-911 will be coming shortly.

Prosecutor – A trial has been scheduled and will possibly happen in the next few days.

Chairman Lewis suggested that a commissioner training session be scheduled for each meeting. This item will be added to each agenda.

Commissioner Stokes informed the board that the next four county commissioners meeting will be held in Malad on the 13th, of March.

Fair Board – Darin Daniels reported on a conference that he and other members of the board recently attended. The conference was hosted by the Rocky Mountain Association of Fairs. Darin said that counties of all sizes were in attendance and that they were able to speak with other counties of like size. It was further reported that the 2019 county fair has been scheduled and all of the entertainment and events have been booked. The fair board is looking to install cameras at the fair grounds due to people going there afterhours when events are not taking place. Sheriff Jones offered to have the new cameras hooked into his dispatch center for monitoring and cost savings.

There has been little progress on the events center at this point. They are waiting for engineering proposals so they can move forward. Chairman Lewis indicated they need to move forward but also emphasized the need to safeguard the community by following the right process. Commissioner Stokes wanted to go on record that he believes the building is to large for the intended purpose. Darin will bring back his bids at the next meeting.

Emergency Services – Dan Williams introduced field agent Darin Letzring to the new BOCC. Darin informed the commissioners of some additional money that was available to the county. The \$1650.00 dollars come from unspent grant money and requires that the commissioners approve an adjustment to the 2017 EMPG grant.

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to approve the 2017 EMPG grant adjustment. Commissioner Christophersen seconded and the motion carried. All commissioners approved.

It was reported that a remote start system is being considered for the communication/radio repeaters on the top of the west hills. This comes after the sheriff has to spend several hundred dollars to have someone manually restart the system following a scheduled maintenance power outage by Rocky Mountain Power.

Road and Bridge – The road grader in Arbon Valley went down. The mechanic was not able to fix it on site and thought it would need to be taken back to the Pocatello shop. This unit was one month from lease expiration and it was decided to turn it back now and lease a new unit. The new lease was based on a Pocatello lease and through Idaho code the county can piggy back from their price. The terms of

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the lease will be five years or 4000 hours with buy back options at the end. Attorney Brower suggested getting a copy of the Pocatello bid papers to help prove the quoted piggy back price.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the Summit National bank lease papers for the new road grader.

Commissioner Stokes seconded and the motion carried. All commissioners approved.

The Truck purchase will be placed on the next agenda.

Airport – A merchant processing application was presented for signature. This agreement will allow for the installation and usage of credit/debit card sales of fuel. There was some discussion as to the approval of the purchase of the fuel pump. Clarification was requested as to how the original approved cost of \$7,000.00 dollars with a 50/50 split increased to \$30,000.00 dollars. Commissioner Stokes thought that the issue was tabled. Airport board member Terry Davis indicated that members of the board had come to a previous commissioners meeting with the proposal to install the card reader style pump with local pilots paying 50% of the cost. At that meeting the commissioners stated that it was not proper for pilots to be purchasing equipment for the county department and that the county would pay the full cost.

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to approve the merchant processing application for the airport fuel pump.

Commissioner Christophersen seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Davis also asked about snow removal in front of the hangers. No immediate answer was given but the issue will be researched for liability implications.

The hospital board is in need of a new member. The name of Shellee Daniels was presented as one who would do a good job in that position.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve Shellee Daniels as a board member for the Oneida Count Hospital.

Commissioner Lewis seconded and the motion carried.

Medical indigent – Lola Bott explained the indigent program to the new commissioners. She informed the board that an appeal hearing for case #10-2019-10010 was cancelled by the requestor. It was further noted that the hospital made the request for an appeal hearing on case \$10-2019-10011. The date for this hearing was set for March 11th, at 12:00 pm.

The claims were reviewed for payment.

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to approve the claims as presented.

Commissioner Christophersen seconded and the motion carried. All commissioners approved.

The minutes from December 24, 2018 were reviewed for approval.

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to approve the minutes as written.

Commissioner Christophersen seconded and the motion carried. All commissioner approved.

Malad City – Mayor Hawkins discussed the need for an easement along 1500 South from the current sewer lagoons to the east where the new treatment plant is slated for construction. It was thought that

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the easement could run along the north side of the road. The easement will allow for lines to be bored under Old Hwy 191 and buried underground to the new location.

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to grant an easement along 1500 South to Malad City with the easement traveling from the sewer lagoons the site of the new treatment plant.

Commissioner Christophersen seconded and the motion carried. All commissioners approved.

Mayor Hawkins reported that a community foundation grant had been awarded to the city for beautification. The city council wanted to pursue a community garden with boxes and drip watering. The city was hoping that the county would allow them to use a gravel parking lot north west of the court house. Their hopes are to have it closer to the center of the city for ease of access.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to allow the city to use the vacant parking lot north west of the court house for a community garden.

Commissioner Lewis seconded and the motion carried. All commissioners approved.

The intersection near the convenience stores on exit 13 are being considered for reconstruction by the state, to install a turning lane for trucks traveling south in to the K J's store. It was further noted that a Maverick Store is being considered on the corner just prior to the K J's store. Malad City will be discussing the issue in their meeting on February 8th and encouraged participation from interested parties. The county is also considering the designation of the old highway running south from this intersection as a truck route for those trucks traveling to the industrial park south of town.

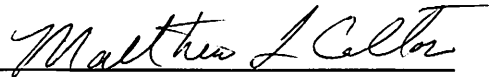
Commissioner Stokes made the motion to move into executive session per IC 74-206 (1)(f)

Commissioner Christophersen seconded and the motion carried. All commissioners approved.

Following the executive session, the meeting was adjourned.



Bill Lewis, Chairman



Matthew L. Colton, Clerk