

MEETING MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF ONEIDA COUNY COMMISSIONERS

The meeting was opened by Commissioner Lewis leading the pledge of Allegiance and prayer. A review of the agenda was called for. It was suggested that two items be added to the agenda for information and purposes. Mormon cricket invasion and probation position.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to add Mormon cricket invasion and probation position to the agenda for information and discussion.

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

Court house operations with the COVID-19 shut down. The Sheriff reported that things are going well for the most part however his dispatchers are seeing a congregation at the east entrance while people call to make appointments. He is conducting business by appointment only and is considering this practice for all future customers in hopes that it will help eliminate walk-ins having to wait to be helped. The Assessor is also helping customers by appointment. She is bringing her full staff back to help with assessment notices etc. The swimming pool will open on June 1st with limited access to the facilities. The dressing rooms will not be open but the showers and bathrooms will be open. Parents will not be allowed in the spectator section and swimmers will need to be dressed to swim when they arrive and then leave the same way. The bathrooms will be cleaned several times throughout the day and parents are being asked to be prompt when picking up their kids after swimming lessons. Only upper level swimming lessons will be given at the first part of the season. The Attorney reported no changes and the Sheriff indicated that he would like to open the doors on Monday the 18th. Commissioner Lewis asked how the distancing would be maintained when the doors are open? All seating will either be marked and/or moved to a safe distance.

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to open the doors on Monday the 18th, of May.

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

Management time off expired on May 10th and the suggestion was made to extend for one more week.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to extend the management granted time off for one more week.

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

The sheriff reported that his chief deputy will be retiring and he petitioned the commissioners to allow him to engrave her service revolver and give it to her as a gift of appreciation as is the tradition in law enforcement.

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to approve the engraving and awarding of Patsy Sherman's service revolver to her as a retirement gift. Commissioner Christophersen seconded. all commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Officer Dallas Jones reported on the electrical review completed recently in preparation for bidding out a UPS system. This is a system which provides batter backup to computers etc. for the brief period between losing the power and having the backup generator startup. The current suggested course of action involves a 20K unit that will replace the current failing UPS system and enhance the overall effectiveness by adding the sheriff's dispatch center into the system. The bid from Mission Critical Co. was for \$17,590.00 for the hardware and \$25,750.00 for labor. Emergency services grant money can be used for this effort. Questions were raised concerning how other counties are operating and if other companies might accomplish the labor for a better price. The questions will be investigated and brought back in a future meeting.

Attorney Brower provided two documents for the commissioners review regarding road encroachment. The first was a notice to be issued with the permit, that can be given to applicants explaining their responsibility when digging in the county right of way. The second is an agreement that the person would have to sign. the pro's and con's were discussed regarding how extensive of a change the commissioners wanted to make. A notice can be given without any change. An agreement would require a change in the ordinance. Commissioner Stokes was in favor of reviewing and updating the ordinance.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the new encroachment permit agreement.

Commissioner Lewis indicated that he would like more information before making a decision. Commissioner Stokes wanted to start issuing the permit notice immediately.

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to attach the road encroachment permit notice to all future permits effective immediately. Commissioner Christophersen seconded. all commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Human Resources office- Commissioner Stokes suggested creating a HR office in the county or training a current employee in HR matters. It was noted that the payroll clerk currently keeps a folder for each employee however most departments do not submit information to her for the folder. The main items in the folder involve the paperwork for payroll and employee authorized deductions. Each department keeps their own employee folders as needed. Commissioner Lewis indicated that he has been communicating with a company to review and analyze pay scales. They also offer HR assistance and could give some training. Suggestions were made and questions raised regarding ICRMP. The clerk stated that ICRMP is there to help with employment issues and should not be over looked. It was noted that even with an HR office or officer, ICRMP would need to be involved as they would be defending the county with any law suits that arise.

Evening meetings – The question was raised regarding holding evening meetings and also holding meetings in the western part of the county. Commissioner Lewis indicated that an evening meeting would not be accommodating to the multiple agencies that meet with the commissioner such as BLM and DEQ. He reported that Malad City meets in the evenings and they do not have good attendance unless there is a hotly contested issue on the agenda. Commissioner Stokes reported that he had spoken with several department heads and that they were not in favor of the idea. Sheriff Jones and Clerk Colton indicated that would support any meeting time, day or night. It was stated that the best interest of those attending should be considered. The idea of meeting in the western part of the county was considered a good idea and a future schedule will be addressed.

Newspaper rates – Idaho Enterprise owner Kris Smith asked for a correction to remarks made in the last meeting regarding advertising rates in her paper. In the previous meeting commissioner Stokes questioned the \$290.00 dollars requested from the county to help print the Welcome to Malad brochure. He claimed that the cost had been just \$180.00 in years past. Kris Smith produced past documents showing that the cost has been \$290.00 for at least six or seven years. Commissioner Stokes also claimed to have paid over \$600.00 dollars for election advertising to which the newspaper produced evidence of proofs that had been created and sent to him for approval but which were cancelled resulting in no payment. Commissioner Lewis reminded everyone that the small payment for the Welcome to Malad brochure was only one of many payments by multiple entities, businesses and individuals that collectively paid for the printing and distribution.

