



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bill Lewis, Chairman – Ken Eliason – Brian Jeppsen

459 South Main St, Malad, ID 83252

Commissioner's Meeting

22 JANUARY 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

RECORDING 21137

IN ATTENDANCE: County Commissioners Bill Lewis, Brian Jeppsen, and Ken Eliason

Commissioner Bill Lewis opened the meeting by leading all in the Pledge of Allegiance and offering a prayer.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to accept the agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Lewis pulled the 1/8/2024 minutes from the consent agenda for one minor update/clarification.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to accept the payment of claims. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to insert clarifying verbiage regarding the cost of counseling sessions in the Counseling Agreement discussed at the 1/8/2024 meeting to now read, ***"originally approved of the rote of \$125 per session, to be reduced to \$100 per session if more than 70 sessions were used. Because the rate was exceeded, that rate was calculated at \$100 with the county paying a total of \$7,900 with additional counseling sessions scheduled."*** Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to accept the 1/8/2024 minutes as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion from last two commissioner meetings regarding the accrual and payout of comp time, per the current Compensation Time Policy continued today. Clerk Lon Colton presented a report showing comp time hours earned, used, and final amounts at the end of each 6-month period in 2023. Idaho Statute 67-53 was discussed, with Legal Counsel Lyle Fuller being asked to review the code to determine if it is meant for state employees or if it includes county employees.

It was suggested that if commissioners update the Comp Time Policy to require quarterly monitoring of accrued comp time hours, it will help prevent excessive accumulation of unpaid comp time hours. Mr. Colton also referenced a fact sheet he shared with Mr. Fuller to review. Chief Deputy Doug Williams stated the current county policy talks about payout of comp time greater than 50 accumulated hours. Discussion was tabled for now, pending review and being able to gather more information.

Chief Deputy Doug Williams gave an update on the School Resource Officer agreement. Chief Deputy Williams has been in contact with Legal Counsel Lyle Fuller and is waiting for final figures from the sheriff's & clerk's offices on the actual cost of equipment use, PERSI deductions, etc. before finalizing the agreement with the school.

The ongoing discussion regarding Oneida County's current Drug Testing policy was revisited after commissioners were able to gather more information. Clerk Lon Colton messaged other counties in Idaho and only 1 other county he spoke with tests every employee (or tests differently from Oneida County, which has only been testing R&B and the Sheriff's office personnel). That county indicated they were advised by ICRMP. Mr. Colton also spoke to Idaho Counties Risk Management Program (ICRMP) and was told they leave the decision for which departments to include in the random drug testing at the county level.

Commissioner Jeppsen noted Oneida County's current policy on page 9 item 6 where it talks about volunteer random testing. Any county employee can volunteer to be tested. Random drug testing is found on item 7 and states that employees in sensitive positions will be tested as contingency for employment. Sensitive positions are those where an employee carries a firearm, has access to homes or businesses, access to children, public health, and safety. Under this policy, probation may need to be included with Road & Bridge, Weed Department, and Sheriff's office in the random drug testing pool.

Questions arose regarding what the cost of drug testing a higher number of employees, if the pool should be increased to accommodate the additional

numbers being considered for random testing, and which departments should be included. Mr. Fuller mentioned the Idaho Repository, a free service that can do a background on new employees that is able to identify things that are not picked up on a "normal" background check, such as bankruptcy, fraud, debt collection, and other civil matter. Commissioners have the option of updating the policy. Discussion will continue on a future date.

The elevator has been paid for and we have remaining funds to be used. The remaining \$26,402 balance in the ARPA funds may be used on county ADA compliant counters for county offices (the cost for all is about \$50,000).

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to use the remaining ARPA funds balance of \$26,402 towards the ADA Compliance Project. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

One-time Expense will be used to get the bulk fuel tank for the county that has been discussed in the last few commissioner meetings. Three bids were requested and two have been received and reviewed. Commissioner Eliason is waiting for Mike Priestley at Valley Wide to formally submit a bid that has been discussed. After reviewing the 3 options presented to the county, IT Specialist TJ Burbank recommended the fuel management system utilized by Valley Wide Systems called "Fuel Cloud". The other two options were FuelRight and CardMaster.

The ambulance has given permission for the tank to be placed on a cement pad near their building. Commissioner Eliason would like to get a bid for moving power to the east side of the building (from the west side).

