



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BILL LEWIS, CHAIRMAN – BOB CHRISTOPHERSEN – KEN ELIASON

10 COURT STREET, MALAD, IDAHO 83252

Meeting minutes for November 22nd, 2021

Commissioners Lewis, Christophersen and Eliason in attendance.

Commissioner Lewis opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting payment of claims and meeting minutes approval for November 8th, and November 9th meetings.

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

Sheriff Jones stated that he has one officer that could not use his holiday time off for either Labor Day and Columbus Day because he was attend POST training. The county policy manual allows up to 60 days after the holiday to use this granted time off however the training will not conclude in time for him to exercise the holiday time off. The request was made to allow an exception this one time to extend the 60 day grace period to 120 days to allow the officer the opportunity to use the holiday time.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to extend the allowed time to carry over holiday time from 60 days to 120 days for Mitch Van Sickle for the Labor Day and Columbus Day holidays due to his attendance at the POST academy and not being able to take the holiday time off.

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

Sheriff Jones presented a contract with the U.S. Forest Service whereby they will pay Oneida County to patrol designated campground in the county as specified the agreement. This is a renewal of an existing contract that has been renewed annually for several years.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the law enforcement contract with the Forest Service and to accept their financial plan.

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

E-911 funds – the Sheriff explained where the E-911 money comes from and the expenses that are allowed.

County Assessor Kathleen Atkinson reported that neither property owner objected to the proposed address changes made in the last meeting. Doug Jones whose current address is 769 N. 300 W will change to 789 N. 300 W. and Joann Green whose current address is 500 N. old Hwy 191 will change to 147 N. Old Hwy 191. This change in addressing will allow new building lots near Mrs. Green, to receive proper address's and also provide proper information for emergency personnel.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the address changes for Doug Jones and Joann Green.



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

Steed Road - Commissioner Lewis reminded the commission of two of the factors that need to be addressed when seeking to vacate or validate a road. The two issues are a) is validation in the best interest of the public and b) has the road been maintained for a minimum of five years and used by the public in that time frame? He then proceeded to recount the testimony given and also referenced several of the exhibits detailing the signatures of approval for roads in the county including those receiving maintenance in the past. County employee's working in the road department were among those providing testimony, including past supervisors, and Commissioner Lewis read some of these accounts providing proof of the road being used and/or maintained. It was his thoughts that sufficient evidence was provided to allow validation of this road.

Commissioner Christophersen concurred with Commissioner Lewis and spoke to the evidence that past road foreman have signed maps for the state report for multiple years indicating that the road was on the county inventory. He stated that he was also in favor of validation of the Steed Road.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to validate the road going north from the intersection at 23500 W. and 7500 S. in Stone Idaho, a road known as Steed Road.

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

Commissioner Eliason recused himself from any discussion and decisions.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion that validation of the Steed Road was in the public's best interest and to keep the road on the county inventory.

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

Assessor Atkinson provided a contract with Assess Idaho to reduce their charge rate for customers paying via credit/debit cards.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the Assess Idaho contract for rate reduction in the DMV department.

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

Road foreman Diana Dredge presented a step and grade proposal outlining conditions that a road department employee must meet to be eligible for a wage increase. Her proposal would take five years for a new hire to reach the top grade.

Commissioner Lewis stated that some type of step and grade would need to be approved for all departments going forward to give incentive to employees and to provide a matrix that can be used during employee reviews.

The commissioner recognized the need to develop a policy that would outline when and how the county would consider taking new roads into the county inventory. It was stated that information from other counties could help in this discussion and decision. Further investigation will take place.



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The commissioners discussed meeting with Power County to discuss their shared public defender and also to consider options of hiring a shared specialty court coordinator. The time selected is December 6th and they will participate via a zoom video conference.

The December commissioner meeting schedule was addressed. A recommendation was made to hold a meeting on the 6th to meet with Power County and to hold the regular meeting on December 13th, and to cancel the scheduled meeting on December 27th.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to alter the December meeting schedule by hold a meeting on the 6th to meet with Power County and to hold the regular meeting on December 13th, and to cancel the scheduled meeting on December 27th.

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

The suggestion was made to review and modify the event center policy. Commissioner Eliason is over the event center and has reviewed the proposed changes and agrees with the proposal.

Commissioner Lewis stated that any contacts signed currently would still follow the current policy and only new agreements would be required to follow the new policy should the changes be approved.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the new event center policy effective immediately for all new rentals.

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

The commissioners read the several submissions for suggested ARPA spending.

The suggestions are:

Prosecutor – Case management system.

Airport Board – Weather station

Extension office – funding to allow for better notification of upcoming events.

Clerk – backup generator for the events center, enhanced wi-fi in the court house, lap tops for employees to work from home when necessary and restructure the customer window in the court clerk's office.

Treasurer – premium pay for essential workers.

Road and bridge – repair two bridges in Samaria and Woodruff respectively.

Oneida Fire District – self contained breathing apparatus, (SCuBA) for firemen.

Sheriff – upgrade the dispatch/communications center and respective departments receiving dispatch services.

Commissioner Lewis thanked everyone for their submitted proposals indicating that everything would be reviewed to see if the ARPA funds could be utilized and decisions would be made at a later date.



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He also indicated that the wi-fi enhancement in the court house should be implemented sooner rather than later.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve the expense to enhance wi-fi connectivity throughout the entire court house on all floors.

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

The meeting was adjourned.



Bill Lewis, Chairman



Matthew L. Colton, Clerk