



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bill Lewis, Chairman – Ken Eliason – Brian Jeppsen

459 South Main St, Malad, ID 83252

Commissioner's Meeting

08 APRIL 2024 1:00 PM *RECORDING 240325-0051 *

IN ATTENDANCE: County Commissioners Bill Lewis and Brian Jeppsen (in person), and Ken Eliason (via phone)

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to open the Executive Session per Idaho Code 74-206 (1)(b) *To consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, or public-school student; and 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.* Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. Roll call vote: Aye from Commissioners Lewis. Aye from Commissioner Eliason. Aye from Commissioner Jeppsen. Motion carried.

The executive session ended at 1:00 pm and Commissioner Lewis opened the regular meeting. The pledge and prayer to were led by Commissioner Jeppsen.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to accept the agenda with an amendment to add Fuel Tank Discussion. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

Ben Naylor (Savvy Investments) is requesting an extension on the public hearing currently scheduled later this month. Mr. Naylor gave a brief outline of the path leading him to the public hearing. If he cannot get a conditional use permit through Planning & Zoning, he wants the public hearing to get a re-zone. He has letters going out today and the neighborhood meeting will likely be within two (2) weeks, per P&Z guidelines. Commissioners advised Mr. Naylor the P&Z

public hearing needs to happen first and to coordinate with P&Z Administrator Rhonda Neal.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to delay the Ben Naylor / Savvy Investment public hearing until July 10, 2024 with the time yet to be determined. Seconded by Ken Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Two sealed bids were received for the Dayco NP-60 Hose Crimper (serial no. 2263, dated 02/89) for sale. The hose crimper comes with $\frac{3}{4}$ " dies and has 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " capability. One bid was from Dave Isaacson for \$621.63 and the other bid was from Marv Ekstrom for \$500.00.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to accept the bid for the Dayco NP-60 Hose Crimper (serial no. 2263, dated 02/89) to the highest bidder, Dave Isaacson, for \$621.63. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Excess county property was discussed. Road & Bridge would like to sell a 1990 Kenworth 54000 truck and a 1997 Black-topper Tanker. Deputy Clerk Mandi Armstrong in the Clerk's office is ready to list both items on PublicSurplus.com, a surplus property site.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to approve listing Road & Bridge surplus materials, a 1997 Black-topper Tanker and a 1990 Kenworth 54000 Truck through PublicSurplus.com. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Airport Gravel was placed to help with drainage issues around the new apron and between and behind the hangers. Bids for gravel totaled \$20,300 less in-kind services of approximately \$5,945, bringing the total cost to the county down to \$14,364.46.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to approve the airport gravel project in the amount of \$14,364.46 to be paid out of the capital construction fund. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

A rotary finishing mower purchase was discussed at the previous commissioner meeting. Decision was tabled in order for commissioners to verify the fair market value prior to purchase. Commissioner Jeppsen determined the three-thousand dollar (\$3,000) selling price was appropriate.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to approve the purchase of an RM22 Brouwer Rotary Finishing Mower (serial # 1150) for three-thousand dollars (\$3,000) for the airport. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

The commissioners discussed the county drug testing policy and the need for background checks for any county employees with access to sensitive or personally identifiable information (PII).

Commissioner Lewis motioned to change the personnel policy to reflect the need for anyone that works with personally identifiable information (PII) to be subject to a criminal history background check and identify the qualifications as listed in the letter from Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) Background Disqualifications. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to include all county employees, including EMT's or any person representing Oneida County, in the county random drug testing policy, to be refined as needed. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Assessor Kathleen Atkinson received letters from the Idaho State Tax Commission regarding a failed Ratio Study. This study reviews the county's sales data to see if the assessed value is at market value. These were warning letters saying the county had failed in the areas of improved residential and non-irrigated agriculture. These will be corrected as Assessor Atkinson's appraiser is actively working to meet the requirements. She is also waiting to receive the sales numbers for 2024 to compare with the numbers from 2023. Assessor Atkinson reports that things are well with the city residential, and feels the issue is with the county residential. Assessor Atkinson also mentioned trying to obtain access to the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) to get a better (and more accurate) view of the sales in the county instead of relying on the few cash sales of property that skew the numbers (MLS is a platform used by real estate agents and brokers to share information about properties for sale). Tax assessment notices are to be in the mail by the first Monday in June. A follow up ratio study will be done after the assessments go out to see if the county is where we need to be.

