

MEETING MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

Commissioner Lewis called for a review of the agenda.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to add three items to the agenda for discussion and information. 1- report on the weed department grant money, 2- April building permit report, 3- extension agent job posting.

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

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the consent agenda which consisted of the payment of claims and the April 26th, meeting minutes.

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

The Idaho Office of Emergency Management provided an acceptance letter for a PDM grant which was awarded to Oneida County for the purpose of helping update the hazard mitigation plan.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve and sign the acceptance letter for the 2019 PDM grant from the Idaho Office of Emergency Management.

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

Malad City Mayor Joan Hawkins came before the commissioners to discuss the swimming pool. The City received a grant many years ago, for the property occupied by the swimming pool. The grant stipulates that the property must always be maintained as a park and that the owner of the property and the sponsor of the grant must be the same entity. After the pool was rebuilt, the city was unable to afford the operational expenses and the pool was given to the county. the city recently applied for a grant to help build a splash pad by the city park. While this grant was awarded, the money is being held up due to the fact that the first grant was found to be out of compliance. When the swimming pool was deeded to the county the sponsor ship was not transferred. The two available options to correct the situation are to either give the pool property back to the city and then sign a contract for the operation of the facility or transfer sponsorship of the grant to the county. One concern is that the grant has a stipulation requiring the property to remain as a park in perpetuity. Commissioner Lewis was concerned that the city was asking for a quick decision. He favored taking some time to research the issue before a commitment was made.

Commissioner Christophersen felt otherwise.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to accept sponsorship of the parks and recreation grant awarded to Malad City in association with the swimming pool property.

Commissioner Eliason seconded. Commissioners Christophersen and Eliason voted in favor and the motion passed. Commissioner Lewis withheld his vote on the issue.

Larry Oja spoke to the commissioners about becoming a constitutional county. His earlier request was denied on the basis that the commissioners felt that the current laws already addressed the issues and they didn't feel that creating another ordinance would be of benefit. At Mr. Oja's request to understand what exactly the commissioner objected to, commissioner Lewis further stated that he was in favor of the language of following the US Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Idaho however all the additional verbiage was unneeded. Mr. Oja indicated that he would like to rewrite the ordinance in a way that the commissioners would approve. His goal is to allow the citizens of Oneida County to make their voice heard and to declare that Oneida County would follow the Constitution of the United States and the State of Idaho.

Tyler Butler shared the Southeast Idaho Public Health district financial budget with the commissioners including the anticipated increase for the next fiscal year. The increase is due to the recent legislation involving a restructure of indigent health. Going forward counties will fund their regional health districts. The anticipated expense for Oneida County in FY2022 will be an estimated \$47,892.00.

Tax deed hearing – Treasurer Love reported that two properties were scheduled for tax deed hearing due to delinquent taxes of three years or more. One of the property owners paid the past due taxes in full saving his property from tax deed. The second property owner paid the third-year taxes only. The payment on the second property was made via check. The commissioners discussed the option of allowing the treasurer a couple of weeks to work with the bank and property owner to ensure that the check clears the bank.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to recess the hearing for two weeks allowing time for the treasure to process the check and if needed the hearing will be reconvened in two weeks.

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

The ambulance department is applying for a state EMS grant to help purchase new communication radios. They have requested a letter of support from the commissioners.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to sign a letter of support for the ambulance grant application.

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

Road and bridge secretary wages – In recent meetings the wages of R&B operators were discussed. A motion was approved to award all operators a \$1.00 dollar per hour raise. The commissioners discussed the issue of awarding the secretary the same increase however it was not previously discussed and was not part of the original motion.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve a \$1.00 dollar per hour raise for R&B secretary Lisa Baker.

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

Prosecutor Brower presented a lease agreement with Imaging Concepts for a black and white copier. The cost will be \$89.00 per month plus a per copy charge to cover the maintenance.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the copier lease for the prosecutor's office at a cost of \$89.00 dollars per month.

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

Public Defense financial assistance request – the commissioners reviewed a financial request with the Public Defense Commission for the coming fiscal year. The request referenced past expenses and the desire for \$50,000.00 dollars in future assistance.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to sign the financial assistance application with the Public Defense Commission.

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

Commissioner Lewis reported that the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) was gearing up for possible grasshopper infestation this year. The program outlines the availability of bait to help control an infestation along with the requirements that must be met prior to receiving the assistance.

Commissioner Lewis informed the board members that in his absence a vice chair would need to take charge of the meeting.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to assign commissioner Christophersen as vice chairman of the Oneida County Board of Commissioners.

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

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to move into executive session per Idaho Code 74-206

(1)((a) To consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, wherein the respective qualities of individuals are to be evaluated in order to fill a particular vacancy or need. This paragraph does not apply to filling a vacancy in an elective office or deliberations about staffing needs in general;

And IC 74-206 (1)(d) To consider records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in chapter 1, title 74

Commissioner Eliason seconded. all roll call vote was taken.

Commissioner Christophersen. Aye

Commissioner Lewis. Aye

Commissioner Eliason. Aye the motion carried.

Following the executive session, the commissioners reviewed county ordinances. The first ordinance, #1998-01-1 addressed solid waste. The ordinance stated that only residence of Oneida County could use the landfill. This requirement was no longer in effect with IDAWY being in charge of operations. Commissioner Lewis felt this ordinance was no longer needed.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to rescind ordinance #1998-01-1. The motion failed due to the lack of a second.

The next ordinances, #95-1 addressed the accumulation of weeds, dead trees etc. that create a nuisance. The commissioner and the sheriff felt this ordinance was still needed and it will remain as county law.

Commissioner Christophersen reported on a discussion with the Bannock Soil and Water district regarding the grant repayment form the weed department. It was reported that the payment was authorized and sent after the Bannock Soil and Water confirmed the reported events leading up to the repayment request by the State Department of Agriculture.

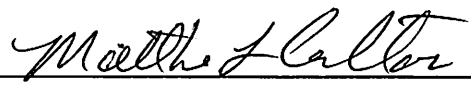
Commissioner Lewis reported on the April building permits and compared the activity with that of one year ago. The numbers showed an increase of revenue over the same period in 2020.

Commissioner Lewis reported that the University of Idaho was preparing to post the open position of county extension agent for both Oneida County and Bear Lake county.

The meeting was adjourned.



Bill Lewis, Chairman



Matthew L. Colton, Clerk