

MEETING MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The meeting was opened by Commissioner Lewis 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 the topic of America recovery plan funding to the agenda for discussion.

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

Consent agenda; claims and meeting minutes.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the consent agenda.

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

Tax exemption requests per IC 63-602. Assessor Atkinson presented letters from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Faithful Followers of Fatima requesting exemption from property tax. It was noted that other entities in the county receive the exemption including irrigation companies and religious institutions however they have not submitted their request in writing as stipulated by Idaho Code. The commissioners discussed giving the exemption for one more year and to have the assessor make contact with each organization formally asking for a written request in the future.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to grant tax exemption, per Idaho Code 63-602, for all eligible properties currently receiving the exemption in Oneida County for the 2021 tax year. Commissioner Christophersen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Part time help for the Treasurer's office – The county Treasurer has need to be out of the office for much of the month of June. June is a busy month when second half tax collections are due and she has asked the commissioners for permission to hire a temporary employee to help answer phones and accept tax payments for a few weeks during her absence. She would like to give some training the last few days of May and then have her work full days during June and if needed, a few days in July. The wage that has been request is \$12.00 dollars per hour.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the hiring of a part time employee to work in the Treasurer's office for two days in May and the full month of June at the rate of \$12.00 dollars per hour.

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

Tax cancellation request – The Treasurer reported that a tax payment had been made on a parcel of property whose taxes were in arrears. The payment was applied to the 2020 taxes

rather than the 2018 taxes as it should have been. When the title company called to verify the remaining taxes due the incorrect amount was given due to the system ignoring the 2018 and 2019 taxes and only recognizing the second half of the 2020 taxes. By the time the mistake was noticed the property had already been sold. The Treasurer called the previous owner but ultimately, they claimed that they complied with the information given to them and that they would not be paying the past taxes which amounted to \$2,202.19 dollars.

County Attorney Brower stated that the taxes follow the property and that the county could take the issue to the courts or they could forgive the taxes. He further stated that a title search would have been paid for and that the property owner could seek help from the title company however this could be a long drawn out process as well. The commissioners indicated that they didn't want to create any undue burden on the new owners and stated that it was a mistake made by the county.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to cancel past due taxes on RP0025000 in the amount of \$2,202.19 dollars.

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

Toni Werk, a local resident living in the southern part of the county, addressed the commissioners on the topic of housing development and controlled growth. She read a prepared statement that described the growth in areas where she used to live such as Las Vegas, Nevada and parts of California. Her concern is that growth, if not kept in check, can push the rural life style out. She indicated that the county should be supporting agriculture and maintain a growth that allow for the fundamental services to be provided and not compromised. One suggestion was to enact an impact fee on developers to help mitigate the impact on local residence for the construction of the new infrastructure. Subdivisions were discussed and seemed to be a great concern to Mrs. Werk. The commissioners stated that the planning and zoning board was in the process of making changes and that suggestions could be addressed to them as they move through the process of reviewing the current county development code.

The sheriff reported that the school district was interested in renewing the agreement for a school resource officer. They further would like to increase their annual payment for this position to \$14,000.00 per year paid in two semi annual installments.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the contract renewal with school district #351 for a resource officer to work for 19 ½ hours for 36 weeks at the annual cost of \$14,000.00 dollars.

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

Caribou jail contract – Caribou County is in the process of renewing a contract with the State of Idaho to house some of their prisoners. They have been in communication with Sheriff Jones to determine what Oneida County's intentions are for the next year. After much discussion and forecasting what the county needs may be in the future it was determined that Oneida County

would be best served if they negotiated a six bed guarantee rather than the current eight beds. This recommendation came from Sheriff Jones.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to authorize a six-bed guarantee contact with Caribou County Jail.

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

Malad City contract for law enforcement is coming due and the sheriff questioned how the county wanted to proceed as far as future payments etc.

The city has been on a three-year annual increase and as of this year will pay \$300,000.00 dollars for the service. It was noted that with officer Leckie being assigned to city ordinance enforcement that Malad was getting their monies worth. Sheriff Jones recommended a set percentage increase such as 2.5 percent each year with a three-year contract. The commissioners thought this suggestion was very acceptable.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve sheriff Jones to negotiate a new law enforcement contract with Malad City with a proposed three-year contract and an annual increase of three percent.

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

Planning and zoning commission chairman Josh Pasket reported that the commission has been working on some changes to part of the county development code. He further reported that the P&Z board has held a public hearing on the proposed changes and they are now presenting the information to the commissioners for approval. Questions were raised regarding the road standards and the Assessor's request for a new legal description to be required on all remaining properties after a split has occurred. It was noted that both items are in separate sections of the development code than those being proposed for change. The commissioners will take the proposed changes to public hearing before their final decision.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to hold a public hearing on the proposed changes to the Oneida County Development Code on June 14th, 2021.

