



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BILL LEWIS, CHAIRMAN – KEN ELIASON – BRIAN JEPSEN

10 COURT STREET, MALAD, IDAHO 83252

Meeting minutes for May 22nd, 2023

Attendance: Commissioner Lewis, Commissioner Eliason, and Commissioner Jepps.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and pray offered by Commissioners Lewis. Commissioner Lewis called for a review of the agenda.

Commissioner Jepps made the motion to add emergency grant money for road and bridge as a discussion item.

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

The consent agenda was presented for approval.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the consent agenda which consists of payment of the claims and approval of the meeting minutes for May 4th, and May 8th, 2023.

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

Shelly Williams, on behalf of the newspaper, asked the commissioners to participate in a "Welcome to Malad" publication that is distributed to visitors through various means such as local businesses and the interfaith council.

The shared cost being sought is \$300.00 dollars.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve \$300.00 dollars for assistance in printing the welcome to Malad publication.

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

Soil and Water district was postponed until June 12th, per their request.

Molly Beseirs asked for a commitment from the county to continue as the fiscal agent for four casi economic development and to commit to a \$5,000.00 dollar contribution for the FY2024 year.

The funds from participating counties and cities are taken into consideration when the State Agency awards their funding.

Commissioner Jepps made the motion to support four Casi economic development by acting as the fiscal agent and to contribute \$5,000.00 dollars.

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

Molly Beseirs presented a poster stating the Oneida County was a member of the AARP age friendly community.

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Jeff Richins, representing the Malad Theater Guild, asked the commissioners to consider gifting the theater guild \$3,500.00 dollars for the next fiscal year. He stated that the theater building was purchased as a joint venture with Malad City and Oneida County, each giving \$3,500.00. Malad City kept them under their umbrella for insurance etc. but they are now independent. He further claims that Malad City has continued to give \$3,500.00 each year since the purchase however the county discontinued their gift when Gene Caldwell resigned as commissioner. Commissioner Lewis explained the process of asking for budgetary considerations and made the request that he submit a letter seeking the award and to include their financials for the last several years to help show how their finances are appropriated.

Trial court administrator for the sixth judicial district court, Kerry Hong, informed the commissioners on the Idaho Supreme Courts decision to move their software to a cloud-based system to allow for more security controls. He further explained the impact on how county clerks will conduct business. Commissioner Jepsen questioned the cost for software licenses. Kerry stated that the State would pay for all upgrades and will continue to maintain four computers in the courts.

Road ownership – Commissioner Jepsen asked for clarification on where the state roads end and county roads begin. It was reported that state highway 38 travels from Malad to Holbrook and ends at the Holbrook intersection going to Stone Idaho. The county has ownership from this intersection to the Power County line where the road changes back to State ownership. State Highway 36 begins at exit 17 and runs through the canyon into Franklin County.

Commissioner Jepsen asked about lane stripping. He stated that when traveling south from Rockland, he noticed that lane stripping ended at the Power County line and was interested to know if any funds were available for lane stripping. Road supervisor Dianna Dredge reported that she has applied for safety grants for this purpose. She stated that they take into consideration fatalities and serious injury accidents for a given stretch of road when reviewing the grant requests. The county did receive funding for special signs with past grants however they would consider Oneida County for the centerline rumble strips this year but not the striping. The cost to benefit ratio did not meet their standards to consider striping. The cost for lane stripping would be \$1,200.00 dollars per mile for the skip line and \$7,000.00 dollars per mile for the solid line. The paint will last up to one year and if they were to paint all asphalt roads in the county it would cost \$400,000.00 dollars. Another option is a plastic product called thermo-lay which could last up to 5 years but could be affected by the snow plows and would cost about \$12,000.00 dollars per mile. The grant did qualify the county for a centerline rumble strip. It is \$8,000.00 dollars per mile and will last about ten years. The draw back with the rumble strip is that a minimum layer of asphalt is required and Old Highway 191 from the Utah board to the Bannock County line and the road running from Holbrook to the Power County line are thought to be the only two roads that would meet the requirements because they were State roads at one time and they have been constructed to a different standard.

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Another action that is being taken is the installation of delineator poles that mark the edge of the road. They currently have 100 posts to be installed with intentions to add about 100 more each year as they are available.

Commissioner Eliason reported on his review of the road located at 300 N. in Pleasantview. After looking at the road commissioner Eliason recommended the road remain open. Development is increasing in that area and many citizens use the road and he feels that it would be better to expedite the maintenance on the road and work towards getting drivers to slow down and obey the speed limit. Commissioner Lewis said that he has received multiple calls from citizens who think the road should remain open.

Commissioner Jepsen reminded the commission about the opportunity of funding to help with needed road repairs as a result of the heavy winter and spring runoff. Road and bridge will investigate the opportunity.

The airport board presented grant applications for 1- seal coat of the runway, 2- security fencing, 3- 12 foot "Brush Chief" rotary mower for maintaining the grass runway, 4- extending power to the south east corner of the airport property for all new single hangars constructed in the future.

On another note, they suggested working with the road crew to plow the snow on the runway, apron, and approach areas. They were pleased with the job done by plow operator Josh Barns and stated that it would save thousands of dollars if they didn't have to rent a loader.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to sign the four grant applications for the airport. One each for runway seal coat, security fencing, 12 foot "Brush Chief" rotary mower and adding power to the southeast corner of the airport for hangar expansion.