Public Defense Commission – the annual indigent defense financial assistance application was submitted to the commissioners for approval prior to being submitted to the PDC. The application consisted of reporting the current year's budget along with the prior year's actual expenses and the projected budget needs for the FY2021 fiscal year.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the annual indigent defense financial assistance application.

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

Treasurer salary – Commissioner Lewis reported that he had recently found that Idaho Code does not allow a reduction in pay for new appointed or elected officials but rather the new official will receive the same pay rate as the exiting official. Leigh Love was selected to replace the retiring Treasurer in July of 2019 and given a reduced pay rate. Leigh was given \$40,000.00 per year starting wage rather than the \$45,000.00 of the past Treasurer. Further, a raise was given in October of 2019 that Leigh should have received rather than the raise given in January. All commissioners were in favor of following the Idaho Code and award Leigh back pay equal to what should have been given.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to award Treasurer Leigh Love back pay from her date of hire, equal to the wage of the previous Treasurer, along with the October cost of living raise.

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

Road validation request. The commissioners have agreed to hold a hearing to either vacate or validate a road in the south west part of Pocatello Valley. Commissioner Lewis raised the question of hiring a surveyor to create the legal description necessary for the hearing publication or to simply use GPS co-ordinates. He expressed the fact that if the information being used was certified through a survey that it would give more credibility to the process and outcome. It was suggested that the cost would be around \$1,000.00 dollars. The actual hearing will be set for late summer.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to hire A.A. Hudson to survey the road for the purpose of providing a legal description that can be used in the notice of hearing.

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

Treasurer Love requested clarification on the approved letter to tax payers regarding tax relief due to hardship. Originally it was approved to be included in the November Tax notice. After much thought the Treasurer thought that it should come from the commissioners rather than being sent with her notice.

Commissioner Lewis reported that the decision was made rather quickly in the last meeting and since that time he has been able to research Idaho Code. It was his thoughts that Idaho Code 63-711 that was cited in the previous meeting had a specific use for catastrophic events that cause a hardship. It was further explained that someone wanting to request the tax relief would further have to supply significant personal documentation of their finances and that few if any citizens would want to share this information. These facts, combined with the fact that property taxes can go uncollected for up to three years before action is taken, and that the Treasurer works with all citizens that have delinquent taxes to get them paid by making monthly payments or other means it was thought that maybe the letter would cause a cost that wouldn't justify the action. It was suggested that it would cost around \$2,000.00 dollars for this letter. Further the Treasurer indicated that as she works with those that have past due taxes that she informs them of the laws and how they can petition the commissioners for help. Commissioner Lewis expressed his thoughts that much is already being done to help the tax payer and that spending \$2,000.00 dollars to send letters would not be a wise expense.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion reverse the motion made in the previous meeting, to send a notice to all property tax payers informing them of IC 63-711.

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

Core Drilling under south main- The county must drill under south main in order to hook onto the city water line. Three bids were presented. Platinum plumbing quoted \$1,800 to \$2,500 dollars. NW Kingston's were asking \$2,800 to \$3,000 dollars. Linford's quoted \$1,200 to \$1,500 dollars.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to accept the bid from Linford's for \$1,200 to \$1,500 dollars to drill under South Main Street for water hook up to the events center.

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

High school rodeo – the high school rodeo club has petitioned the commissioners to allow them to conduct a rodeo on May 28th, 29th, and 30th, and again on June 4th and 5th. There was some concern with this proposal due to the governor's orders regarding social distancing and not gathering in large groups for the purpose of slowing the spread of COVID-19. It was stated that those traveling from out of state would not spend the night. Once the student's events were over, they would leave the arena and make room for the contestants of the next event. Commissioner Lewis asked about cleanliness of the bathrooms etc. Commissioners Christophersen and Stokes thought it was time to open up and "get back to normal" Attorney Brower reminded the commissioners of the four-phase plan to open Idaho back up. The next stage is scheduled to open on the 30th of May and would allow for slightly larger groups.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to allow the high school rodeo club to hold a district rodeo on May 30th, and any time in June as long as they mind the social distancing orders from Governor Little and that someone is assigned to clean the bathrooms several times throughout the day and that all events will be cancelled if the COVID-19 flares up. Commissioner Stokes seconded. all commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Commissioner Christophersen reported that they are seeing an invasion of Mormon crickets in the valley. He also is aware of free bait for those with crops that might be in danger.

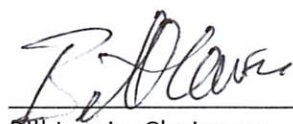
Commissioner Lewis asked if any further applications were accepted for the job of probation officer. With no new applications be received it was determined that the hiring committee meet and present to the commissioners a list of top candidates for the job. The hiring decision will be set for the next commissioners meeting.

The meeting minutes from April 27th were reviewed.

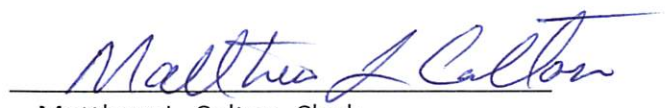
Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Stokes seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

The claims were reviewed for payment.

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



Bill Lewis, Chairman



Matthew L. Colton, Clerk