



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BILL LEWIS, CHAIRMAN – KEN ELIASON – BRIAN JEPSEN

10 COURT STREET, MALAD, IDAHO 83252

Meeting minutes for July 26th, 2023

Attendance: Bill Lewis, Brian Jepps, Ken Eliason.

The meeting was opened with a pledge of allegiance and prayer offered by Commissioner Jepps. Commissioner Lewis called for a review of the agenda. No changes were made.

Commissioner Jepps made the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of the payment of claims and meeting minutes approval for July 10th, 2023.

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

Tara Contreras, executive director for CASA, (court assisted special advocates) spoke to the commissioners about the services her organization provides. When a court case involves children and they are placed in the system, a special advocate is assigned to help that child and represent them to ensure that their best interests are taken into account. Most of the aids are volunteer and donate a lot of time for no pay. The program has proven very valuable and could always use more volunteers.

Robert Phillips reported that a conditional use permit was approved by planning and zoning, to construct a metal building over Tim Ekstrom's horse arena. Mr. Phillips asked what the cost would be for the conditional use permit. It was stated that Steve Freiburg, a contract engineer, was questioned about the construction. The conditional use permit was required because of the size of building and Mr. Freiburg stated that it was not a typical agriculture building and would require inspections beyond that of measuring the required setbacks. The suggestion was made to price the permit based on the inspections that would be performed.

Commissioner Jepps made the motion to approve the building inspector to set the fees for the Tim Ekstrom metal building based on the inspections that would need to be performed.

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

Robert Stokes stated that he had heard of an open position for a veteran service officer. Commissioner Lewis reported that Gene Caldwell, the current veteran service officer, had called and him, reporting that he would like to retire at the end of the year. The commissioners wanted to speak with other counties about this position and stated that they would have further discussion in a future meeting. Mr. Stokes asked about training. Commissioner Lewis stated that training for this position was not in the current budget and asked if American Legion had any remaining money from the \$5,000.00 dollar contribution the county gives them annually.



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Weed superintendent Cody Clyde reported that a spray day had been scheduled to work on the noxious weeds on Federal BLM land with the BLM paying for the helicopter that will apply some of the chemical.

Cody also complimented his part time help for the good work he is doing and asked the commissioners if he could give him a raise above the \$14.00 dollars per hour. Commissioner Lewis stated that in the past they have allowed an additional \$1.00 dollar increase over the hire rate if the person becomes certified to spray chemicals.

Aaron Hull offered his services to spray private property for the county at \$75.00 dollars per hour. Cody stated that he will be sending letters of noncompliance to several property owners that have noxious weeds. If they do not spray their ground then the county will need to spray for them and charge for the service. In this situation a contract person could handle the extra work load that will be created.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to approve contract weed spraying at the rate of \$75.00 dollars per hour for a maximum of 50 hours.

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

Sheriff Jones presented a E911 communications grant for commissioner approval. The grant is for \$62,533.43 and will help pay for the enhance 911 service. He also expressed concern that the Assessors office has not communicated with Bonneville County to update them with new address information. Commissioner Lewis suggested setting up a meeting with all parties involved to discuss the best path forward. With the elevator getting closer to completion, the sheriff asked for approval of a new camera system to help cover the many new public spaces that have been created. The suggested camera system is expandable and will offer many new features not currently being used. Commissioner Lewis asked if an intercom would be part of the package.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the Idaho Public Safety grant for \$62,533.43.

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

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the HD camera system, with a five year license, for \$12,882.57.

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

Commercial building inspections – Commissioner Lewis reported that he is working on an agreement for future inspection. Further he will submit a claim for work already completed once he receives an invoice.

Cell phone reimbursement- Rhonda Neal submitted a request to receive the high level, or \$60.00 dollar per month level of reimbursement for using her personal phone for county use.

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Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve Rhonda Neal's request for cell phone reimbursement at the rate of \$60.00 dollars per month.

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

Lumen Technologies received a judgment from the State of Idaho regarding a tax assessment value for property in Idaho. As a result of the judgment, Oneida County and four of the local taxing districts have been assessed a total of \$101.41 plus interest bringing the total to \$106.21.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to pay the full amount from the county contingency fund.

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

Valley Wide submitted a bid to provide propane to the county at a cost of \$1.649 per gallon for the 12 month period beginning July 10th, 2023.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve the \$1.649 per gallon bid from Valley Wide propane. Commissioner Jepsen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

The Joint Treasurer/Auditor quarterly report for the third quarter of the FY2023 fiscal year was presented.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to approved the third quarter Joint Treasurer/Auditor report. Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

FY2024 budgets were discussed before lunch.

Scott Leavitt met with the commissioners after lunch to discuss employee benefits renewal. The Delta Dental policy and life insurance policy will renew with no increase. The medical insurance with Regency will renew with a 3.99% increase and a raise in the deductible from 500 to 800 dollars. The commissioners discussed other options with higher deductibles but did not want to create a big impact to the employee.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve Regence medical plan at \$783.83 per month per employee.

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

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to approve Delta Dental with no increase at a cost of \$41.86 per month per employee.

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

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Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to approve life insurance with Sun Life at no increase for a cost of \$4.54 per month per employee.

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

IDAWY – Jayson Lower updated the commissioners on activity at the landfill. They spoke about the current budget and operating costs for next year. Jayson suggested an increase of \$3.00 dollars per month for all 90 gallon cans and \$9.00 dollar increase per month for all 300 gallon cans. The commissioners will discuss in a future meeting as an action item.

Budget discussions continued prior to recessing for the evening.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 27th, 2023 and the commissioners completed their budget discussion. All changes will be made prior to publishing the notice for a public hearing.

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