

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

The meeting was opened by Commissioner Christophersen leading the Pledge of Allegiance and offering a prayer. Meeting start time was moved to 8:00 am.

The consent agenda containing the claims, meeting minutes from June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Joe Schow hanger lease, a financial report for the Public Defense Commission and the scheduling of an appeal hearing date for medical indigency was addressed.

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to approve the consent agenda.  
Commissioner Christophersen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

The revenue budget for FY2021 was reviewed. It was noted that the excess sales tax and revenue sharing money from the State could be reduced in the coming year.

Hospital administrator John Williams met with the commissioners to request the renewal of a \$150,000.00 dollar line of credit at Ireland Bank. He reminded the commissioners that if it is ever used it must be paid in full each quarter and remain unused for at least five days. He indicated that it is seldom used however some circumstances do arise where it is vital to have access to these funds.

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to approve the renewal of the credit line for \$150,000.00 dollars at Ireland Bank on behalf of the county hospital.  
Commissioner Christophersen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Commissioner Lewis questioned John on the best method for returning employees to work when they have had possible exposure to the COVID-19 virus. John indicated that if they have had direct contact with a positive case then he would recommend getting that person tested. He indicated that it could take up to five days before the viral load was sufficient to test though.

Rocky Mountain Power- Steve Liechty met with the commissioners to see if the service was improving. There have been several instances where the power load would dip or spike and cause problems with various citizens and business including the county. Sheriff Jones reported that he was seeing the same issues as in the past. His biggest concern is when the repeater experiences problems costing the county money to investigate an issue that ultimately is a Rocky Mountain Power issue. Mr. Liechty indicated that RMP will be installing meters to help identify issues however they are not scheduled to be installed until 2021. One other issue that was noted is the extended time that it takes for a service crew to come to Malad after a larger scale issue such as a storm. All of the service teams tackle the issues closer to their home base before traveling to the outlying areas. Mr. Liechty indicated that he would work on the

response times and that the metering, when installed, would give more immediate notification when issues arise.

Mr. Liechty informed the commissioners that RMP offers grants to qualifying food banks and other like entities. He also mentioned that they were postponing a request to Idaho State for a rate increase but will seek a two percent increase in 2022.

Weed Department – Mike Larue asked for a raise for Shelby Thomas from \$12.00 to \$13.00 dollars per hour. She is in her fourth year working for the county as a part time employee in the weed department. Shelby completed her certification for weed spraying her first year and can spray independent from Mike. All other part time help must work with someone that is certified.

Commissioner Lewis stated that the county needs to be consistent with hiring and setting wages.

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to approve a one dollar raise for Shelby Thomas in her part time position with the weed department and to make the raise retroactive from the first of the year.

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

Airport board members – the current board reported that Alice Moon would like to resign her position on the board. The board members further suggested that the number of members be increased by one person. They have suggested the names of Scott Gunter and Parker Venable as possible members on the airport board.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve Parker Venable and Scott Gunter to serve on the airport board and to excuse Alice Moon as a member of the board.

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

Commissioner Stokes will contact all three individuals and seek confirmation of the decision.

Emergency Services projects – Dan Williams reported that there is around \$3,500.00 dollars remaining in the EMPG grant that must be used prior to September 30<sup>th</sup>. He further reported that he could combine the SHSP grant money for 2018, 2019 and 2020 to pay for the UPS battery backup system for the court house. This backup system will provide power to the building for up to six minutes to bridge the gap from the initial power loss to the backup generator providing power.

Henry Johnson was representing Day Wireless who has provided a bid for project in the amount of \$37,399.84.00. Mr. Johnson indicated that the installation would take around 30 days. The issue of maintenance was addressed and Mr. Johnson suggested a two year rotation at minimum with battery replacement about every six to eight years.

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to approve the bid from Day Wireless for the purchase and installation of a UPS battery backup system for court house electricity at the cost of \$37,399.84 to be paid from the 2018, 2019 and 2020 SHSP emergency services grants. Commissioner Lewis seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

County Fair – The fair board is moving forward with the county fair pending approval of the health plan that will be submitted to the health district. The plan will be similar to the plan used for the high school rodeo. It was acknowledged that creating a good plan is important but educating the public and encouraging attendees to comply with the plan will take some time and patients.

The live auction for the 4-H animals will also take place. Options for participating remotely are being explored at this time.

Bids for tables and chairs were reviewed. They are looking at a combination of round and rectangular tables along with stacking and folding chairs. Two quotes were obtained. The first was for the Mitylite brand for just over \$21,000.00 dollars. The second quote was for the Lifetime brand at just under \$12,000.00 dollars. The second quote will need to be confirmed.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to have both quotes for tables and chairs at the events center validated and to accept the lowest bid and place the order.

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

Blaine Newman and Melissa Warren from the Bureau of Land Management met with the commissioners to discuss matters of like interest. The first issue was that of the roads near the Black Pine Mines. The commissioners would like to ensure that the roads will not be damaged by the mine without some form of assistance with the repairs/maintenance. Commissioner Christophersen was confirmed as the main contact incase with the BLM should there be any wild fires.

Aspenaire gave a bid of \$6,152.00 for the replacement of the air conditioner in the court clerks office.

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to approve the bid from Aspenaire for the A/C replacement.