The Oneida County Veterans Service Officer, Bob Stokes, visited with the Communications Resource Officer for the Idaho Division of Veterans Services, Mitzi Cheldelin, who said they do not have funds for the Veteran's Support Fund and as such, the grant Mr. Stokes recently applied for was not approved. Ms. Cheldelin suggested asking the county for assistance. Also, Clerk Lon Colton reported he was unable to get the Brother Printer/Scanner/Copier machine working. This is the machine that was recently approved for Mr. Stokes use. In

attendance at the meeting today was Molly Besaris, the Executive Director of 4 County Alliance of Southeast Idaho. Ms. Besaris is aware of some grant money through entities such as TechSoup that the VSO may qualify for to assist in obtaining equipment (laptop, printer/scanner/copier) to help Mr. Stokes perform his duties. Ms. Besaris will contact her resources to see if she can help obtain some of the items being requested. Mr. Stokes also requested the use of county vehicles to attend meetings related to his position as the VSO.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to allow Veteran's Service Officer Bob Stokes use of the county vehicle to attend meetings. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jeppsen attended an extensive training for Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT. The CERT team is among volunteer and concerned citizens who can assemble and take care of others until emergency response teams can arrive in the event of a major event. It would be good to have a community CERT team and have citizens trained to help themselves, their family, and perhaps one other person. Commissioner Jeppsen would like to offer trainings, at no cost, to the community.

County Emergency Services agent, Dan Williams, has been checking reservoirs for flood potential and reporting his findings to Commissioner Jeppsen. Several local reservoirs are full or near 75% full, so Mr. Williams will continue to monitor levels. Information on water levels, emergency operations plans and other helpful information is being shared on the Oneida County website, www.oneidaid.us and may be shared through the new Oneida County, Idaho Facebook page.

Cody Clyde with Oneida County Weed Department spoke with commissioners about pricing for weed spraying. Mr. Clyde does some spraying for the Forest Service & BLM under a contracted lower rate, but charges them for equipment use and for the chemical. For weed spraying in the county, the previous resolution (2022-05-02) set the cost for ground spraying at sixty-five dollars (\$65.00) per hour for labor, and did not charge for chemical since they were obtained through a grant. Once those chemicals are gone, the county will need to charge for chemical when spraying. Mr. Clyde has spoken with five (5) neighboring counties and learned that they are charging seventy-five dollars (\$75) to one-hundred dollars (\$100) per hour for ground spraying, plus charging for chemical. Last year the county subbed-out some of the spraying work and was charged seventy-five (\$75) dollars per hour for labor. Mr. Clyde recommends charging comparable prices, especially since the current rate does not cover the use of equipment or costs of the chemicals. For ground

spraying, the proposed price would be seventy-five dollars (\$75) per hour. The proposed cost for drone spraying would be fifteen dollars (\$15) per acre with a two-hundred-dollar (\$200) minimum for anything over fifteen (15) acres. If less than fifteen (15) acres, the cost would be two-hundred-fifty dollars (\$250) hourly. There was some discussion regarding enforcement, fines, and the process to resolve issues where people do not pay. This portion of the discussion was tabled until more information is gathered.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to restructure the weed spraying labor fee to seventy-five (\$75) dollars per hour for ground spraying. Spraying with the drone, the labor fee would be \$15 per acre if over fifteen (15) acres with a two-hundred-dollar (\$200) minimum. If less than fifteen (15) acres, the cost for drone spraying would be two-hundred-fifty (\$250) dollars per. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Chris Schulz with Sunrise Summit Resort at Devils Creek Reservoir spoke with commissioners about issues he is having. Legal counsel Ethan Rawlings advised that the commissioner meeting would be an appropriate place to air general issues/grievances but other items needed to go through the P&Z board of commission. Mr. Schulz stated the Bureau of Reclamation constructed the facilities at Devil Creek over 40 years ago with a \$1.1 million grant and deeded it all to the Malad Valley Irrigation (MVI) company. The original contract for the facilities maintenance was between Fish & Game and a now defunct waterways committee. There was an agreement between Fish & Game & Oneida County back in 1970 did not include the irrigation company. Mr. Schulz said he would like to build on traditions, continue a relationship with MVI, and improve the situation regarding restroom facilities in order to meet tri-county health requirements. Mr. Schulz would also like to put in an improved campground store that would also check boats for quagga mussel. Mr. Schulz issue with the new P&Z development code is with expanding and non-confirming use. P&Z Administrator Rhonda Neal stated that Mr. Schulz needs a concept plan and would need to apply to go before the P&Z board prior to coming before the county commissioners.

