



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BILL LEWIS, CHAIRMAN – BOB CHRISTOPHERSEN – KEN ELIASON

10 COURT STREET, MALAD, IDAHO 83252

Meeting minutes for April 25th, 2022

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

Commissioner Lewis called for a review of the agenda.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to add the reading of a letter from citizens in the New Canyon area.

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

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of payment of claims and meeting minutes for March 18th, and April 11th.

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

Southeast Idaho Public Health (SIPH) director Maggie Mann presented the proposed budget for the coming year. This budget will be presented to the board members for approval however she wanted to explain to the commissioners how the legislation has changed the funding model and how counties will be required to pay additional monies to the district. The increase will be around \$30,000.00 dollars for a total of \$63,708.00 for the next fiscal year. This will account for 2.7% of the total health district budget.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to support the SIPH proposal for their FY2023 budget.

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

Commissioner Christophersen is serving on the SIPH board however his term of service will expire in June. The board of commissioners need to nominate someone to serve in this capacity beginning in June.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve Commissioner Christophersen to continue as a board member on the SIPH to represent Oneida County.

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

Road supervisor Dianna Dredge reported that the Field of Dreams subdivision on the west side of Malad City is moving into their next phase of improvements and they have requested permission to use the county right of way to divert the stormwater. The subdivision plans approved by the city did not account for stormwater runoff and the open irrigation ditch that runs through this property has been converted to a pipe taking away the option of draining any stormwater there. The county right of way is the next option they are pursuing. The county road supervisor stated that this would be ok if the water were to keep flowing to a point of discharge and that it could not sit stagnate along the roadway. Some of the subdivision homeowners that live along this stretch of road have installed driveways from



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the county road to the back portion of their property without permits. These driveways will need to be removed to allow the stormwater to flow properly.

The commissioners discussed the topic of approaches being installed by land owners without permits and/or installing them in unapproved locations such as near intersections that cause safety hazards. Commissioner Lewis stated that the road department knows best the needs for approaches and keeping county rights of way clear and unobstructed. He further suggested that they should have the authority to make these types of decisions and have the commissioners back the decision.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to authorize the road department head to make decisions regarding approach permits in county rights of way.

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

Commissioner Lewis read a letter from Chalaee Teeple thanking the county commissioners for safety actions taken by the county along new canyon road.

Bobbie Summers presented a PLAT map for land along 5400 West. Commissioners asked questions regarding the development.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the PLAT map for Ryan Summers.

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

Dave Jones came before the commissioners to express concerns about subdivisions punching culinary water wells that will drain the aquifers and leave less water for the farmers and ranchers.

Road improvements at the event center have been discussed and a bid to rebuild the road was received however there were questions as to the grade and specifications. The bid was modified to show a 1500 foot by 40 foot road leading to the center and then back to the road with slope and crown along with a 160 foot by 125 foot parking area. It was stated that the road would be built to Bannock County standards which should be the same as Oneida County.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to accept the bid from four trax excavation, to rebuild the road and parking area at the event center for \$44,000.00

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

The weed department has asked for an increase to the hourly charge when spraying on private land to help offset the increasing cost of fuel and equipment maintenance. Currently the charge is \$50.00 per hour. The commissioners discussed the need for citizens to pay for services they receive individually rather than taking the expense from tax dollars paid by all property owners.



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Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to increase the fee for weed spraying on private land to \$65.00 dollars per hour effective April 25th, 2022.

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

Seasonal weed spraying - the weather is improving to the point to that they would like to hire a seasonal worker and suggested that they bring back someone that has worked in this capacity. They further suggested that a second position could be filled through advertising.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approval the hiring of two seasonal workers in the weed department.

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

Annual financial audit- Outside auditor Farrell Steiner gave his report to the commissioners regarding the FY2021 financial audit. The commissioners reviewed all aspects for each department. The auditor gave a "clean audit" report for the fiscal year and stated that he found no exceptions. It was suggested that some of the older debt be addressed such as some of the billing from the ambulance department.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve the FY2021 financial audit as prepared and presented by Searle Hart and Associates.

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

The extension agent Sawyer Fonnesebeck reported that he is still working on bids for upgraded parking lot lighting on the west side of the event center.

Public Defense financial assistance. A report was shared with the commissioners outlining how the county would utilize financial assistance from the State Public Defense Commission. A letter of acknowledgment and support for the request was provided for signature. The total amount requested is \$50,000.00 dollars which is the same as past years.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the PDC financial request as presented.

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

Drought declaration; Governor Little is going to declare a drought situation for all counties below the salmon river. Out of respect for the authority of county commissioner he will exclude any counties that do not want to participate. The commissioners discussed the need for such a declaration and thought it would be good to participate. This declaration will help the local farmers receive assistance.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to participate and allow the Governor to include Oneida County in his drought declaration.

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

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"Support your local gems" a program to help small business that have been hit with the COVID pandemic, has been promoted for the last two years. the commissioners have been asked to support the program this year.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to support the program to help small businesses. Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Elevator construction manager; the previous building inspector was going to oversee the construction of the elevator however his resignation has left the position open. The commissioner will need to fill the spot before the contractor begins. Commissioner Lewis indicated that he was willing to step into the role if he needed to.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve Commissioner Lewis as the elevator construction manager and to allow him to approve changed orders up to the amount of \$10,000.00 dollars per change order with a maximum amount of \$50,000.00 dollars total.

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

Depot road appraisal. The county has engaged in conversation with the rail road to purchase a small strip of land along North Depot Road for the purpose of removing the S curve in the road way. it was suggested that perhaps an appraisal would be needed however after discussion it decided that the county could make an offer and start the negotiations at that point as the land is of little use and would not likely sell for the appraised rate.

Report was given that the hiring committee for the building inspector replacement suggested that the job description be split into two positions, P&Z administrator and building inspector. They further suggested that Rhonda Neal be hired for the P&Z position to work up to 40 hours per week with benefits and Tory Richardson hired as building inspector for 30 hours per week with benefits. Ameriben will help in setting a wage for the P&Z position.

An agreement with Ameriben was approve in last meeting whereby Oneida County would belong to a data exchange program that will aid the county with wage monitoring to help ensure market value for all positions. Participation in this program requires a formal agreement that has been brought before the commissioners for signature.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the NW Data exchange agreement with Ameriben. Commissioner Christophersen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.



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Clerk Colton reported the following:

Opioid settlement payments will begin arriving to the county in the next few weeks.

ARPA rules allow up to \$10,000,000.00 dollars to be taken as revenue replacement money. It was suggested that Oneida County classify their ARPA money which will equal about \$840,000.00 dollars, be classified as revenue replacement and used to build the elevator.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to declare the Federal ARPA money as revenue replacement and to expend on the elevator construction.

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

The meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bill Lewis", written over a horizontal line.

Bill Lewis, Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Matthew L. Colton", written over a horizontal line.

Matthew L. Colton, Clerk