

MEETING MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF ONEIDA COUNY COMMISSIONERS

The meeting was opened by Commissioner Lewis leading the Pledge of Allegiance and then offering a prayer.

Commissioner Lewis called for a review of the agenda. Commissioner Stokes questioned why the topic of "building inspection reports" was not included on the agenda. It was explained that the topic was postponed while further information was gathered. No changes were made to the agenda.

County roads

Jay Hansen explained that a road, 6000 N., runs west, past his property to the BLM. On this road there is a cattle guard that has proven to be ineffective at keeping the cows out of his property. This has been attributed to the cattle guard being too small allowing the animals to jump over. Mr. Hansen further explained that he placed an unlocked gate in this location last year. All of the traffic on the road was respectful of the gate and it kept the animals off his land. He asked for commissioner approval to allow him to remove the cattle guard, fill in the road and place a permanent 14-foot gate in its place with the assurance that the gate would remain unlocked.

A second request was made by Mr. Hansen to allow him access to the gravel pit in Stone for the purpose of hauling gravel to the county road in this same area. He acknowledged the fact that the county road crew has a lot of roads to care for and that they do a good job with the limited resources they have. He further expressed his desire to continue to work on the roads near his property with his own equipment and at his own expense if the commissioner would allow him to do so. He would like to improve the roads he maintains by adding a lift of gravel on certain sections.

Mr. Hansen's third concern was with a road known as Meadow Brook road. He explained that along this road there is a turn called "Gumble turn". The name is derived from the amount of clay in the road. Due to the condition of the road, the request was made to have this section of road placed on the schedule to receive gravel this year. The commissioners were in favor of discussing these suggestions for road improvement in the next meeting with the road foreman.

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to approve Mr. Hansen's proposal to remove a 12 foot cattle guard from 6000 N. near his property and to replace it with a 14 foot gate.

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

Mr. Hansen was instructed to speak with road foreman Blaisdell regarding the disposal of the old cattle guard.

Mr. Hansen asked the commissioners to consider three other items. Running the grader on two shifts in the spring time to maximize the short time period when there is adequate moisture in

the ground, painting a center line strip on the roads in Holbrook and Stone and the final suggestion was to create a Highway District.

Lisa Baker reminded those present that the cost to strip the roads would be expensive and once they are painted the county would be required to maintain the paint going forward which would be an annual cost.

Commissioner Stokes questioned a road district due to the citizens having to pay additional taxes for another district.

The ambulance department in applying for a State EMS grant and has asked for a letter of support from the commissioners. This grant has been awarded to Oneida County in the past.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to sign the support letter for the EMS grant that the ambulance department is requesting.

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

The meeting minutes from February 10th, were reviewed.

Commissioner Lewis asked for a modification. It was reported that the landfill was using four test wells. The minutes were changed to clarify that the landfill had eight test wells of which four were being used to monitor the old landfill site.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the minutes with the modification. Commissioner Stokes seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

The claims were reviewed for payment.

It was suggested that the four-cassi economic development, report to the commissioners about their progress and activities.

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to approve the claims for payment.

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

The ambulance department has taken possession of their new ambulance and would like approval to sell the old vehicle. Attorney Brower reminded the commissioners of the protocol for advertising and bidding county items.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the sale of an old ambulance using the proper advertisement and bidding process as described by the prosecutor.

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

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to move into executive session per IC 74-206 (1)(f) To communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated.

Commissioner Stokes seconded. Roll call vote was taken.

Commissioner Stokes – yes

Commissioner Christophersen – yes

Commissioner Lewis – yes. The motion carried.

Executive session was adjourned.

Bruce Hubbard brought a concern to the commissioners regarding cattle on the Arbon Valley road. Mr. Hubbard gave a short history of the land and how previous land owners honored the good neighbor policy and maintained their fence lines however this is not the case now. He asked what it would take to get a fence along this county road for the purpose of increased safety. With the many accidents and near miss occurrences involving cars and cows it is of concern to those that live there and travel the road frequently. This section of road runs through Forest Service land and Lisa Baker reminded the commissioners that the county typically has an easement only in these situations. If the county has an easement only then any construction, fences or otherwise, would require a permit from the F.S. Mr. Hubbard acknowledged that it would be too costly for the county to install a fence however he did ask if the county would be willing to speak with the Forest Service. He indicated that they have called before but the single individual usually doesn't get recognized and it was thought that perhaps the county could find a listening ear. The other suggestion was to place warning signs along the road. The commissioners will look into the situation with the Forest Service.

