



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BILL LEWIS, CHAIRMAN – KEN ELIASON – BRIAN JEPSPEN

10 COURT STREET, MALAD, IDAHO 83252

Meeting minutes for June 12th, 2023

Attendance: Bill Lewis, Ken Eliason, Brian Jeppsen.

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

Commissioner Jeppsen made the motion to add airport grants to the agenda for discussion. Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to remove the claims from the consent agenda and to approve the remaining item of meeting minutes.

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

Commissioner Lewis explained that more trees were ordered for the fairgrounds than what can be used and that the invoice will need to be reduced. He requested that the claim for these trees be removed from the list of bills being paid.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approved all claims for payment except for the claim for fairground trees.

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

Oneida Soil and Water District came before the commissioners to request funding assistance in the amount of \$15,000.00. The money will help with education, conservation projects and wages.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approved support of the Oneida Soil and Water District in the amount of \$15,000.00 dollars in the coming budget year if funds are available.

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

Steed Road – The sixth judicial district court was asked to review the Steed Road decision made by the county commissioners several months previous. The review was completed and a decision to reverse the county action was made. The courts found that the five years maintenance and usage was not proven in a clear and precise manner. It comes now to the commissioners to either accept the ruling or appeal the ruling.

The commissioners discussed the actions as related to both decisions.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to vacate the Steed Road running north of the intersection at 7700 S. and 23500 W in Stone Idaho due to the court findings through Judicial review and to remove said road from the county road maps.

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

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Both commissioners approved. Commissioner Eliason recused himself do to conflict with the issue.

Road and bridge has been working on the replacement of a road grader. The new grader is in place and the financial papers with Summit Leasing need to be signed. The new grader is a 150 CAT and will be leased for five years with a max. of 4000 hours.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the lease of a CAT 150 grader for five years and to pay the first payment of \$50,815.42.

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

Tyler Kelsey offered the commissioners another option for county benefits insurance with his company brokering with the providers. His company is based in Utah however they do work with a few Idaho cities. Commissioner Lewis stated that he prefers to use Idaho companies when possible.

Commissioner Eliason also stated that he felt that the county was in a good spot.

Commissioner Jeppsen thought that it was never a bad idea to get additional bids for comparison's sake. The agenda was not listed for an action and no decision was made.

Development Code hearing – Commissioner Lewis commented that most of the changes were those requested and promised after the code was approved in August of 2022. All public comment at the hearing was supportive of the new changes except for three individuals. Commissioner Lewis was in favor of moving forward with the changes. Commissioner Eliason felt the same way. Commissioner Jeppsen also felt the same however he reported that some parts of the code still need to be addressed. He further stated that the document should always be under review for changes that meet the needs of the county.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve the changes to the development code as presented and discussed in the public hearing.

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

D-6 office space – district 6 has need of some office space where they can meet with clients in the justice system. Gabe Jimenez reported on the current space available at the annex and that D-6 is using some of that space. Options were given and the commissioner decided to table the discussion and discuss in the next meeting when a D-6 representative could be present.

Two documents were put before the commissioners for approval in conjunction with the outside financial audit. Those documents, the representation report and journal entries report, will be place on the next agenda to allow for more review time.

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Fairgrounds improvements – Trees have been purchased for the fairground with the potential of receiving grant money to help cover the cost. The original order exceeded the available space for planting due to underground lines and drain pipe. Because not all trees would be utilized it was suggested that payment be withheld until the trees are planted at which time payment could be made based on actual usage.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve payment for trees planted at the fairgrounds. Commissioner Jeppsen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Commissioner Lewis reported the resignation of Cathy Jones from the hospital board. It was suggested that Robert Hannah be approved as a new hospital board member.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approved Robert Hannah as a hospital board member. Commissioner Jeppsen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

CPR classes have been approved for all employees wanting to obtain certification. Members of the ambulance department will give the training and the county will cover the cost.

GEM grant invoice. The county sponsored a grant for the Idaho department of commerce to aid in building infrastructure for the ACE hardware store. The project is complete and the commissioners need to approve and sign the paperwork requesting the grant money.

Commissioner Jeppsen made the motion to approve signing the request for GEM grant money for ACE hardware.

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

Airport grant update. Commissioner Jeppsen reported that a grant to help pay for the seal coat of the runway was awarded at 100%.

Sheriff Jones provided the commissioners with a list of items he feels need to be addressed. The list includes; carpet runners in his work area, flooring in the dispatch and finger print area, new paint on all walls, new access locks for his area, new hallway chairs and to remove the unusable chairlifts on the back stairs. He further presented a packet to each commissioner with explanations of his budget request for FY2024.

Power County and Oneida County held a joint meeting to discuss the future of the joint PDC office and the transition to a state public defense program. Current public defender Mike Morrissey has applied for a judgeship in Bannock County and if successful, Oneida and Power counties would need to regroup on how they provide public defense until the state takes over.

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Both clerks will contact Jared Ricks of the PDC office to see what can be allowed. A report will be given to both sets of commissioners on the outcome of the investigation.

Also discussed was the case ratio between both counties. The cost for shared public defense is based on the number of cases handled. Currently Oneida is paying 35% however the case load for the last year is only 28% vs 72% for Power County. All agreed that the cost will be charges according to the new percentages.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to hold an executive session per Idaho Code 74-206 (1) (b)

To consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent,

(d) To consider records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in chapter 1, title 74, Idaho Code;

(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. roll call vote was taken.

Commissioner Lewis – aye

Commissioner Jepsen – aye

Commissioner Eliason – aye

The motion carried.

Following the executive session, the commissioners recessed for lunch and then continued the meeting be hearing FY2024 budget requests from several departments.

The meeting was then adjourned.



Bill Lewis, Chairman



Matthew L. Colton, Clerk

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