



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BILL LEWIS, CHAIRMAN – KEN ELIASON – BRIAN JEPSEN

10 COURT STREET, MALAD, IDAHO 83252

Meeting minutes for August 28th, 2023

Attendance: Bill Lewis, Brian Jepps, Ken Eliason

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer offered by Commissioner Lewis.

The agenda was reviewed with no changes being made.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the consent agenda which consisted of the meeting minutes from August 14th, 2023 and payment of the claims, and approval of two certificates of residency. One each for Maclaren Garrett and Delany Garrett.

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

Farm Service Agency (FSA) is hosting their annual customer appreciation day and would like to use the event center at no cost. Their claim is that they are a government agency and should be given some considerations other than a regular rental. They further stated that they work with the county extension office on many projects. Commissioners Eliason and Jepps were in favor of no rental fees for the FSA. Commissioner Lewis had concerns that when you make exceptions it could open the door for other requests. He wants to make sure they can cover the expense for utilities and maintenance of the building.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to allow Farm Services Agency to use the event center for their customer appreciation and education day, free of charge, as a government agency and because they work with the extension office.

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

Emergency services – Dan Williams anticipates he will have \$2,000.00 dollars in remaining EMPG grant money at the end of the fiscal year. He suggested purchasing items that could be helpful in an emergency such as bottled water, water filtration system, large tent that could be used as a portable command center. The benefits of each item were discussed. Another suggestion was the installation of solar panels on the event center. This will be place on the next agenda for possible decisions.

Planning and zoning held two public hearings regarding land use applications to change zoning designations from agriculture to rural residential. The two applications and P&Z decisions are now before the commissioners for a final decision. The commissioners will hold public hearings on the following dates.

Allen Nielson – RP0228903 and RP0229701 - October 11th, at 6:00 pm at the event center

Ben Naylor – RP0239803 – October 18th, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the event center.

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The commissioners have been in discussion with Construction Services, a company who will work as the construction manager on county projects. Draft agreements were presented and were given to the county prosecutor for review. The prosecutor found no problem but did remind the commissioners of the floating percentage that will be charged based on the project cost. This percentage will be agreed upon before each project.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve the agreement with construction services. Commissioner Jepsen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Richard Bigelow is helping the county with commercial inspections until the county inspector becomes certified. They have been working on an agreement that would allow payment as inspections are completed as opposed to being paid in advance or at the completion of the work for each structure. The contract allows for the billing of inspections as they are completed.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to approve the contract with Richard Bigelow, for commercial building inspections. Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

A bid from C.O. construction, to paint and install some finish trim in part of the sheriff's office, was presented for approval. The area to be painted includes the room where they take finger prints. The bid cost is \$7,200.00 dollars. Commissioner Lewis suggested this cost could come from money set aside for one time expenses.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the one time expense to contract with C.O. Construction to paint and trim the finger print room in the sheriff's office. Commissioner Jepsen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Youth Assessment Center – Probation officer Gabe Jimenez spoke to the commissioners about a resource for parents that may be having issues with their youth. The assessment center can help parents/families get help before their youth end up in the justice system. Gabe would like to provide a location for parents to take the on line assessments that are needed so they can get help. He would also like to provide training to those who work with youth, and give them assistance in what to watch for and how to recognize those needing help. He asked the commissioners if they could provide a small meal for those invited to the informational meeting.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to fund up to \$200.00 dollars towards a meal for those invited attendees to a youth assessment center meeting. Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

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Veteran service officer – Commissioner Lewis stated that he is still investigating this position.

Day of service – the community is holding a day of service on September 9th, and one project is to place a weed barrier on three flower gardens behind the veteran memorial owned by the county. It has been suggested that the county purchase a ground cover such as stone, to be placed on the weed barrier after which the city will plant flower containers and water them as they water the hanging baskets on main street.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve up to \$150.00 dollars from the contingency fund to pay for weed barrier and decorative rock to fill the flower boxes behind the veteran memorial. Commissioner Jepsen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Jean Thomas reported the acceptance of a grant from the Bistline Foundation in the amount of \$3,800.00 dollars to purchase a musical keyboard for the event center. This will also include a cover and mobile base.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to accept the Bistline Foundation grant for a key board in the event center and to designate Jean Thomas to carry out the efforts of finding and purchasing the right key board.

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

Approved one time expenses were discussed. the painting in the sheriff's department will be added to the list and Commissioner Lewis suggested that all spending from this fund be held until the court room project has been addressed.

The Idaho Public Defense Commission awarded Oneida County with \$60,000.00 dollars for the coming fiscal year. Along with this award they request the commissioners to sign a document that outlines how the money can be utilized.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to approve and sign the PDC financial report for FY2024 expenses.

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

Commissioner Lewis stated that he will not be in attendance at the next meeting on September 11th, 2023 and stated that a temporary chairman should be named.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to designate Ken Eliason as acting chairman for the remainder for the 2023 calendar year.

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

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The meeting was recessed until 1:00 pm.

Commissioner Lewis opened the public hearing for the FY2024 county budget. Sheriff Jones requested additional money for the part time dispatch and part time patrol accounts due to limited full time employees. Rhonda Neal read a prepared letter regarding her wages. Attorney Brower encouraged a commissioner approved structured pay scale. The hearing was closed.

The regular meeting was reconvened.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to increase account line 08-02-406-00 and 08-02-406-01 from \$15,000.00 to \$22,000.00 dollars each.

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

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve resolution #2023-08-02 approving the FY2024 county budget in the amount of \$11,462,170.00 dollars.

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

Jayson Lower, director of the regional landfill, spoke to the commissioners about funding the landfill expenses. He recommended an increase to the tipping fee for 90 gallon cans from \$26.00 to \$29.00 dollars per month and 300 gallon cans from \$30.00 to \$39.00 dollars per month along with other changes to some tire charges and full load charges.

A public hearing will be scheduled for September 11th, at 1:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ken Eliason".

Ken Eliason, acting Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Matthew L. Colton".

Matthew L. Colton, Clerk

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