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

Events center pest control – two bids were presented for monthly treatments to control the pests at the events center including spiders, mice and ants. A bid from the company called "Western" was quoted at \$124.17 per month and a bid from D&D bug control was quoted at \$250.00 per month for summer months and \$150.00 per month for winter months.

Commissioner Lewis questioned if both bids were the same. It was not identified if the bids were equal. A second quote of \$250.00 dollars, from Western, was quoted for the control of the birds infesting the outside rafters on each entrance of the building.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the bid from Western for \$1490.00 per year for pest control at the events center and to further approve the one time cost of \$250.00 to control the birds in the exterior rafters of the events center at each main entrance.

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

Damage was discovered on the HVAC unit on the southside of the events center. One bid to install chain link fence around the unit was presented however the commissioners made the request for a second bid that they could use to compare.

A grant for \$5,500.00 dollars was being considered for the landscaping at the events center. The IFFT grant was being offered by the Idaho Community Foundation.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to accept the IFFT grant for event center landscaping in the amount of \$5,500.00 dollars.

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

Franklin County and Oneida County Road and bridge would like to purchase a laydown machine for putting hotmix (asphalt) on the roads. The purchase for this rebuilt machine will be split 50/50 between both counties at a cost of about \$175,000.00 dollars. The maintenance will be shared on a percentage basis calculated by how much each county uses the equipment. A memorandum of agreement was presented for this shared piece of equipment.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the memorandum of understanding with Franklin County for the shared ownership of a "lay down machine" to apply asphalt by the road department.

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

Diana Dredge has completed her certification requirements for the road scholar program through the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council. The commissions have suggested that continuing education/ certifications should be rewarded somehow. The road department has asked for a \$.35 cents per hour raise for this accomplishment. Commissioner Lewis reviewed his notes from a previous meeting where a \$.25 cents per hour was discussed. He felt that \$.25 cents would be appropriate.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve a \$.25 cents per hour raise for Diana Dredge for her completion of the road scholar program.

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

Chesly Lewis was nominated as a new board member for the airport board. The commissioners all thought he was a good candidate. Commissioner Lewis stated that Chesly was his nephew and thus recused himself from the discussion and possible discussion.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve Chesley Lewis as a member of the airport board.

Commissioner Christophersen seconded. both commissioners voted in favor and the motion carried.

Commissioner Lewis abstained from voting.

The results of the May 18th, Library trustee election was canvased. Three candidates were on the ballot running for two positions.

Ruth Zivkovic received 43 votes

Jane Ann Ward received 143 votes

Lois B. Willie received 132 votes

Total voter turnout was 6.2%

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve the election results for the May 18th, Library Trustee election.

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

Road validation hearing discussion – Commissioner Lewis stated that he had reviewed the audio recording of the hearing which consisted of the testimony of several citizens which he recounted in this meeting. He further reviewed the maps enter into the record as exhibits in this issue. He felt that the evidence was in favor of a road validation. Commissioner Christophersen stated that he felt the evidence presented at the hearing proved use and maintenance of the road to justify validation.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion that based on the preponderance of evidence that the road north of the intersection of 7700 South and 23500 West ending at the Forest Service boundary has received maintenance and use over a period of five years.

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

Commissioner Eliason abstained from voting due to a conflict with the issue.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to validate the road north of the intersection of 7700 South and 23500 West ending at the Forest Service boundary being in the best interest of the public.

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

Commissioner Eliason abstained from voting due to a conflict with the issue.

Commissioner Lewis stated the process whereby someone could appeal the decision to validate this road.

The commissioners discussed the wage study methods and progress as provided by Michelle Winn who represents the company Ameriben.

Kim Jenkins from the local Farm Services Agency (FSA) spoke to the issue of drought in Oneida County. He reported on some of the requirements that must be met prior to farmers receiving assistance due to the drought. Infestation of crickets and grasshoppers and assistance to manage the infestation were discussed.

The position for county extension agent should be posted by the University of Idaho early this summer.

The commissioners tabled the review of county ordinances until a future date.

Use of the Federal ARPA money was discussed and several uses were suggested. Future discussion will take place before final decisions will be made.

The clerk and commissioners reviewed past revenues for each county fund in preparation for future budget discussions.

The meeting was adjourned.



Bill Lewis, Chairman



Matthew L. Colton, Clerk