



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bill Lewis, Chairman – Ken Eliason – Brian Jeppsen

459 South Main St, Malad, ID 83252

Commissioner's Meeting

12 FEBRUARY 2024 9:00 AM

RECORDING 21139 & 21140

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

Pledge and prayer were led by Commissioner Jeppsen and Commissioner Lewis briefly introduced Attorney Preston Olsen, who is with Fuller & Fuller, the firm contracted as legal representatives for Oneida County through 2024.

Commissioner Jeppsen made a motion to accept the consent agenda, payment of claims, approval of minutes, and certificate of residency. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Oneida County Assessor Kathleen Atkinson said she would like our county to contract with Idaho Transportation Department (ITD). Her office volunteered to pilot a program to help Idahoans do virtual vehicle registrations and renewals. This currently involves one employee, one day per week. The \$5.00 administrative fee for these virtual registrations will help bring more money back into Oneida County. Assessor Atkinson provided a copy of the agreement to Attorney Preston Olsen for review. He approved, saying it did not lock the County in and either party could opt-out with a 30-day notice.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to sign the Memorandum of Agreement between Idaho Transportation Department and Oneida County Assessor for the online virtual program to renewing license plates. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Lewis asked Assessor Atkinson about the notations made on the County Vehicle Policy with the desire to identify concerns or changes that need to be made. It was suggested that language be added to identify which employees can take a county vehicle home and add the caveat, "unless

approved by commissioners on a case-by-case basis." Clarification on other issues, such as how to return the vehicle (clean, refueled), filling out the travel slip on the clipboard inside the vehicle, and hands-free device policy.

County Extension Agent Sawyer Fannesbeck was asked to discuss how the vehicle policy affects him and the programs run through the Extension office. Liability, transporting youth & volunteers were discussed and more information will be gathered.

Drug Testing Policy revision and adjustments were briefly talked about. ICRMP leaves it to the county to determine policy and to follow it.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to reinforce the policy for pre-employment testing for all prospective full-or-part time Oneida County employees. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

The Compensation Time Accrual for Dispatchers discussion was tabled until more information can be gathered.

School Resource Officer discussion clarified a final amount for contract payment amounts. Chief Deputy Doug Williams said the contract hourly rate is \$48.36 effective through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. The school officer will earn \$40 per hour and the remainder will be used for payroll deductions and expenses. One other change to the contract as it is written is to change "Officer Jenny Hawkes" to "Sheriff's Office Deputy" in the event another officer covers the school.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Oneida County School District and Oneida County Sheriff's Office. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Clerk Lon Colton gave a brief update regarding PERSI rates (Idaho state retirement benefit program). There will be an increase in cost beginning July 1, 2024.

Since the last commissioner meeting, Commissioner Lewis reached out to several sources to find the best fit to fill the role for first responder counseling. He found the best fit was with a non-profit organization, iii-A, because there are multiple counselor options, 24/7 availability, and zero out-of-pocket cost to first responders. iii-A provides Critical Incident Stress Management and more. The

contract with iii-A is a 12-month commitment and costs \$15 a month per employee enrolled.

Commissioner Eliason stepped out of the meeting briefly during this discussion and returned in time to be given a brief update on the discussion and vote on the first motion. He was then able to participate in the second motion regarding the iiA contract.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to accept a contracting with iii-A for mental health counseling services for first responders (sheriff's office, dispatchers, and probation) at \$15 a month per employee for the 12-month contract. Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. All ayes (2 commissioners present). Motion carried.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to accept the amended Joint Powers Agreement & Declaration of Trust with iii-A and the counseling services they are able to provide with a contract start date of 3/1/2024. All ayes (all 3 commissioners again present). Motion carried.

Finalizing the 2023 First Responder Counseling contract with Counselor Katie Leavitt was discussed, with regards to making sure Ms. Leavitt was appropriately compensated for her services. Per the 2023 contract, Oneida County paid \$10,000 with sessions costing \$125. If there were in excess of 70 sessions the cost would drop to \$100/session. This resulted in a total of \$7,900 for 79 sessions in 2023. Per the contract, at the end of the year any unused funds were to be returned to Oneida County. Ms. Leavitt felt that she had done \$10,000 worth of work and requested to keep the remaining \$2,100 and continued with scheduled sessions through January and February 2024 in order to ethically transition clients to the counselors with the company contracted in 2024 for first responder counseling (iii-A).

Commissioner Lewis motioned to allow Counselor Katie Leavitt to keep the remaining \$2,100 from the original 2023 First Responder Counseling contract and that it be used for services rendered 1/1/24 to 3/1/2024 at the rate of \$125 per session and that the 79 sessions from 2023 be billed at the \$100 rate (\$7,900). Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

The new 1,000-gallon propane tank for the back-up generator at the Events Center will be hooked together with the existing tank for a total of 1,600 gallons to draw from. To accomplish this, the bid from Valley Wide is \$6,589 plus 2-3 hours of labor which will be monitored by Building Inspector Tory Richardson. Mr. Richardson will report the final cost to Clerk Lon Colton.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to accept the Valley Wide bid for the Event Center's additional propane tank for the backup generator. The \$6,589 bid includes the 1,000-gallon tank, 2-3 hours labor, and all needed parts and will be paid using one-time expenses. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

The Annex Building roof has had 2 bids for replacement. One was from Mountain Peak for \$32,742 (2-year labor and 30-year materials warranty's). The second bid was from Island Heights for \$26,200 (20-year warranty). The main difference in the bids was the life expectancy and warranty of the membrane to be installed on the roof. The higher bid from Mountain Peak provides for material that will increase the warranty 10 years beyond the warranty included with the bid from Island Heights. Inspector Tory Richardson indicated that those he spoke to did not know how old the Annex roof was, but there are issues with leaking and subsequent damage on the soffits and interior of the building. Payment would come from the money previously set aside for the Annex building in the capital funds account.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to award Mountain Peak the Annex roof project using the higher grade 80-mil material to extend the life of the roof an additional 10-years and that the \$32,742 proposed bid be paid using the Capital Funds Expenditures account. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Removal of the tile and flooring in the driver's license lobby and area coming from the hallway into the driver's license / fingerprint area is delayed for suspected asbestos tile below the current tile floor. Inspector Tory Richardson is in the process of obtaining a bid from a company with the ability to safely remove the older tile.