Stace Gearhart presented the annual report for Juvenile Detention which included statistics for the 2019 year. The average juvenile offender in Oneida County in 2019 was a 14 to 16-year-old Caucasian male. The overall report showed favorable for Oneida County probation with a 100% success rate of those leaving probation and not reoffending.

Don Buehler reported that his garbage can went missing. He spoke with the Solid waste department to see if it accidentally slipped into the collection truck however, review of the camera attached to the truck did not show the can falling into the truck. A search at the landfill was conducted by the employees however they did not find it there either. The county policy is to supply citizens with the first collection can with all subsequent cans being paid for by the citizen. Mr. Buehler asked the commissioner if they would consider covering at least half the cost. Treasurer Leigh Love, having oversight on the collection of money for the landfill, expressed concern that if the county allowed partial payment for this case that it would set precedence for others to make the same request. The commissioners, although sympathetic to the situation, did not want to set a precedence for future cases. The request was denied by virtue of no motion being made.

The proposed burn ordinance was discussed. Commissioner Lewis indicated that even if the new ordinance was not adopted the county has an existing ordinance that would need to be modified. He noted that from the public hearing the citizens in attendance had expressed the opinion that no ordinance was needed. If the ordinance is passed they suggest better burn hours, better identification of materials that could and could not be burned and the need for adequate fire suppression in the vicinity of the open burn.

The question was asked, "what does the burn ordinance do that is not already done by DEQ?"

Another concern is that the ordinance would give a person a citation for any violation whereas the DEQ works with people to correct issues before they give citations. Prosecutor Brower indicated that one item that should be included is the ability for the commissioners to place a moratorium on open burning. Ray Hubbard indicated that he would like to see more education on the subject rather than more laws. Commissioner Lewis asked the other commissioners to review the new and old ordinances and be prepared to discuss in the next meeting.

Road and Bridge presented two scholarship applications for the road scholar program.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the applications for the road scholar program.

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

Extension agent update; Commissioner Lewis reported that the University of Idaho has given approval to move forward with seeking applications for the County extension agent position. They are optimistic that they will have several good applicants apply and that a person could be hired by early summer.

Seconded amendment resolution. Commissioner Stokes presented a resolution opposing any and all forms of legislation that have been or could be discussed regarding the infringement upon the second amendment and that copies were to be delivered to all state and federal offices of Idaho delegates via certified mail.

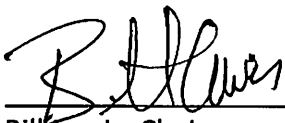
Commissioner Lewis indicated that he would be in favor of the resolution except for the certified letters as this would cost around \$800.00 dollars.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve the resolution #2020-02-01 to support the second amendment and oppose any legislation contrary to the second amendment with the exception of sending the resolution via certified mail to all Idaho state representatives.

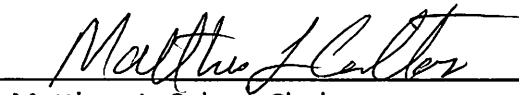
Commissioner Christophersen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

PTO payout – Nathan Maughan has worked for the county for less than three years. He is leaving his employment and has question the payout of his PTO. Under the current policy PTO is paid out after three years' service. He did accrue some vacation time prior to the new PTO policy. He is asking if he could be paid for the time he accrued before the new policy was put in place. Under the previous personnel policy all vacation was limited to 40 hours of carryover into the next calendar year. Attorney Brower suggested that the county consider a payout up to 40 hours maximum for employees leaving employment prior to working for the required three years as stated in the current policy. This topic will be placed on the next agenda for further consideration.

The meeting was adjourned.



Bill Lewis, Chairman



Matthew L. Colton, Clerk