



# ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bill Lewis, Chairman – Ken Eliason – Brian Jeppsen

459 South Main St, Malad, ID 83252

## Commissioner's Meeting

22 JULY 2024

9:00 AM BUDGET SESSION

1:00 PM MEETING

\* RECORDING #240712-0073 (BUDGET) & 240712-0074 (REGULAR) \*

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

Budget session included Courts, Solid Waste, Veterans, Health District, Indigent, Consolidated Elections, Extension, Assessor, and etc.

The commissioners scheduled the Budget Hearing for August 26<sup>th</sup> and a special meeting for budget discussions and future meeting times was set for August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 9:00am.

The commissioners recessed until the regular session at 1:00pm.

The regular meeting was reconvened. The pledge and prayer were led by Commissioner Lewis.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to accept the consent agenda as presented, which includes the payment of claims, certificate of residency, and approval of meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

A phone system proposal was presented by Kyle Redman and Dave Perry with ATC Communications. The Oneida County phone system is very complex. An updated system that would make all lines digital would cost less than what the county is currently paying. With this proposal, the county would be able to retain the current phone numbers and has the option to hook up all county lines (excepting the Sheriff's office). One caveat to the cost savings is the requirements to change from analog to digital with Solacom, which is part of

the law enforcement telecommunications system. It would require installation of a \$17,000 - \$20,000 component to digitize the analog system. ATC will present additional information and provide quotes at the 8/6/2024 board of commissioners meeting.

A monthly report for Planning and Zoning was given by P&Z Administrator Rhonda Neal. The number and type of items they are reviewing are:

- 1 minor subdivision
- 2 full subdivisions
- 6 conditional use applications (2 pending approval)
- 2 parcel splits
- 2 rezones
- 16+ reported violations

Planning & Zoning Administrator Rhonda Neal came before the board of commissioners regarding the establishment of a fee schedule. Currently there is no schedule of fees for amendments, appeals, variances, conditional use permits, subdivisions, plan approvals, or other matters pertaining to the administration and enforcement of the ordinance. A fee schedule would sustain the planning and zoning department if development trends in Oneida County continue. Commissioner Lewis requested to see the staff report and PowerPoint information prior to scheduling a public hearing and requested that the topic be added the 8/12/2024 agenda for further discussion.

Planning & Zoning Administrator Rhonda Neal presented the commissioners with the final plats for two subdivisions that were ready for commissioner signature/approval. The first was a minor subdivision plat for "Homefront Views." The second was a three-lot minor subdivision for the "My Darling Earl" subdivision on Highway 191.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to approve the final plat for Homefront Views, a minor subdivision on 3900 West. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to approve the final subdivision plat on the My Darling Earl subdivision. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

The next Town Hall meeting was discussed and the suggested topic was Emergency Preparedness. Commissioners will limit the town hall to 1.5 – 2 hours

with public comment accepted at the end of the presentation. Suggested dates were 10/29 or 10/30, and will depend on which day the presenters are available.

Contract cleaning services during fair week and bathroom access for scheduled outdoor activities throughout the year were again discussed. It was determined that it is acceptable to unlock the outside access doors to the restrooms while leaving the inside door locked (to limit access inside the event center for outdoor-only activities).

The discussion regarding the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lease was revisited. The 16x8 foot enclosed structure on the property is listed on the lease. Danny Miller, a realty specialist for the BLM, sent an email response to Attorney Lyle Fuller's inquiries. In the email, Mr. Miller indicated that the state of Idaho, through an email communication (possibly through the military division), has disposed of the building via donation to Oneida County. The Oneida County commissioners have requested a copy of that email. The lease states Oneida County would be the sole owners of the building and could lease the building to other entities, such as the two interested parties (the Raccoon Radio Club and Utah VHS Society). The BLM does not consider the building to be a permanent structure and will not need a quick claim deed to complete the transfer of ownership. A "bill of sale" type document will suffice. Sheriff Arne Jones opened the discussion on the management of the lease (the building) to ensure rules and regulations are followed.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to sign the Communications Use Lease Agreement with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the building given to Oneida County by the state of Idaho, which currently resides on the Holbrook Summit. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

