



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BILL LEWIS, CHAIRMAN – KEN ELIASON – BRIAN JEPSEN

10 COURT STREET, MALAD, IDAHO 83252

Meeting minutes for September 11th, 2023

Attendance: Commissioner Eliason – Commissioner Jeppsen

Commissioner Lewis was excused.

Commissioner Eliason as acting chairman called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance and prayer was offered by Commissioner Jeppsen.

A review of the agenda was called for. No changes were made.

Commissioner Jeppsen made the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of payment of claims and meeting minutes approval.

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

Jared Ricks, regional representative for the Idaho Public Defense, participated via phone call to answer any questions the commissioners may have. Mr. Ricks reviewed the time line for the state to implement the state wide public defense model and how the counties would close out their operations. The transition should be complete by October 1st, 2024.

The annual IAC conference will begin on September 25th. This conflicts with the next regular scheduled commissioner meeting.

Commissioner Jeppsen made the motion to move the September 25th, commissioner meeting to September 29th.

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

Jeff Alder and Logan Alder met with the commissioners to discuss gravel they had pushed into the county right-of-way as they cleared the gravel build up from a runoff ditch during the heavy rains. The county has installed a larger culvert under Old Hwy. 191 where the water flow intersects the county road as it flows from Two Mile canyon west to the lower land. It was determined that the water was owned by the Alders and is their responsibility to ensure that it does not damage county property. They will remove the gravel sufficient to reduce the hazard along that stretch of road.

Ham radio club – Bill Drury, a member of the ham radio club, addressed the commissioners and explained the many benefits of having access to ham radios in a crisis. He further made the request that as the BLM proceeds to relocate some of the entities using their building on the Holbrook Summit to transmit their communications that the county assist in helping them find a location to house their equipment.

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Emergency Services – Dan Williams asked for a commitment from the commissioners on the expense of the anticipated \$2,000.00 dollars remaining from the EMPG grant that will conclude on September 30th, 2023. The options that had been discussed include water purification systems and portable tent that could be used as a command center in emergencies.

Commissioner Jeppsen made the motion to approve the purchase of two tents and water purification kits if money was available.

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

Weed Department – Superintendent Cody Clyde reported his findings on drones for spraying weeds. Helio was found to be the go-to product that most entities are using. For \$23,200.00 dollars you get the drone with a 2 ½ gallon capacity and an extra battery and charger. It was further reported that one gallon of spray will cover approximately 15 acres. Cody further reminded the commissioners that with any drone he will need to attend schooling and obtain a license. Commissioner Jeppsen recommended talking with the county IT director, TJ Burbank who owns and operates a drone.

Cody also asked about the purchase of a spray rig to fit a truck. He has priced one for around \$8,800.00 dollars that has some of the same features he is using currently.

Commissioner Jeppsen made the motion to approve the purchase of a weed spray equipment at the cost of \$8,877.26 dollars.

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

Parks & Recreations – Kami Willie reported the award of a \$10,000.00 grant to apply an epoxy coating on the floors in the swimming pool changing area and office area. The original bid for this project was \$16,000.00 dollars. a new bid for a lesser grade of product more suited for this application will only cost \$10,800.00 dollars. she made the request that the commissioners accept the grant and approve the purchase of the epoxy floor covering with the added expense coming from her capitol line.

Commissioner Jeppsen made the motion to accept the grant of \$10,000.00 dollars from the Idaho Community Foundation and to approve the expense of the epoxy flooring with any additional cost coming from the capitol expense line in the swimming pool budget.

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

Shelby Blackner schedules and cleans the event center. After the fair her husband, Joel Blackner, assisted in this cleanup. Shelby has asked if he can be paid for his time which amounted to just over two hours.



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Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve paying Joel Blackner for his work in cleaning the event center after the county fair.

Commissioner Jepsen seconded. Both Commissioners approved and the motion carried.

The request by Sam Carter for a minor subdivision was tabled until a future meeting.

The meeting was recessed until 1:00 pm.

Commissioner Eliason opened the public hearing for the proposed changes for solid waste fees. IDAWY director Jayson Lower explained why the fee increase was necessary to cover current costs and to plan for future expenses including landfill closure. The main changes will include the tipping fee for 90 gallon cans which will increase by \$3.00 dollars per month, and the tipping fee for the 300 gallon cans which will increase by \$9.00 dollars per month.

Allan Nielson asked about tire recycling. It was explained the tires are recycled by a company in Utah. Bill Drury asked if the cost to recycle was placed on all residence however it was explained that the individual cost to dump tires covered the recycle cost making it a user fee and not a general expense.

The hearing was closed.

The regular meeting was reconvened and the commissioners discussed the proposed increase of landfill fees.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to approve resolution #2023-09-01 to increase the landfill fees.

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

A variance request by Elgin Rose, approved by the planning and zoning and has come before the commissioners. The request is to build a larger home on a plot of land containing a small house. It was explained that the original intent was to construct the small home for their son and then, at a later date, build the main house. The smaller home was approved under the previous development code but the new development code requires a different process whereby the second home must be smaller than the first. The variance is to build a primary home larger than the current small dwelling where their son lives. It was suggested that a public hearing must be held by the commissioners.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to hold a public hearing for the Elgin Rose variance request. Commissioner Eliason seconded.

The question was raised as to why the commissioners must hold the hearing if P&Z already held one. Brad Hess reported that the Rose's had already held a neighborhood meeting and no neighbors were in opposition. Attorney Brower conducted a little research and could find no requirements for a second hearing.

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Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the variance for Elgin Rose.
Commissioner Jepsen seconded. Both commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Sawyer Foncesbeck presented the annual contract with the University of Idaho for our extension agent and office. The agreement outlines the duties of each entity and what each will provide.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to approve the University of Idaho agreement extension office agreement.
Commissioner Eliason seconded. Both commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Malad City impact zone – the county planning and zoning passed the Malad City zone of impact proposal with the recommendation that the area boundaries be surveyed.
Commissioner Jepsen and commissioner Eliason both had concerns regarding the survey of such a large area whereas most of the area runs along section lines already.
Jaime Olsen will speak with a surveyor to see what could be written up with the current legal description. A tentative hearing date was set for October 19th, at 6:00 pm at the event center.

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

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