



MEETING MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

Commissioner Lewis called for a motion to approve the consent agenda which consists of the claims review and meeting minutes from the July 13th, meeting.

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

Kellie Savage addressed the commissioners and explained the Idaho Gold Star Families Memorial Monument project. This project, being built north of Pocatello, will honor the fallen service men and women from Idaho. The memorial will include an educational walkway. A request for donations from each county is being made and Kellie asked the commissioners to consider a donation as they discuss their new budget for the coming year.



Planning and Zoning – Local investors are considering a meat processing plant in Oneida County. the plant will be USDA certified and will sell retail and commercial. The suggested location is near exit 17 on interstate 15. The P&Z commission has reviewed the information submitted by the requestor and they have conducted a performance standard review. This review netted a plus 26 rating and the P&Z commission has recommended that the commissioners give approve to proceed with the project.

Commissioner Lewis stated his opinion that new development would be good for the county by adding jobs and spreading the tax base.

When asked to what scale the plant would operate it was stated that the beginning plans were to start out at a production rate of 10 to 15 animals per day and employ around 13 people with hopes to eventually increasing to a production rate of 100 animals per day. It was further stated that some of the objections came from the presumption that there would be a lot of foul smells coming from the operation. Coolers and a USDA regulated septic system will help eliminate any odors that may be created.

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to give approval for the proposed oxford meat packing project per the recommendation of the planning and zoning commission.

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



Oneida County Soil and Water district representatives presented information to the commissioners regarding their operations and how they utilize the funds received from the county. It was explained that the local funding has some impact on the amount of funding they receive from the state. Education materials and classes along with conservation contests with the youth are some of the activities that the district uses to encourage proper care of our land

and other resources. Commissioner Lewis questioned their financials and it was reported that they have approximately \$240,000.00 dollars between investments, cash on hand and outstanding revenues.

Tax exempt request – Malad City purchased a building in January of 2019. This building was assessed taxes for that year and the city has asked that it be given tax exempt status.

Commissioner Stokes made the motion to approve the tax-exempt status on the newly acquired co-op building purchased by the city of Malad.

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

Peter Shabestari, VP of Operations for Liberty Gold, introduced their plans to improve the land and mine for gold in the Black Pine Mine area on the Oneida County / Cassia County border. The process could take around 8 years before the mine is fully operational and they anticipate the a 15 year mine life. When asked about the roads Mr. Shabestari stated that they are willing to work with the county to ensure the roads are maintained.

Airport Board member replacement – no contact had been made with the persons selected to serve on the airport board. Commissioner Stokes will make contact and verify their acceptance of the board position and offer thanks to the member that will be leaving.

Road & Bridge – Scott Blaisdell participated in a demonstration of a Durapatch machine that can clean and fill pot holes of various sizes. This equipment takes only a few men to operate and can adequately repair a significant area in a short time. Blaisdell is requesting permission to reallocate money budgeted for a used loader to the purchase of this machine. It has been used as a demonstration model and comes with 700 operating hours on it. The asking price is \$55,000.00 dollars as compared to a new machines which starts around \$92,000.00.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the purchase of the used Durapatch machine for the road department.

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

Extension office furnishings – with the new building close to completion, there are a few items that need to be purchased. Among those items are the desks and counter top for the extension office. Madie Moeller is waiting for the counter to be built prior to ordering the desks.

It was further discussed that someone will need to be in charge of the rental and scheduling of the events center. The offer was made to combine this position with that of part time clerk in an effort to attract more applicants. The part time clerk position has been open for a couple of months and if the commissioners added this assignment to the clerk duties it could give a few more hours to the position which in turn could bring in more applications.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to allow the position of events center scheduler and custodian to be combined with that of part time deputy clerk and to allow a starting wage up to \$13.00 dollars per hour.

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

FY2021 budget discussion –

Commissioner Lewis indicated that the projections for excess sales tax and revenue sharing money from the state will be better than originally thought. He further stated that the secure rural schools (SRS) money will go away in 2021. The SRS money goes to road repair.

Benefits renewal – Scott Leavitt presented the proposed insurance increases for the coming year. Vision received no increase and will remain at \$11.31 per month. Health insurance was offered at a 1 ½ % increase for a total of \$680.00 per month. Dental is increasing 2% for a total of \$41.86 per month. The life insurance policy was compared with another vendor, Sun Life Financial. Several levels of benefits were reviewed including a \$25,000.00 dollar policy and a \$15,000.00 dollar policy. The commissioners decided to keep the policy at \$10,000.00 and to move to Sun Life. By moving the life insurance to Sun Life employee's will have the opportunity to increase their policy coverage through payroll deduction. The basic coverage will cost the county around \$4.86 per month per employee. This is a decrease of \$.24 cents per month. This will total \$738.03 per month per employee receiving these benefits.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the increase of 1 ½ % to the medical insurance, the 2% increase to the dental insurance and to renew the vision insurance at no increase. Commissioner Stokes seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to change providers for life insurance to Sun Life. Commissioner Stokes seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

The meeting was recessed until 1:00 pm on July 28th, 2020.

July 28th, 2020.

The meeting was reconvened by Commissioner Lewis.

A verbal agreement was given by all commissioners, to a 2% cost of living increase.

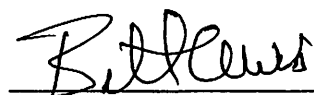
Several wage adjustments were discussed including POST certified officers and officers scheduled to attend POST in the near future. Also discussed were wage adjustments for the Assessor's Chief Deputy and some of the deputy clerks in the courts and auditor's office.

"B" budgets were reviewed.

Commissioner Lewis suggested items that should be considered for the budget. Those items are 1- assistance with writing the development code, 2) a second car for employee use and 3) donations to the Gold Star Memorial fund.

The amount of money to be billed to the city for their portion of building inspections was discussed and will be taken to the city officials.

The meeting was adjourned.



Bill Lewis, Chairman



Matthew L. Colton, Clerk