The Oneida County Deep Creek Permit with the Forest Service was discussed. It is a zero-dollar lease. Attorney Lyle Fuller reviewed the document and presented his thoughts and concerns for discussion with the board of commissioners. Firstly, the name on the permit should be "Oneida County" and not an individual name. Secondly, there was concern about obligating the county to care for five-acres of land without being able to fulfill the responsibility of spraying weeds without having to get permission each time. One alternative was to add a clause to allow spraying without requesting permission as long as Idaho regulations for spraying noxious weeds were followed. There was discussion about committing the county for an extended period, since twenty-nine-years may be too long. The commissioners expressed concern about following Idaho Code to not obligate a future board of commissioners, unless a clause could be

added that would allow a future board to cancel the lease. On the flip side of that concern, Commissioner Jeppsen pondered whether the length could work to Oneida County's advantage. Sheriff Jones stated that the last lease was a five-year lease but the lease prior to that was thirty-years. The details of the future lease states that the county would be responsible for improvements / maintenance / rebuilding on the site. The Idaho Department of Fish & Game has stated they would be willing to pull the docks out and clean toilets (improve docks, restrooms).

The board of commissioners discussed the necessity of finalizing budgets for fiscal year 2025. They will hold a special meeting on August 6, 2024 at 9:00 am to get things buttoned up.

State Insurance Fund has a new regional coordinator & safety specialist for Eastern Idaho, Blake Mecham. Details from a written report were given to the commissioners regarding premium increases, based on 2020-2022 data. The rates should drop a little, but are expected to rise again in the future as the county has two open claims from last year (two employees currently on workers compensation). According to State Insurance Fund, one method of reducing premium costs would be to implement (and document information about) safety meetings and to establish safety measures. The report showed that Oneida County has many practices already in-place, and that going one step further by documenting/writing down information would be helpful (doctor restrictions, when an employee returns to work, etc.).

The second amendment of the Oneida County Development Code (ordinance number 2022-08-01) includes all approved amendments adopted on June 10, 2024. The document was finalized by Fuller & Fuller and brought before the board of county commissioners for signature. Once signed, it will be recorded and posted on the county website as a searchable document.

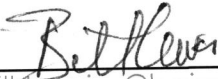
Commissioners discussed the AirLife Utah (Air Methods LLC) Memorandum of Understanding brought before them. AirLife is a helicopter service out of Brigham City, Utah that would be helpful in inclement weather as they are one of the closest services and they would not have to fly over a mountain in bad weather. The AirLife service also acts as a life-flight dispatch. In this role, they could send whichever life flight service was closest and available. Discussion regarding the memorandum of understanding will continue at the next board of commissioner meeting on August 12, 2024.

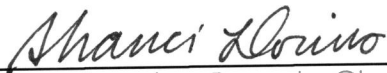
The Oneida County Sheriff presented quotes on equipment, specifically vehicle camera and body camera systems. One five-year quote on body cams was

\$122,000. A second quote for just eight (of the eleven needed) vehicle video cameras would cost \$32,000 yearly. A third quote from Digital Ally was nearly \$300,000 over five-years. The Oneida County Sheriff's office currently uses Digital Ally, but there are issues with not keeping equipment upgraded and iCloud and redaction services cost extra. A five-year \$195,000 bid from Motorola has more included features than Digital Ally such as replacing some equipment every thirty-six months (does not include vehicle cameras). It also has additional charges for services such as cloud storage, transferring previous records from a previous platform, and although they offer an application for redaction, someone in-house has to be paid for time spent doing the redactions. After the LensLock presentation at a previous commissioner meeting, both Sheriff Arne Jones and Attorney Lyle Fuller made inquiries with Idaho Falls, who recently signed with LensLock. Mr. Fuller was told that the service was very new to Idaho Falls and they did not have much to offer on how the service was (yet) but it was mentioned the service they used previously had a lot of issues. Sheriff Jones was told that Idaho Falls liked the service so far. The LensLock bid costs \$158,870 (\$31,774 yearly) and includes fifteen body cams (replaced every thirty-months), eleven in-car cameras, CAD integration (report sync), redaction services, unlimited cloud storage, and is based in Salt Lake City. Regardless of which system is ultimately chosen, the cost of the service would be an add-on to the capital budget for fiscal year 2025.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to accept the LensLock agreement with the Sheriff's office for \$31,774 annually for five-years to begin in the 2025 budget year and would be paid out of the capital budget. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

**\*\*\* Meeting adjourned by 4:00 pm\*\*\***

  
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Bill Lewis, Chairman

  
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Shanci Dorius, Deputy Clerk