



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bill Lewis, Chairman – Ken Eliason – Brian Jeppsen

459 South Main St, Malad, ID 83252

Commissioner's Meeting

11 MARCH 2024 1:00 PM *RECORDING 21143*

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

Commissioner Lewis motioned to open the Executive Session per Idaho Code 74-206 (1)(a) and 74-206 (1)(f). Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. Ayes from Commissioners Lewis, Eliason, and Jeppsen. Motion carried.

Idaho Code 74-206 (a) To consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or agent, wherein the respective qualities of individuals are to be evaluated in order to fill a particular vacancy or need.

Idaho Code 74-206 (1)(c) To acquire an interest in real property which is not owned by a public agency;

The executive session ended and commissioners took a brief recess prior to the start of the regular meeting at 1:00pm.

The pledge and prayer to open the regular meeting were led by Commissioner Lewis.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to add a drone update discussion to the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to accept the consent agenda, claims, and minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Lewis introduced the members of the Oneida County American Legion, adding that the commissioners were proud to have them in attendance. A letter was recently received from Idaho Governor Brad Little from

the State Historic Preservation Office for National Historic Places stating that the American Legion Hall (Malad Post 65) was listed on the National Registrar as of January 25, 2024 and is recognized as having historic significance to the state and community. Jean Thomas was an integral player in getting this accomplished. It took three years of writing, applying for grants, and providing appropriate documentation. One thing that was clarified at the commissioner meeting was that the national historic listing does not affect private property or the ability to sell. According to history.idaho.gov/nrhp,

"The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the official national list of properties considered important in our past and worthy of preservation. It is a program of the National Park Service, administered in Idaho by the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The program recognizes buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts that are significant in American history, architectural history, engineering, archaeology, and/or culture."

The Oneida County Ambulance / EMS annual Easter Egg hunt is incorporating a few items this year based on feedback from the community. The Easter egg hunt will be on a Saturday and will have a designated special needs area as well as a scavenger hunt activity and prizes on Friday for the teenagers. Trissa Nesbit with Oneida County EMS requested a two-hundred-dollar (\$200) donation to help cover additional costs.

Commissioner Eliason made a motion to donate two-hundred dollars (\$200) from the contingency fund to the EMS Easter egg hunt. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

John Williams with the Oneida County Fire Department said the costs for firework displays have increased and requested an increase in the Oneida County donation amount for next year's budget, from \$6,000 to \$6,500. County Clerk Lon Colton recommended Mr. Williams submit a written request for consideration.

Luke Waldron of Samaria requests that "Farm Stay & Agri-Tourism" verbiage be added to the development code. Mr. Waldron has an increased number of events and activities on his Samaria farm and wants to ensure he is doing things correctly. Mr. Waldron read a definition of what falls under generic farm stay and agri-tourism, a form of enterprise that links activities to a farm (from Idaho Agritourism Promotion act, Title 6, Chapter 30 (6)(3003) <https://legislature.idaho.gov/statutesrules/idstat/title6/t6ch30/sect6-3003/>). County legal counsel Lyle Fuller said that any change would need to go through the Planning & Zoning process of giving public notice for a hearing prior to coming before the commissioners. Mr. Fuller added that there is currently a bill

going through the Idaho State Legislature that may have an impact, which would make it harder for counties to regulate short-term stays/rentals. Rhonda Neal with Planning & Zoning advised Mr. Waldron that P&Z can fit what he is planning for his farm under the current development code by obtaining a conditional use permit.

Mr. Bob Stokes presented the Veteran's Progress Report for the most recent fiscal year, 2022. Oneida County recorded 297 living veterans who collectively had a pension value of \$1.564 million, 104 vets utilized health related income/expenses in local medical facilities and providers to VA of \$1.3 million. Local veterans also utilized \$85,000 in educational benefits.

Mr. Stokes added that the 1922 Pact Act was re-enacted. According to The PACT Act website, it "is a law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances." The expansion also covers un-deployed veterans who may have come in contact with toxic substances. In Idaho, there have been 3200 claims granted with 2700 pending. Mr. Stokes put information in *The Enterprise* newspaper and invited veterans to contact him for assistance in filing their claims.

Additionally, Mr. Stokes has gathered information for the headstones of deceased veterans of Oneida County, with permission from family members. This is a free service for veterans and their families.

Mr. Bob Stokes requested a printer/scanner as well as wi-fi at his home in order to better handle veteran's business from home. Mr. Stokes mentioned a software program used across the United States that was designed to help process veteran's claims. Commissioners tasked Clerk Lon Colton with locating any printers/scanners that might be re-allocated for Mr. Stokes' use.

The office of the County Assessor and Planning & Zoning have been working together to resolve some address issues on the Summit to eliminate matters with deliveries, EMS/Sheriff/Fire, and general confusion with the way properties are currently listed. Jaime Olsen with the Assessor's office stated the rules have recently changed, and that changing addresses no longer requires a public hearing, only a 90-day notice of new address change. The signage will need to be updated to reflect the new street names and numbers.

The estimated cost to replace / update signate is up to \$150 for the post, anchor, and sign but not all replacements will need the post or anchor.

