



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BILL LEWIS, CHAIRMAN – BOB CHRISTOPHERSEN – KEN ELIASON

10 COURT STREET, MALAD, IDAHO 83252

Meeting minutes for April 11th, 2022

Commissioners in attendance: Bill Lewis, Robert Christophersen, Ken Eliason

Commissioner Lewis called for a review of the agenda and indicated that he would like to add building inspector resignation to the agenda for information.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to add building inspector discussion to the agenda. Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

The consent agenda was reviewed.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of payment of claims and March 28th, meeting minutes.

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

Weed superintendent Shelby Thomas asked the commissioners to approve a Cooperative Weed Management agreement or CWMA. The agreement provides funding for two spray days in each of the following counties; Oneida, Bannock, Franklin and Caribou. The money has been authorized and will be distributed upon commissioners' acceptance. It was further suggested that the rate of \$50.00 dollars per hour labor charge to spray on private land be considered due to the rising cost of fuel and maintenance. This topic will be added to the next agenda.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve the CWMA agreement for 2022.

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

Idaho Department of Agriculture MOU – this agreement will allow payment for law enforcement services to monitor the boat check station south of Malad City. The document is a renewal from last year with an increase in allotted money available.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the MOU between the Idaho Department of Agriculture and Oneida County Law Enforcement to provide patrol coverage for the boat check station on Interstate 15.

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

Tax exempt request – Idaho code allows for certain entities such as religious institutions, to request and receive property tax exemption status. This code also requires that they submit this request annually to the commissioners by April 15th. Four requests are being addressed today from the following; The First United Presbyterian Church of Malad, The Oneida Crisis Center, The Victory Baptist Church and The St. Paul's Catholic Mission.



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Letters will be sent to other entities as a reminder.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve The First United Presbyterian Church of Malad, The Oneida Crisis Center, The Victory Baptist Church and The St. Paul's Catholic Mission for tax exempt status as allowed in Idaho Code.

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

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve Assessor Atkinson and Attorney Brower to draft a reminder letter for the remaining entities.

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

Recording of access permits – This is a follow up discussion from a previous meeting to receive input from the prosecutor. The clerk reminded them that the permit would require certain information before it could be recorded properly, ie. the instrument number for the property where the approach will be located.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the recording of all approach permits.

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

Fee schedule – with the increase of access permits being requested and the time and fuel that is consumed in the process of inspecting the sites for approval the road and bridge has made the request that the commissioners consider changing the permit from a "no-charge" status and allow them to collect some money to help off set the expenses. Because fee's must be approved by resolution the request will be added to the next agenda.

Payment for the new truck has been requested by the vendor. Road and bridge have not taken possession of the vehicle as it is sitting at a third-party location awaiting installation of the accessories such as the dump bed etc.

the payment will be for the truck only and all accessories will be paid for once the truck has been completed. The amount requested is \$139,495.35.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve payment for the new truck in the amount of \$139,495.35.

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

Depot road survey – discussion has taken place regarding North Depot Road. This road will be the detour route for large trucks during the reconstruction of Bannock Street in Malad City. Upon completion of this project, it is anticipated that the road, already in questionable condition, will require a rebuild. Further, in the middle of the road is an S curve. Adjacent to the S curve is idle property owned by the rail road. The commissioners are interested in seeking approval from the rail road to purchase some of this unused land for the purpose of easing this S curve to make it less of a safety



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hazard. A survey of the land will be needed prior to submitting a request to the rail road. This survey will identify exactly what land the county is seeking to purchase.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the hiring of a surveyor to map out the land along depot road.

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

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to contract with engineer Stephen Freiburg to help determine the proper alignment of the proposed road relocation along Depot Road.

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

Farm land encroaching on the county road easements – The problem of farmers cultivating to close to the roadway has been an ongoing problem for some time. If the road doesn't have the proper drainage in the way of an improved barrow pit then that road is subject to being removed from the county inventory as it relates to state funding. Areas identified as needing attention are Pocatello Valley, Juniper and New Canyon area. It was further noted that in other parts of the count the fence lines have been moved to close to the road. The recommendation by road and bridge is to notify all county citizens that these areas will be reclaimed by the county starting in one, yet to be determined area, and moving throughout the county as time permits. Attorney Brower suggested that the commissioners grant authority to road and bridge to move forward with the easement reclamation.

