



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BILL LEWIS, CHAIRMAN – KEN ELIASON - BRIAN JEPSEN

10 COURT STREET, MALAD, IDAHO 83252

Meeting minutes for April 24th, 2023

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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer offered by commissioner Jepps.

Commissioner Lewis called for a review of the agenda.

Commissioner Jepps reported that the Fire District would not be able to attend today's meeting and would reschedule.

The commissioners addressed the consent agenda.

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

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

The Treasurer/Auditor quarterly report for the months of January, February and March was reviewed. Treasurer Leigh Love also reported on the county investments and reported that she has earned \$81,995.00 dollars in the first quarter.

Commissioner Jepps made the motion to approve the Treasurer/Auditor quarterly report for the second quarter of the fiscal year.

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

Tax exemption requests – Idaho code identifies entities that are eligible for property tax exemption. Of those properties some are required to apply for the exemption annually while others are granted the exemption automatically. The irrigation districts were added to the list in the 2023 legislative session for entities that do not need to apply annually. The commissioners received applications from the Masonic Lodge, the museum, the Samaria irrigation company, The Faithful Followers of Fatima Catholic church, the Baptist church, the theater guild and properties in Samaria under the Samaria Community Foundation and Village of Samaria. The commissioners questioned the museum, theater Guild and the Samaria properties.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the property tax exemptions for the following; Masonic Lodge, Samaria Irrigation, Faithful Follower of Fatima Church, Baptist Church.

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

Because Mr. Waldron was unable to deliver the tax exemption request in time for the Samaria properties, a request was submitted on his behalf seeking an extension.



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Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to approve the one-week extension for submitting the tax exemption request for the Samaria properties.

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

Luke Waldron shared information on the Samaria properties and the commissioners asked the County Attorney to review the requests for the Samaria properties, the theater guild, and the museum to see if they were eligible for the tax exemption.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to approve all irrigation districts to receive property tax exemption.

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

County Assessor Atkinson presented resolution 2023-04-02, asking for approval to destroy all hard copies of her "end of day" reports and "month end" reports from 2018 to April 24th, 2023. These records are being kept in digital format.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve resolution #2023-04-02 allowing for the destruction of the hard copies of all DMV end of day reports and month end reports from 2018 through April 24th, 2023 that have been saved digitally.

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

Legislative representative Clay Handy reported on the 2023 legislative session, the committees he was assigned to and some of the bills that were passed.

Servers for backing up sheriff's spillman records and body camera footage are running at capacity and additional space is needed. Two servers are being requested to expand their storage capacity. One will be stored at the court house and the second will be installed at a remote location to serve as a backup, providing security should the first server become compromised. The bid for two servers is \$8461.60. The commissioners questioned if the expense could be covered with SHSP grant money from emergency services.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to purchase two computer servers to backup sheriff's office records at a cost of \$8,461.60 and to use SHSP grant money if it is an allowed expense.

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

Other issues identified by the Sheriff - he has not been successful in hiring a part time dispatch and will also be needing a full-time dispatch in the next several weeks. He has asked the commissioners to consider increasing the wage in hopes that it will attract more applicants.

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The security door locks in his department are not working and he would like to purchase new locks. Security cameras will need to be relocated and additional cameras installed to cover the elevator entrance on each level. Commissioner Lewis stated that the panic buttons should also be updated. The commissioners thought these issues could be covered in the next few months.

Emergency Services – The commissioners discussed future SHSP grant money and how it could be allocated. A backup generator for the event center has been identified previously. New items added to the priority list include Automatic external defibrillator (AED) machines in each of the county buildings, first aid kits for each building and a drone to aid the search and rescue organization. The commissioners further suggested first aid training and CPR certification for interested county employees.

Maggie Mann, Director of the Southeast Idaho Public Health department, presented their budget request for the coming fiscal year. They are asking for a total of \$60,881.00 dollars. This amount is based on county population and market value. All commissioners were in favor of supporting the budget request which will be finalized when the county budget is approved in August. The health department will approve their budget on May 18th, 2023.

The commissioners asked for information regarding the Opioid issues in the state and particularly, how they could utilize the opioid settlement money in the most efficient ways. Training and educating the public through law enforcement and EMS services were identified as great methods with the suggestion to work closely with the schools.

The road and bridge department has a road grader on lease which will expire in January of 2024. Because of the possibility of delivery delays supervisor Dianna Dredge would like permission to order the replacement now with the hopes that it will arrive before the current lease comes due. They are currently working on the replacement of another piece of equipment whose lease is due in May.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve road and bridge to order a new road grader to replace the grader lease due in January of 2024.

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

Commissioner Jepsen shared information regarding people or entities that could help with the rewrite of the comprehensive plan. Action will be taken after the Development Code updates have been approved.

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A Financial request to Idaho State, for FY2024 Public Defense funding, was presented to the commissioners. The report consisted of showing how the funding would be utilized in the coming budget and how past funding had been spent. The amount eligible and requested is \$50,000.00 dollars. \$25,000.00 dollars comes from sharing a public defender office with Power County.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to approve the public defense funding request. Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Airport bids for the application of a seal coat to the new runway was tabled.

Commissioner Jepsen reported that the senior center has lost their funding source and is in jeopardy of closing their doors. More investigation is needed before the commissioners will make any decisions.

Swimming pool – They would like to use software for parents registering their kids for swimming lessons. Follow up information was requested regarding profits from swimming lessons and cost of the software. The revenues from each of the last three years vary because of the pandemic restrictions however each year still turned a profit of several thousand dollars. The cost for a third party vendor for accepting payment was unclear as some hardware may be required.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve the use of Bookeo software for registering swimming lessons at the county pool up to the cost of \$600.00
Commissioner Jepsen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

A respectful workplace meeting for employees has been scheduled for May 16th. The meeting will be presented by Ameriben and will be held in two sessions, the first starting at 10:00 am and the second at 1:00 pm. Each session will last about 1 ½ hours.
The commissioners discussed buying lunch and serving the attendees between meetings.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to buy lunch for those employees attending the respectful workplace meeting on May 16th.
Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

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Commissioner Lewis made the motion to hold an executive session per IC 74-206 (1) (f) To communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. The mere presence of legal counsel at an executive session does not satisfy this requirement;
Commissioner Eliason seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Commissioner Eliason – Aye
Commissioner Lewis – Aye
Commissioner Jepps – Aye
The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned following the executive session.



Bill Lewis, Chairman



Matthew L. Colton, Clerk

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