Commissioner Jeppsen requested information from Tonya Watson with Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation (IDPR) regarding the remaining balance of \$17,319.95 in the county's Vessel Fund and whether it should be returned or if a request for retention might be submitted. She did not respond / deny the request. The commissioners would like to find a used side-by-side machine (or something else that would help the county if a suitable ATV cannot be found) to help with emergency services before the August 2024 deadline to utilize the funds. The request for retention is due by 1/31/2024. Vessel funds are generated through Parks & Recreation fees.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to approve sending a request for the retention of vessel funds for the intended purpose of purchasing an ATV to assist with

emergency services. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

An invoice to be sent to the state for the first half of the approved allotment for Economic Development – Four County Alliance was requested by Molly Besaric.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to approve signing the invoice to the Idaho Department of Commerce for the 4 County Alliance for Economic Development in the amount of \$15,000. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

The Oneida County Vehicle Policy was discussed in an effort to provide clarification on when and where county employees may pick up a county vehicle for use (i.e. leave from home or from the office; can employees take the keys home with them if leaving outside business hours).

The ongoing discussion regarding the First Responder Counseling Agreement with counselor Katie Leavitt was revisited. Ms. Leavitt would like to amend this year's agreement to a flat rate of \$10,000 with unlimited counseling sessions offered as she feels the agreement last year caused increased administrative duties, pulling her away from her role of counselor. Commissioner concerns with the proposed change to the agreement is that they need just enough reporting (with no identifying data) to know that the services are being used. Last year's agreement was paying \$10,000 upfront, and any unused funds would be returned. Currently, Ms. Leavitt feels she did \$10,000 worth of work and has requested to keep the remaining balance of \$2,100.

Other options for First Responder Counseling were discussed. Attorney Lyle Fuller facilitated a conversation between Commissioner Lewis and Preston's City Councilmember Todd Thomas regarding a program they have used successfully called iiiA, a non-profit that offers first responder counseling and provided a contact name for answering questions (Katie Manning). Web address for the non-profit: <https://iii-a.org/mental-health-eap/>. Commissioners tabled the discussion while they gather information and look into additional crisis counseling options available to them in addition to Ms. Leavitt's services.

Life Flight Insurance was again discussed. Companies in Logan and Pocatello/Burley (Intermountain & Classic respectively) come to our valley far more often than the company we currently contract with for life flight insurance. Additionally, Intermountain and Classic honor the "No Surprise Act" where they accept the insurance payment as 100% paid and do not bill the patient for the remainder. Life Flight Insurance was not a blanket policy for any company; it

was for the Life Flight company. As such, other services did not need to honor the life flight policy because it was a company.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to decline the opportunity for Life Flight Insurance and not renew the contract when it expires. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Excess county property sale may be forthcoming. The ADA compliance project has resulted in extra counters that will be repurposed in other offices areas. Clerk Lon Colton made a request that county offices gather unused items to sell.

Updated employment posters were put in the clerk's office and laminated copies for other departments were distributed. This was after the discussion at the last commissioner meeting where it was brought to the county's attention that some of the mandatory posters may be outdated.

Allen Nielson came before the board of commissioners to request a possible change of time for the commissioner meetings, reasoning that it was difficult for people to participate in / attend meetings without having to take time off work. The commissioners stated that one reason for the 9:00am meeting time is because many commissioner meetings take most of the day and if they were to start late in the day, they would not be finished until the wee hours of the morning. There were several members of the public present who were given the opportunity to share their thoughts on the topic in the allotted 30-minute timeframe.

Commissioner Lewis responded that surveys were done multiple times. He has concerns about the meetings being later since many participants are employees who would need to return to work after working during the day. Many commissioner meetings are open to the public, but not public participation meetings.

Attorney Lyle Fuller said that live streaming in Franklin County Commissioner Meetings has a lot of people that join virtually.

Town-hall type meetings, where the commissioners go on the road and meet in different places throughout the county were viewed favorably by those in attendance.

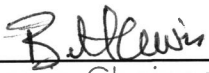
Mrs. Mary Young suggested breaking up the agenda and meeting in the morning for part of the agenda and returning in the evening to address the remaining topics.

In the past, commissioners have occasionally had town hall meetings at the school in Stone. Mr. Colton indicated that during Covid, meetings were broadcast via zoom and were not well attended. Mr. Hubbard was in favor of these options, even if it was only once or twice a year because "we want to view and participate."

Commissioner Lewis mentioned that the meeting minutes are available online and that the Enterprise Newspaper does an excellent job of summarizing and explaining each talking point from the meetings in the edition following each meeting.

The consensus from everyone by the end of the 30-minute discussion was an interest in facilitating a forum where there was more community engagement. Future discussion will be on how best to facilitate meetings because, as Mr. Neilsen stated, it is important to participate.

*** Regular Meeting adjourned just after 11:30 am***



Bill Lewis, Chairman



Shanci Dorius, Deputy Clerk