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

The Oneida Crisis center as asked that the county commissioners sign a letter of support for the crisis center for the purpose of requesting grants.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve a support letter for the Oneida Crisis Center.

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

Commissioner Stokes made the motion convene as a Board of Equalization.  
Commissioner Christophersen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Charles Thurber submitted appeal forms for the following properties for the assessed values.

RP0005200A

RP0005502A

RP0005503A

RP0004100A

Charles further submitted an appeal form for home owners exemption on the property  
RP0004100A.

The first three properties are all attached with two of them having one building each. The third property sits behind the first two buildings but is not large enough to build on. The dispute for these properties is that the buildings are considered two separate lots and structures rather than one building even though there was interior access from one to the other. Also questioned was the minimum lot value that is assessed. If the two buildings are separated then he is assessed the minimum lot value on both.

The last property was being appealed for the same reasons along with an appeal of the home owners exemption that has been granted. The Assessor has given the home owners on one third of the building but the owner thinks that it should be 80%.

Assessor Atkinson explained that the first two buildings are considered separate structures because the interior doorway that did connect them had been removed and the opening was framed in thus eliminating any travel between them. The minimum lot value was instituted as a means to correct inequalities that have existed in the past and complies with the state of Idaho. Because the land behind the buildings on Main Street is not big enough to build on its value is only calculated by the square footage and has not been assessed the minimum lot value. It was suggested by the assessor that the owner combine the vacant lot with the respective buildings to the west however no official request has been made by the property owner who must initiate the action. The third building located on Bannock Street is being appealed for the same reasons. He has also filed an appeal for the home owners exemption on this property as he lives in the upper floor. The Assessor has given home owners on the upper floor were the apartment is however this is a commercial building and she has not given the exemption on the main floor or the basement. Atkinson stated that she did offer to appraise the interior of the building to see if a change could be made however an appointment date and time has never been provided by the owner. Atkinson stated that the county appraisals must be within market value by state law and Atkinson indicated that she has been working with the state consulting appraiser and the county is in compliance.

Commissioner Lewis stated his opinion that he feels the Assessor has placed the correct value on the properties in question and that the minimum lot value is valid. He agrees with the one third home owners exemption placed on the building where Mr. Thurber lives and suggested that if the Assessors were allowed to appraise the interior then some adjustment might be made on that property. He further suggested that if the vacant lot was combined with the

buildings on Main Street that he could save some money however he would need to make the request.

Commissioner Stokes also approved of the Assessors actions and stated that he thought that Mr. Thurber had been treated fairly.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to uphold the values made by the Assessors office regarding Mr. Thurber's appeals on the following properties including the home owners exemption on the Bannock Street property.

RP0005200A

RP0005502A

RP0005503A

RP0004100A

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

Sheriff Jones presented an MOU with school district #351 to provide a resource officer on a part time basis and that the school will pay \$12,000.00 dollars for this service.

The previous resource officer retired and will be returning on a part time basis to fill this position.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the MOU with school district #351 for a resource officer on a part time basis.

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

CRF participation- Governor Little has offered a Corona Relief program to counties whereby they could use some of the Federal money to offset what counties have paid in conjunctions with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Federal regulations have specific stipulations as to what the money can be used for and several counties are concerned that if they participate in the program that they might be in violation of those stipulations. The State of Idaho is asking that the counties forgo the 3% property tax increase and use the covid money to make up the difference. The commissioners tentatively approved participation in this program however they are considering the option of forgoing the governors offer. They are further exploring the option of not taking the 3% property tax increases this year and letting it go to foregone to be used at a later date for ADA upgrades at the court house.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to rescind the decision to participate in the CRF property tax relief program offered by the state.

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

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to recess the meeting until 9:00 am on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

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

July 14<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was called to order. Attorney Brower spoke to the commissioners and explained the enhances Family Medical Leave Act and how it relates to Oneida County.

This new act modifies the standard FMLA by giving certain criterial that, if met, could give a person up to 80 hours of additional sick leave and a possible 10 weeks of paid leave at two thirds the normal salary.

Two employees from separate departments were sent home due to possible exposure and they do not meet the requirements outlined in the new EFMLA act. The commissioners agreed that the department heads made the right choice in sending them home.

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to follow the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act and to suspend the use of administrative leave.

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

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to grant administrative leave to Quort Sullivan and Becky Blaisdell retroactive for the time they spent at home at their supervisor's orders due to COVID-19.

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

Attorney Brower will train all department on the enhanced FMLA on Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> via a zoom meeting.

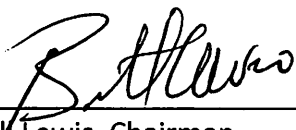
The position of specialty court coordinator was discussed. Of the two candidate that interviewed, one of them removed their name from the list. The committee approved the hiring of the remaining applicant and made the recommendation to the commissioners. The suggested rate of pay was \$13.50 to start with an average of 8 hours per week.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to hire Erin Doohan as the specialty court coordinator at the rate of \$13.50 per hour for up to 8 hour per week average.

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

The remainder of the meeting was spent on reviewing the expense budgets requested for FY2021.

The meeting was adjourned.

  
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Bill Lewis, Chairman  
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Matthew L. Colton, Clerk