



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bill Lewis, Chairman – Ken Eliason – Brian Jeppsén

459 South Main St, Malad, ID 83252

Commissioner's Meeting

26 AUGUST 2024

9:00 AM PUBLIC HEARING - BUDGET

9:00 AM MEETING

* RECORDING #240826-0078 *

IN ATTENDANCE: County Commissioner Chair Bill Lewis, Commissioner Brian Jeppsén, and Commissioner Ken Eliason.

Commissioner Lewis offered a prayer and led the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioner Lewis explained the county's agreement with Ameriben, who has been contracted the past few years to help with the classification of jobs within the county's step-and-grade system. Some jobs and descriptions were recently evaluated and updated, such as planning & zoning, road and bridge mechanic, court clerks, DMV deputy clerk, paralegal, legal assistant, 4-H coordinator, and the driver's license specialist.

After review, Ameriben recommended improving the step-and-grade by two-percent cost of living adjustment, which the county gave employees in addition to a one-step increase.

As there are Oneida County employees who are directly related to a public servant with authority over public funds, Idaho Code 18:1359 was briefly discussed and acknowledged. The code states that employees related to a public servant with authority over public funds may expect to be treated like any other county employee and not receive special treatment because of their familial relationship.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to move into the budget public hearing. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsén. All ayes. Motion carried.

Sheriff Arne Jones came before the board of commissioners with questions about how Ameriben calculates the wages, especially when counties around us are starting their employees at higher wages than Oneida County's experienced employees. Sheriff Jones expressed doubt regarding Ameriben's ability to accurately assess the step-and-grade system.

Sheriff Jones then discussed patrol officer pay. ~~According to code, the patrol officers work eighty hours for one pay period (two weeks) and the alternating (or next) pay period they work eighty six hours before being paid overtime.~~ Amendment approved by the Board on 10.27.2025 to read: *Law enforcement/patrol personnel work up to 86 hours per pay period at straight time.* There has been a fund designated for paying the extra six-hours and in an effort to be more transparent in fiscal year 2025, those monies were moved to the fund where the officers pay is actually taken from. Sheriff Jones expressed his concern that this inaccurately reflects a higher annual wage for the officer's base pay when looking at the reports. After some discussion, it was decided to move the funds back to the aforementioned designated account.

Chief Deputy Doug Williams expressed concerns about transparency. Chief Deputy Williams stated he has been studying the Idaho Association of Counties' budgeting outline, which states the board of commissioners will communicate frequently with the clerk and other elected officials.

Commissioner Lewis discussed the lead dispatch position. Commissioner Lewis met with Ameriben to evaluate the step between the dispatch position and the dispatch lead position. Commissioner Lewis recommends moving the lead position from a step-7 to a step-8 which pays \$21.53 per hour. Further, he recommended adjusting the lead dispatch position an additional half-step, which pays \$21.75.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to adopt the budget as presented, with exception of making one modification to take the lead dispatch to \$21.75 per hour that could be taken out of another category within the budget that has been established. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioners moved out of the public hearing just after 10:00am.

Bill Lewis, Chairman

Shanci Dorius, Deputy Clerk