The flooring in the sheriff's office will cost \$202.50 to remove and the county will be responsible for moving the furniture, including in the dispatch area. The laminate flooring replacement was chosen to match the rest of the sheriff's office area previously updated but two of the vendors Mr. Richardson contacted questioned whether the laminate would hold up in the high traffic area. The bid from CP Materials is \$6,201.25 and includes the aforementioned carpet removal fee.

Arrowhead Cabinets cannot finish the cabinets until the flooring is done. Local flooring vendor Brian Thomas has provided a bid and wants to bring samples for laminate alternatives. Mr. Richardson will meet with him and return to report his findings before this meeting adjourns, if possible.

TKE Elevator Maintenance bills are still being received and the question is who is responsible to pay – the contractors or the county? A contractor indicated the elevator is still under warranty. More information will be gathered by building inspector Tory Richardson with help from the bills Clerk Lon Colton will put in Mr. Richardson's box.

Oneida County has received a bid from Valley Wide for \$73,192 for the Bulk Gas Tank with the Fuel Cloud System. The fuel cloud system will allow set up of a code for specific county employees to use when refueling county vehicles.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to accept the Bulk Gas Tank with the Fuel Cloud System Valley Wide for \$73,192.54, to be taken out of one-time expenses. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

At the request of Ben Naylor, citing the need for more time to receive info from P&Z, the hearing scheduled for 2/15/2024 will be rescheduled for April. Commissioners proposed April 25th.

Commissioner Lewis will contact P&Z to ensure they have all they need from Mr. Naylor. Clerk Colton will see if Mr. Naylor is amenable to the suggested date.

Commissioner Meeting times have been discussed in recent meetings. Dates are designated by law but there is some flexibility on the time. Commissioners are willing to have a trial basis starting meetings at 1pm, except during budgeting times.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to have commissioner meeting start time at 1:00 pm on a one-month trial basis (February 26 – March 25). Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Town Hall Meetings have been mentioned recently and the commissioners expressed interest in using town hall meetings to inform, educate, and invite dialogue and understanding from constituents. There is interest in sharing information with the public about various topics, such as open meeting laws, legal system, how taxes are assessed, etc. Town Hall Meetings could be used to for commissioners to hear input that would be discussed or voted on at a later commissioner meeting. The Town Hall could be shut down immediately if rules are not adhered to. It was suggested that some meetings could be held at the Stone school in conjunction with the Senior Dinner.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to have a Town Hall Meeting on April 9, 2024 at 6:00pm at the Event Center to have a county training on tax assessments and property tax reduction presented by Assessor Kathleen Atkinson. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Dianna Dredge with Road & Bridge spoke with the commissioners about issues with a truck used to pull the belly dump trailer. In spite of major work done on the truck, it is not reliable and breaks down often. She requests approval to use \$40,000-\$60,000 of R&B funds to purchase something used that would be more reliable. Ms. Dredge stated that there isn't any purchase in the foreseeable future that would require use of the funds she is requesting to use.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to have Road & Bridge find a used semi-truck to pull the belly dump trailer for an approved cost of up to \$60,000. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Dianna Dredge also presented an agreement for clarity between Hess Pumice and Road & Bridge regarding Wrights Creek Road. The agreement states the Hess Pumice can use their loader to smooth out rough spots in the road using the pit run that R&B has already put up there.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to accept the clarification for the Wrights Creek Road Agreement between Hess Pumice and Oneida County Road & Bridge to allow Hess to smooth out rough spots in the road with the loader and using the provided pit run. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

The Excess County Property Sale was revisited. Clerk Lon Colton has not yet received anything to add to the property sale, except for the truck mentioned by Ms. Dredge during this meeting (to be sold in a surplus sale). There are several filing cabinets and two desks from the treasurer's office that have been identified as not being used as well as old metal election boxes.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to give Clerk Lon Colton the discretion to dispose of excess county office property the best way he can, per Idaho Code. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

The agenda item discussing right-of-way debris removal was tabled.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to move into two executive sessions per IC 74-206 (1)(c): To acquire an interest in real property which is not owned by a public agency; AND

IC 74-206 (1)(f): To communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. The mere presence of legal counsel at an executive session does not satisfy this requirement;

Following the executive session, the commissioners returned to a regular session.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to change the Town Hall Meeting scheduled for April 10 to a new date on April 9th at 6:00pm at the Event Center. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

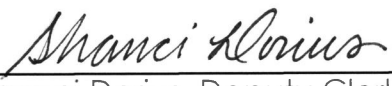
The Depot Road realignment was briefly mentioned before a motion was presented. There will be more discussion on this topic in the future.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to move forward the Depot Road realignment project and that the commissioners reconvene to determine next steps after taking time to gather facts and information. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

*** Meeting(s) were adjourned by 1:30 pm***



Bill Lewis, Chairman



Shanci Dorius, Deputy Clerk