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

The American Legion received a State license to sell beer at the legion building. The request has been made to receive a county license. The permit will allow the sale and consumption of beer on premises.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to approve the beer license for the American Legion to sell and consume on their premises.

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

Empower Counseling was contracted as an outside vendor to aid law enforcement personnel with work related issues. They are reporting the following usage numbers for the first four months of the year.

January – three assessments

February – nine assessments

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March – one assessment and 9 sessions

April – nine sessions

The commissioners were pleased that the resource was being used.

The commissioners are in the process of ordering automated external defibrillators, and discussed the feasibility of training employees on CPR and general first aid also. The certification will take about two hours and the commissioner thought it appropriate to offer during business hours and pay the employee for their time. Members of the ambulance department will give the training.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to provide CPR training to county employees. To conduct the training during business hours and to pay employees for their time.

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

Forest Service Permit renewal- this permit was signed in 2017 to be effective for a five year period. The permit expired in December of 2022 and a renewal has come to the commissioners for consideration. They are still waiting to hear from the Forest Service regarding what is required if the permit is signed and what the consequences would be if the permit was not renewed.

Katy Bergholm, regional administrator for the Pocatello office of the Idaho Department of Environmental quality, met with the commissioners to address any concerns the county may have. She shared accomplishments from the past year and identified areas they will be working on in the future. Allan Johnson, the regional engineer manager, also attended and spoke about issues he is dealing with. It was note worthy that surrounding areas are dealing with planning and zoning issues where counties are concerned with ground water and septic systems. One other issue that was reported is the presence of Thallium in the Malad river. They stated that it is still on the Utah side but that they are watching it close to see that it does not move upstream in to Idaho. There was no indication as to the source.

Farrell Steiner, auditor for Searle Hart, presented the FY2022 audit for the county finances. Revenue and expenditure trends for all funds was reviewed. Two topics were identified as items the commissioners should be aware of. The first is the need to write off old debt owed to the ambulance fund. The second is to have one location for all lease documents to be kept. The full report was presented to the commissioners with a "clean opinion" classification. The topic of Hospital audits and regional landfill audits were discussed and why they need to report to the county.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve the financial audit for FY2022 as audited by Searle Hart.

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

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Forest Service representatives spoke to the commissioners about the coming fire season. Projections of a delayed fire season were shared. Available resources were addressed with the note that hiring firefighters has been a bit of a challenge. Of the 77 fires in east Idaho last year, 58 fires were human caused.

Weed superintendent, Cody Clyde presented a Forest Service agreement to pay the county for spraying weeds for them. The contract is the same as in past years. Attorney Brower reviewed the contract and reminded the commissioner of the requirement to complete and file timely reports for all work done in conjunction with the contract. Cody was aware of the requirement and assured that it would be completed.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to approve the Forest Service participating agreement with the County Weed Department to spray weeds on Forest Service land.

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

Commissioner Lewis called for a recess of the regular meeting.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to open the public hearing for department of motor vehicle fee increases.

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

No one was in attendance for the hearing. Assessor Atkinson explained the need to increase the fees for both transactions to help pay for the employees in that department. The proposed change is to increase the registration fee from \$4.50 to \$5.00 dollars and to add a \$6.00 dollar fee onto title work to help cover the cost for the employees.

With no one in attendance for the hearing, the hearing was closed and the regular meeting was reconvened.

Resolution 2023-05-01 was presented for the purpose of increasing the fees in the department of motor vehicles or DMV.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve resolution 2023-05-01 increasing the registration fee for vehicles from \$4.50 to \$5.00 dollars and to add a \$6.00 dollar fee to all title work in the DMV department.

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

Idaho office of emergency management has awarded SHSP grants to Oneida County. one of those grants will expire this summer and the commissioners are looking to purchase automated external May 22nd, 2023



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defibrillators or AED's with this money. Commissioner Jepsen has written a letter of explanation and commitment of how the machines will be utilized and this letter will accompany the request for funding. Two units will be requested with this money.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to approve the purchase of two AED's with the SHSP grant money, with accompanying storage box, to be used in case of an emergency in the county. Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to use the remaining grant money to help purchase three communication radios for the sheriff's office. Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Dan Williams reported that the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan was complete and that the invoice would need to be paid by the county after which reimbursement can be requested. The total grant award is for \$15,960.00.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve payment to Integrated Solutions in the amount of \$15,960.00 dollars of which 100% will be reimbursed to the county. Commissioner Jepsen seconded. All Commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Russ Avery gave a demonstration of the AED units the county is interested in purchasing.

One bid was submitted for the constructions manager posting placed by the county. Construction Services submitted their bid and the committee, assigned by the commissioners, reviewed it for accuracy and completeness. They reported that the submitted bid was found to compliant with all aspects. They further suggested that the bid be accepted. Their rate will be based on the cost of the project with a low of 3 ½ percent to 5 percent of the total project cost. Commissioner Lewis stated that Caribou County has used their services and have been well pleased with the service.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to accept the bid by Construction Services for the job of construction manager. Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

After discussing possibilities of what the court room remodel would look like the commissioners decided to form a committee to work out the details that can be given to an architect prior to posting for the construction.

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Commissioner Lewis made the motion to ask Lon Colton, Diane Skidmore, Cody Brower, Tory Richardson, and Judge Dave Hooste to serve on a committee to discuss the court room remodel to meet ADA specifications.

Commissioner Jeppsen 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

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