Commissioner Lewis questioned where the line would be drawn in this reclamation effort stating that some fences may have been installed many decades ago. He asked if anything should be considered to be grandfathered in.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to grant authority to road and bridge to reclaim a 50 foot right of ways on county roads.

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

Road and bridge received a request from a citizen for approval to install five cattle guards along roads in Pocatello Valley. The commissioners discussed the maintenance of the cattle guards along with the liabilities that may exist.

Pumice mine road – the commissioners discussed the road extending beyond the asphalt to the pumice mine and also the road from the pumice mine to the perlite mine. A representative of Hess Pumice, unable to attend today's meeting, has made the request to speak with the commissioner on the 25th.

ARPA spending request by the volunteer firemen – It is their desire to obtain several sets of self-contained breathing apparatus to aid them when fighting structural fires. Their current equipment is dated and needs to be replaced.



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Commissioner Eliason made the motion to purchase equipment in the amount of \$53,297.00 for self-contained breathing equipment for use by the volunteer firemen.

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

The four-county economic development has no need for the car that was being used by their past director. Oneida County has shown interest in purchasing the use car for use in the Probation department. The Four CASI board members have approved the sale of the car in the amount of \$2,500.00 dollars.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the purchase of the car from the 4 CASI economic development for the amount of \$2,500.00 dollars.

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

Fair grounds road – a bid for \$44,000.00 dollars was received from Four Trax Excavation for the reconstruction of the road leading to the event center at the fair ground and a new parking area. The question was raised as to whether this road needed to be built to the new road standards.

Extension educator Sawyer Fannesbeck reported that the light poles in the event center parking area are in good shape and that new lights could be installed for around \$200.00 dollars per fixture. He estimates that two fixtures each for four light poles would cost around \$1,600.00 dollars plus labor. Other improvements discussed include informational signs on South Main Street and landscaping on the west side of the building.

Ace Hardware is building a store in Malad City. It was recommended to them that they apply for a GEM grant to help with costs associated with running approximately 1300 feet of water line to the city services. Malad City has an open GEM grant and is not eligible to sponsor a second grant so they have come to the commissioners to request that the county sponsor the grant on behalf of Ace Hardware. Commissioner Lewis questioned the need for in-kind match or matching funds. Mayor Hawkins stated that Malad City would cover any required match that is needed.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve the county as sponsor for the GEM grant on behalf of Ace Hardware.

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

Weather observation system request –The airport board would like to apply for a grant to purchase a weather observation system to be installed at the airport. This system would benefit emergency services when the need to transport medical patients arises. The grant would be for \$90,000.00 dollars with an additional \$90,000.00 dollar match requirement. The airport board is currently seeking for contributions to equal the match requirement. The Air Ambulance company has committed \$10,000.00 dollars for this purpose.



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Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the grant application for the weather observation system.

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

Commissioner Lewis reported that the building inspector has submitted his resignation and the process will begin to find a new inspector.

Commissioner Lewis reported that the Juvenile Detention billing is being discussed with the possibility of a new billing structure being approved. The latest proposal would have Oneida County paying a smaller annual fee than they have paid in the past. The savings would be around \$15,606.00 per year. A Joint Powers agreement was reviewed and discussed with the County Attorney. The main concern with the agreement was how payment would be made when a participant was moved into another facility and who would pay the additional costs.

Commissioner Lewis recounted the process the commissioners engaged in when creating a step and grade system for the county. He further recommended the retention of the company that helped with this effort to help work out some of the smaller issue. AmeriBen provided two plans for county review. The first plan was for compensation assistance to help implement salary guidelines, salary matrix and to help with revisions to the kinds and levels chart if needed. The second offer was to join the NW data exchange to gain access to analyzed information to help with comparisons of like entities in an effort to stay competitive in the job market. The cost for each plan is \$1,600.00 dollars and \$2,200 dollars respectively. Commissioner Lewis indicated that he felt both services would be needed and recommended purchasing both.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the purchase of the compensation assistance and membership with AmeriBen at the cost of \$3,800.00 dollars.

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

The meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bill Lewis".

Bill Lewis, Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Matthew L. Colton".

Matthew L. Colton, Clerk