



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BILL LEWIS, CHAIRMAN – KEN ELIASON - BRIAN JEPSEN

10 COURT STREET, MALAD, IDAHO 83252

Meeting minutes for August 14th, 2023.

Attendance: Bill Lewis, Ken Eliason, Brian Jepps.

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

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to add 9-11 day of service to the agenda. Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

The consent agenda was presented next. Commissioner Eliason wanted to remove the claims for discussion.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of July 26 meeting minutes and one Certificate of Residency for Kaylynn Bell. Commissioner Jepps seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Commissioner Eliason questioned a fuel charge for the sheriff's office coming out of the road and bridge fund. It was explained that the demand check was entered incorrectly and that the correction had been made to move the expense to the sheriff's fund.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the claims as presented. Commissioner Jepps seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Blaine Newman and Melissa Davis from the Bureau of Land Management met with the commissioners to discuss noxious weed issues. Complaints have come to the county regarding weeds on the federal land and the meeting was to address these concerns. Blaine explained that because of man power shortages they have not had a spray crew this year. money was made available through grants and it was identified that Oneida County would be eligible for \$100,000.00 dollars to pay for labor and chemicals used when spraying weeds on BLM property. The current agreement will end in 2024 at which time all grant funding will need to be spent.

Fire season is about over and it expected that the season will end without trouble. Blaine indicated that they would like bring back the agreements with Road and Bridge but internal approval is limiting what they can do.

BLM owns a communication tower on top of the Holbrook summit. They have five lease holders of which four are current. The Sheriff's office, Ambulance, Forest Service, Fire District and Ham radio club. Modifications have been made to the building by some of these lease holders without coordinating with the BLM. All parties were invited to meet on site to discuss those changes. Each entity was asked

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to identify their own equipment in the building and on the tower along with everything the contractors have done.

The goal is to eliminate the interference and other issues that have come about because of the changes and to remove the equipment that is blocking the entrance and impeding access to the interior. One major concern is having the ham radio club in the same facility as law enforcement and emergency services. The BLM is trying to obtain an additional structure that could house some of these entities and help alleviate some of the congestion and security concerns.

Probation presented a memorandum of agreement to support the Community Based Alternative Services (CBAS) program and the Substance Use Disorder Services (SUDS) program. This agreement has been approved in the past and has been viewed as a valuable resource for Oneida County. The agreement outlines what the county will do to be eligible for funding and how to each program can be utilized by those needing assistance.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to approve and sign the memorandum of agreement to support the community based alternative services program and substance use disorder services program.

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

Economic Development grant, also known as EDPRO, has been awarded for the coming state fiscal year. The grant money is available in two installments and will be awarded once they receive an invoice from the host county.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to sign the invoice for the first installment of the EDPRO grant for economic development through the four case program.

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

Road and Bridge has received a grant for a center line rumble strip to be installed on Old Hwy. 37 from Holbrook to the Power County line, and on Old Hwy. 191 beginning at the Utah board traveling to the Bannock County line. The estimated cost is \$770,000.00 dollars with a required match of 7.34% from the county. The county will be required to pay preliminary engineering in the amount of \$3,000.00, and preliminary construction costs in the amount of \$99,000.00. This money will be reimbursed minus the 7.34% match. The state will pick up the costs once construction begins. If any area of the road does not meet the requirements, they may assess the feasibility of bringing the road up to standards to allow the rumble strips to be installed.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to accept the state grant, project no. A024 (345), Key no. 24345, to install center line rumble strips on designated county roads.

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

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Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve payment of \$3,000.00 dollars for the engineering phase for the centerline rumble strip.

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

Road and bridge have been searching for a truck to replace a vehicle lost in a winter accident. The insurance paid \$77,200.00 and they have found a used replacement for \$79,570.00. This expense was not in the budget but is covered by the check from the insurance. Dianna would like permission to purchase the used vehicle thus exceeding the budget line for capital.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to authorize road supervisor Dianna Dredge to sign the purchase agreement for a used replacement truck.

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

Forest Service agreement for bathrooms at Deep Creek Reservoir – Commissioner Jepsen met with the Forest Service, Department of Fish and Game and Sheriff's department regarding an agreement to maintain bathrooms on Forest Service land south of the Deep Creek dam. The Forest Service has offered to extend the existing agreement to December 31st, 2024. If approved Fish and Game will agree to maintain the bathrooms including pumping of the vaults while they seek approval from the irrigation board for non-motorized water craft to enter the waters. If they gain permission for the non-motorized watercraft to utilize the reservoir, they could assume maintenance responsibility going forward. The Fish and Game have completed studies showing non-motorized watercraft do not create the same hazard in spreading the invasive muscles as the motorized craft do.

If an extension is not approved then the Forest Service will enforce the expired agreement and require the county to remove the concrete boat ramp and outhouses.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the extension of Oneida Counties agreement with the Forest Service for bathrooms and boat ramp at Deep Creek reservoir through December 31st, 2024. Commissioner Lewis seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

9-11 day of service – the community will be engaged in a day of service on the 9th, of September. One of the suggested projects is to plant flowers in the planters east of the veteran's memorial. The proposal is that the county pay for the weed barrier and mulch with the city planting the flowers and watering them while they care for their hanging baskets on Main Street.

A decision will be made in next meeting.

Timber sales have been posted by the Forest Service. One in West Elkhorn and one if Fremont County. Bids must be turned in by August 24th, 2023.

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Law enforcement contract – Sheriff has informed the city that he can no longer fulfill the requirement to enforce city code due to staffing issues. The suggestion has been made to re-negotiate the contract for the coming year. This would include the city hiring their own code enforcement and reducing the amount paid to the county. The start date is expected to be October 1st, 2023. Mayor Hawkins stated that they have budgeted for \$290,000.00 for the county contract which is a reduction of \$25,000.00 dollars.

Attorney Brower questioned the specifics of the contract such as what services the county would be providing and who would dispatch the calls.

A contract will be drafted for review and approval.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to hold an executive session per IC 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, or public-school student;

Commissioner Jeppsen seconded. a roll call vote was taken.

Commissioner Eliason – Aye

Commissioner Lewis – Aye

Commissioner Jeppsen – Aye

The motion carried.

The executive session was vacated and the meeting adjourned.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Lewis".

Bill Lewis, Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew L. Colton".

Matthew L. Colton, Clerk

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