An added item of discussion is that the residents affected by the address changes will need to obtain updated driver's licenses, which costs \$20. Failure to obtain an updated driver's license will cause issues with elections voting and TSA travel because they require the driver's license address to match what is in the system.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to authorize the assessor's office to change/update the addresses on 5 roads at the Summit. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

50 E	will now be:	Power Lane
900 E	will now be:	Aspen View Road
11100 N	will now be:	Stone Lane
11200 N	will now be:	Pine View Lane
11400 N	will now be:	Bellmaker Road

The Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) manages a variety of funding programs to assist Local Highway Jurisdictions in utilizing the available resources for the maintenance and construction of Idaho's Local Highway System. Oneida County has applied for a \$700,000 rumble strip grant through LHTAC. The project is still in the development stage. Oneida County will be invoiced and will then turn in our proof of payment to Idaho Transportation Department for reimbursement. Oneida County is responsible for 7.34% of the 700,000.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to accept and sign the LHTAC Rumble Strip agreement # 96830 between Oneida County and the Idaho Transportation Department. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Road & Bridge has been waiting for good weather and dry roads in order to get out to some of the rougher patches of road throughout the county, including Woodruff Road which is being bladed today. The Oneida County road budget is \$3,000 per mile, per road. It costs \$18,000 - \$25,000 to chip seal a road. Road & Bridge tries to take care of the roads with the greatest need and highest traffic in an effort to make best use of available funds.

The TKE Elevator Gold Service agreement for the court house elevator was discussed. The agreement does not cover after hours or weekend issues unless in an emergency. As a brand-new elevator, there were 3-4 service calls at the very beginning. It is working better now aside from a squeaking sound that can be

attributed to some grease that is not rated for extreme cold and can be remedied easily.

The flooring in the Sheriff's office in the main entrance and fingerprinting areas has asbestos tiles under the current ceramic tile. This requires a specialist to remove and dispose of it, which will cost \$4,200 - \$5,600. If the air is affected during the asbestos removal, a third-party would need to come in to safely handle. The job will take 2-3 days, which can be done when the sheriff's office is typically closed.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to accept the proposal from Idaho Abatement & Insulation LLC to remove asbestos tiles and abate the conditions there at the price of \$4,200 without additional air cleaning and up to \$5,600 if third-party air clearance is needed, and that it will be paid using one-time funds. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Brent Clark would like to start a solid waste pick-up business to give Oneida County residents garbage collection options. Commissioner Lewis clarified that 2-3 years ago the County signed agreements with IDAWY for landfill and solid waste pickup. Jayson Lower with IDAWY explained how the agreements and ordinances work and that anything outside of roll-off dumpster services (which IDAWY does not offer) would be in direct competition with IDAWY (solid waste district in Southeastern Idaho and Lincoln County Wyoming that Oneida County is contracted with). Mr. Clark stated that there were questions about where money is going when billed from neighboring Caribou County. Mr. Lower explained that any Oneida County money stays with Oneida County, regardless of where things are billed.

Maggie Mann, Bob Christopherson, & Taia Murray represented Southeast Idaho Public Health (SEIPH). Ms. Mann shared information about the "Idaho Kids Covered" program. Idaho has seen an increase in maternal and infant mortality in the most recent reporting data (2019-2021). Maternal mortality was up 121.5% and infant mortality was up 18%. Locally, Ms. Mann's team is doing their best to help women and infants by screening for depression and offering services & screenings to help connect women with resources. Counselor Chris Cole and Nurse Practitioner Ian Troesoyer have been hired to provide services, often on a sliding scale based on income. Ms. Mann also mentioned House bill 633 may pass soon and will extend health coverage to mothers for twelve-months postpartum instead of the current sixty-day coverage.

WIC is another program mentioned by Ms. Mann and was initially introduced in the 1970's as a pilot program to prevent anemia. It has expanded to promote a

foundation of better overall health. WIC qualifying income limits are higher than the SNAP Program. The hope with the collective resources mentioned today is that in making services more accessible, we will see improve statistics for mom's and babies.

The participation agreement with iiiA, a non-profit agency for first responder counseling was presented and is part of the twelve-month agreement that was signed at a previous commissioner meeting.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to sign the iiiA participation agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

County Clerk Lon Colton requested a wage increase for Deputy Clerk Shanci Dorius. The funds to cover the raise are already in the budget and will not have a negative impact. The raise is based on exemplified growth and performance.

Commissioner Lewis motioned that Shanci Dorius be elevated to GS-7 Step 2 on the next pay opportunity, raising her wage from \$15.50 to \$16.37 an hour. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Brian Jeppsen discussed emergency planning with local dams and information learned from webinars he attended. Emergency Services Manager Dan Williams and Commissioner Jeppsen added emergency preparedness documents (FEMA Ready-Kit and Oneida County Hazard Mitigation Plan) to the county website and encourage Oneida County residents to utilize the information on the website and take free CERT courses through FEMA that will be given locally via zoom and in person. The purpose of the CERT program is for large scale emergencies until trained professionals arrive.

The D6 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was presented again today after language was added to the agreement to specify which rooms were referenced.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to accept the MOU between Oneida County and D6 Treatment concerning office space use. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Kim Jenkins has left the hospital board and a replacement is needed.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to nominate Dan Bastian for the hospital board. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Lewis shared information about the 4 County Commissioner Meeting on March 27, 2024 at 10:00am in Caribou County. Commissioner Eliason is unable to attend, but Commissioners Jeppsen and Lewis are planning to be there.

An update on the Weed department's drone was given. Operator Cody Clyde is testing next Thursday to get his drone pilot license and will then work on obtaining his aerial applicator license. The drone is on schedule to arrive mid-April. The goal is for Mr. Clyde to be licensed and ready by May. The Weed department has acquired a pickup and a tank to transport and refuel the drone remotely.

*** Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm***



Bill Lewis, Chairman



Shanci Dorius, Deputy Clerk