



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BILL LEWIS, CHAIRMAN – KEN ELIASON – BRIAN JEPSEN

10 COURT STREET, MALAD, IDAHO 83252

Meeting minutes for February 27th, 2023

Commissioners in attendance: Bill Lewis, Ken Eliason, Brian Jepps

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and pray offered by commissioner Lewis.

Commissioner Lewis called for a review of the agenda. Commissioner Eliason wanted to add event center discussion.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to add event center discussion to the agenda.

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

The consent agenda was addressed.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of payment of claims and meeting minutes approval.

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

Extension office –

Sawyer Fonesbeck drove his own car to Boise meetings when a county car was available. He stated that due to the winter storm and the county vehicles not having emergency kits available, he felt safer in his own car. He made the request that the commissioner approve an exception to county policy and afford him to receive full reimbursement.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve full mileage reimbursement for Sawyer Fonesbeck's travel to Boise due to the winter weather.

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

Commissioner Jepps suggested that the policy be changed and also to provide emergency kits for the two county vehicles.

Sawyer reported on the expansion of the 4-H program and the need for additional judging. He further stated that the wages that Oneida pays for judges was low and asked for an increase to his budget so the judges wages could be increased. Commissioner Lewis stated that each department should try to live with in their approved budgets and that he was not in favor of an increase however he did suggest that perhaps some funds could be reallocated from another account line in his budget.

Sawyer made the request that one of the commissioners participate in judging the demonstrations given by the youth. Commissioner Lewis stated that he has done this in the past and that it was a great experience. Commissioner Eliason volunteered and Commissioner Jepps stated that he would also participate as a second option should Commissioner Eliason become unavailable.

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Commissioner Lewis reported that by contracting with Ameriben the county will receive \$1,000.00 dollars in training credits and will also receive “respectful work place” training for all employees which carries a value of \$1,200 dollars.

County fuel usage – Commissioner Lewis estimated that the sheriff’s office uses about 15,000 gallons of fuel per year. the commissioners discussed the benefits of purchasing a bulk fuel tank for county use. The availability of fuel during a crisis or power outage is the number one reason they are considering the bulk tank however there will be other savings such as cost that the county could also benefit from.

Solid waste exemption request – the owner of MY0328701, a mobile home on Samaria Lane, has petitioned the commissioners for an exemption from the solid waste fees claiming the home is uninhabitable. The county building inspector paid a visit to the mobile home and determined that the home was inhabitable. Commissioner Lewis reported on the surrounding counties policies for these requests. The report shows that none of the counties allow partial fees or part time rates. They pay in full unless an exemption has been approved. Also, exemptions were allowed in two of the counties only if the house had not been lived in for multiple years. The other two counties stated that the house would need to be removed before the solid waste fee was removed.

Commissioner Eliason questioned what property owners should do if the collection service does not pass their residence. It was stated that in the event some one lives in a location where the collection truck does not travel that a collection can would need to be provided in close proximity for them to dump their household waste.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to deny solid waste exemption for MH0328701 due to the findings that the home was habitable.

Commissioner Jepsen seconded.

The commissioners questioned the process whereby citizens request exemptions and how they are to be handled by the commissioners per county ordinance.

Following the discussion, the motion was rescinded.

Airport fuel – Tabled

Rotary Snow removal – Road and Bridge suggested the purchase of rotary snow equipment to clear roads that are subject to high snow banks. It was stated that whether we receive an abundance of new snow or if it simply drifts a lot, the road sides build up to the point that the plows can no longer throw the snow off the road. A rotary machine has the capability to throw the snow over the high banks and out of the way. Another positive attribute is that the rotary blower could be used to move the snow banks away from the road edge which will direct the water runoff into the barrow pit helping ensure the integrity of the road base.

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Commissioner Lewis asked if there was sufficient budget money for such a purpose. Supervisor Dredge stated that there was budget money available for capital expenditures. The piece of equipment they were looking at would cost around \$90,000.00 dollars. All commissioners were favorable to the idea.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to approve the purchase of the rotary snow blower from Kodiak America at a cost of \$90,000.00.

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

County goals – The commissioners discussed goals for the county in preparation for the City/County economic development meeting. They identified a few top priority goals to work on first.

Development code – Attorney Brower recounted the process for public hearings and approval of any updates to the development code. The commissioners discussed the proposed changes from planning and zoning as well as the corrections suggested in a previous commissioner meeting.

Bulk fuel tank – fuel metering systems were discussed. Commissioner Jepsen cautioned that not all systems work as advertised and that if the county pursues a bulk fuel tank, they should verify the metering system.

County policies – Commissioner Jepsen questioned how a department determines the level of reimbursement for the use of personal cell phones. Suggestions will be taken in a future meeting. The information systems policy was found to be good.

Vehicle use policy could be updated for the hands free communication that is now available.

ATV use for count business will continue to require the use of a helmet.

The suggestion was made once again, to combine all policies into one document and to require employee signatures of understanding on a yearly basis.

Molly Beseris and Mayor Hawkins spoke to the commissioners about age friendly communities and suggested that Oneida County look into this program offered by AARP. Malad City recently signed up. Commissioner Jepsen expressed concerns about AARP oversight and control of community activities. It was stated that the community would retain control of their improvements.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to participate in the AARP age friendly community program and to have Commissioner Jepsen serve on the committee.

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

Molly Beseris asked for commissioner support for her application to sit on the district 5 public transportation board.

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Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to sign a letter of support for Molly Beseris to become a district 5 transportation board member.

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

Local business, BC Timbers, would like some assistance for the expansion efforts of their company. The city will be applying for a \$50,000.00 dollar gem grant on their behalf. They have asked the county to sign a letter of support for their application.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to sign a letter of support for the Malad City application of a gem grant on behalf of BC Timbers.

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

Fair board has requested additional funding for flowers to fill the new planters in front of the event center.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve up to \$175.00 dollars to plant flowers in the event center containers with the cost coming from the event center budget.

Mid-Winter conference discussion – the commissioners compared notes from their various meetings at the February Idaho Association of Counties meeting. some of the topics addressed include; Comprehensive plan, city impact zone, ARPA money/expenditures, weed supervisor; applicators license, public lands mtg., drug addiction and opioid dependencies and juvenile justice participation fees.

The meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Lewis", written over a horizontal line.

Bill Lewis, Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Matthew L. Colton", written over a horizontal line.

Matthew L. Colton, Clerk

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