Molly Besaris with 4 County Alliance of Southeast Idaho (4 CASI) requested the county commission give permission to submit the grant and continue supporting the grant as the acting applicant (sponsor) in fiscal year 2025 (which begins 7/1/2024) with a five-thousand dollar (\$5,000) contribution from the county. To do this, the commissioners would need to sign a letter to that effect.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to support Molly Besaris with the 4 County Alliance of Southeastern Idaho in writing a grant on behalf of Oneida County for

4 County Alliance of Southeast Idaho through the Idaho Department of Commerce for fiscal year 2025. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to continue supporting the Rural Idaho Economic 4 County Alliance of Southeastern Idaho program up to five-thousand dollars (\$5,000) contingent on what the FY 2025 budget allows. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to approve having the chairman sign the invoice for the first installment of the 4 County Alliance of Southeastern Idaho grant, if the grant is approved. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Chief Deputy Doug Williams with the Sheriffs office reviewed the "approved opioid abatement strategy" in order to determine how or where to use the opioid funds and would now like to prioritize where the available funds can be spent. One item on his list would be purchasing fentanyl test kits for the personal safety of officers. Chief Deputy Williams will bring numbers and a list of items to review and discuss at the next commissioner meeting.

The carpet in the Sheriffs office was discussed and information from CP Build Flooring's bid to replace the carpet was shared.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to accept the \$5,998.75 bid from CP Build Flooring to replace the carpeting in the driver's license, dispatch, and processing areas of the courthouse. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

The TKE Elevator Service Agreement was discussed. Idaho code states that elevators are required to have a maintenance control program. The presented plan from TKE provides quarterly inspections with one of those designated as a main, annual inspection which would be a joint inspection between the state and TKE. Oneida County took ownership of the elevator on September 13, 2023. The standard agreement is for five (5) years. More information will be gathered about the contract and discussed in a future meeting prior to signing.

The Board of Equalization (BOE) requires clarification. Commissioner Jeppsen wonders if it is being interpreted correctly and will get clarification and insight from George Brown with BOE before returning to discuss with the board of commissioners.

Commissioner Lewis provided a brief recap of the 4 County Alliance meeting he attended on March 27, 2024. Topics discussed at the meeting included wages, budget percent increases, EMS personnel, a pathology center in Bannock County, First Appearance Contracts (the right to a bond appearance), a regional dispatch center, Emergency Management ICS class in April, wind and solar farms, and Military Caregivers / Hidden Heros.

A panic button proposal is supported by our IT specialist, TJ Burbank, who has installed systems in other places and the systems have worked well. When a panic button is activated, dispatch knows there is a need within six (6) seconds and would take action within thirty (30) to sixty (60) seconds. The county would pay for monitoring and license fees after install. Proposals for one (1), three (3), and five (5) year contracts from IT Specialists were reviewed.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to move forward with a thirty-three (33) button panic system for the county to include all county offices over 7 buildings with a five (5) year contract period for \$21,334.93 to be paid out of one-time funds. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Lewis motioned that the panic button system will include city hall, the crisis center, and the library at no expense to them for the five (5) year contracted time. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

A \$3,800 grant to purchase a piano was obtained last year, with the help of Jean Thomas. A piano was found with the total cost of \$4,030 which is \$230 more than the grant amount.

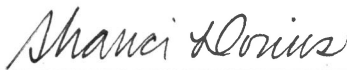
Commissioner Eliason motioned to pay for the extra cost to the event center piano using \$230 from the contingency fund. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eliason provided an update on the Fuel Tank project. Stateline Electrical was in Malad last week to work on it. Progress looks good with the tank and cloud system set to be installed sometime in April.

***** Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm*****



Bill Lewis, Chairman



Shanci Dorius, Deputy Clerk