



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bill Lewis, Chairman – Ken Eliason – Brian Jeppsen

459 South Main St, Malad, ID 83252

Commissioner's Meeting
13 JANUARY 2025 – 9:00 AM

REGULAR

* RECORDING# 250113-0110 & 250113-0111 *

IN ATTENDANCE: Commissioner Chair Bill Lewis, Commissioner Brian Jeppsen, and Commissioner Eliason

Commissioner Lewis opened the meeting by asking Commissioner Eliason to lead all in the pledge and a prayer.

Swearing-In Ceremony for Commissioners & Sheriff

Judge David Hooste was present to formally swear in the two returning Commissioners, Bill Lewis of District 1 and Brian Jeppsen of District 3, as well as the incoming Sheriff, Doug Williams.

The Oneida County Deputies Organization attended the swearing-in ceremony, represented by Jerry Thomas, Wayne Jones, and Rhonda Neal. During the event, Mr. Thomas presented a plaque to newly retired Sheriff Arne Jones in honor of his eight years of service to Oneida County.

2025 Commissioner Chairman

The first commissioner meeting of the year provides the board of commissioners with the opportunity to elect the chairman for that year.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to nominate Bill Lewis as the board of commissioners' chairman for 2025. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

In the event that Commissioner Lewis is unable to attend a meeting during the year, a vice-chairman needed to be designated.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to nominate commissioner Eliason as vice-chairman of the board of commissioners for 2025. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda, Payment of Claims, and Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to accept the consent agenda, to include the payment of claims and the approval of meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Board of Commissioners Assignments for 2025

The list of commissioner assignments from the previous year was carried over to 2025, with the addition of "ambulance oversight" being added to Commissioner Eliason's purview based on his relationship with the ambulance in Holbrook as an EMT.

Commissioner Lewis	Commissioner Eliason	Commissioner Jeppsen
Building / Facilities	Waterways	SICOG
Juvenile Detention	Probation / Court Liaison	Economic Development
Landfill / IDAWY	PDC / SAUSA	Veterans
Hospital	Road & Weed Departments	Senior Citizens
Public / Behavior Health	EISF	Parks & Recreation
Planning & Zoning	Soil Conservation	TV Translator District
Airport	Fair Board	Emergency Services
Extension Office	Ambulance Oversight	

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to accept the commissioner assignments from 2024 to be the same as 2025 and to add "ambulance oversight" to Commissioner Eliason's responsibilities. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Sheriffs Office Deputy Position and Wages

The recently vacated Chief Deputy position in the sheriff's office was opened to officers with over three years of experience. Candidates took an exam, and their files and field decision-making were reviewed. Detective & School Resource Officer Jenny Hawkes was promoted to Chief Deputy. Newly elected

Sheriff Doug Williams requested the board approve her wage increase to \$31.03 per hour for the new role. Sheriff Williams also proposed returning the Chief Deputy position to "non-exempt" status, as it has been "exempt" for some time. Before making a decision, the commissioners asked legal counselor Lyle Fuller to review relevant laws and contingencies for Oneida County. In addition to her new responsibilities, Chief Deputy Hawkes will continue her successful role as the School Resource Officer.

Sheriff Doug Williams highlighted Detective Justin Schwartz's long tenure on the force since the 1990s and expressed the desire for his wage to reflect his dedication and years of service. Sheriff Williams requested an increase in Detective Schwartz's hourly wage to match the former Detective Jenny Hawkes' rate of \$26.70, up from his current wage of \$24.58.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to increase hourly wages of the new Chief Deputy to \$31.03 and the Detective wage is \$26.70. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Sheriffs Office Fingerprinting Computer & Software Quotes

The sheriff's office computer dedicated to fingerprinting is no longer functioning and needs to be replaced in order to resume fingerprinting services. Sergeant Dallas Jones obtained two quotes for the replacement.

- \$7,915 - NEC's price to replace the computer and software.
- \$3,348 - Dell Computer with a three-year warranty for \$1,418.50 and the NEC software upload for \$1,930.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to support the purchase of fingerprinting software through NEC for \$1,930 and a Dell computer for \$1,418.50 to be paid with LATCF tribal funds. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer – Clerk (Auditor) Quarterly Report

Clerk/Auditor Lon Colton and Treasurer Leigh Love presented the quarterly report to the board of commissioners. The state is taking over the Indigent & Charity program, although the county will still be responsible for certain expenses. Clerk Colton recommended keeping the funds in the medical indigent fund until the state finalizes the new program guidelines, after which any remaining funds can be transferred to the county general fund.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to approve the treasurer – clerk's quarterly report as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer – Solid Waste Charges for Property Tax Reduction (PTR) Recipients

Treasurer Leigh Love initiated a discussion with the commissioners about assisting county residents on fixed incomes who struggle to pay solid waste fees, particularly those already qualified for the property tax reduction (PTR) program. The commissioners requested that more information be gathered and the discussion be revisited at a future meeting.

Idaho Power Judgement – Obligation of Districts

At the last commissioner meeting, commissioners elected to pay the total amount owed by the county and the affected districts in order to stop the accrual of interest. The judgement for Idaho Power was centered around the valuations of Idaho Power's operating properties being assessed too high by the state. Commissioners opted to send a letter to the affected districts along with a copy of the judgement explaining that the county paid the full bill and needs reimbursement from the districts for their portion either by writing a check or through the reduction in the amount of taxes the district would receive during the remittance process.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to let the affected districts know what has taken place regarding the Idaho Power judgement, that the county has covered the bill to avoid interest, and now needs reimbursement from those districts either by check or through a reduction of taxes during the remittance process. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Malad Mountain Communications Building

The Malad Mountain Communications Building is referred to as the Old Armadillo Building by the Idaho Military Division. The county is now in possession of a letter from the Idaho Military Division transferring the property to Oneida County as well as an attached form that requires a signature from Oneida County as the receiving agency accepting the property transfer of the building to the county.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to approve the transfer of ownership from the State of Idaho Military Division to receive as Oneida County the Old Armadillo Building. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

The Malad Mountain Lease agreement between the county and the Racoon Ham Radio Club was discussed. Draft details were reviewed by Attorney Lyle

Fuller with the commissioners and Racoon Club present and Mr. Fuller made note of the requested revisions that will be updated prior to either party signing at a future meeting.

Extension – Copy Machine

The copy machine in the extension office is outdated and not functioning properly. Dex Imaging, which is in the process of acquiring Xerox, is updating leases. A representative from Dex discussed options for terminating the old Xerox lease and offered a new lease for an updated machine. The new lease would cost \$234.20 per month for 63 months, which is slightly less than the current cost for service and maintenance.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to approve the sixty-three-month lease agreement with the extension office for one Sharp BP70C45 printer from Dex Imaging for a monthly fee of \$234.20. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

4-H Quarterly Reporting

4-H Coordinator Lacey Clark, Office Manager Kelly Sorensen, and Extension Agent Sawyer Fannesbeck reported on the success of the afterschool program held the first two Tuesdays of each month. The program offers activities and crafts to around thirty children, aiming to spark interest in arts and STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) subjects. Additional activities were held during winter break for 6-10 children per group. Mr. Fannesbeck noted that the increased hours for the 4-H Coordinator position have greatly benefited the office, helping to improve organization, streamline processes, and expand the range of classes that may be offered to the community.

SHSP Funding to Purchase Water Filtration / Freeze-Dried Foods

Emergency Preparedness Manager Dan Williams and Commissioner Brian Jeppsen have been evaluating the best use of SHSP Grant funds to align with SHSP guidelines. They recommended purchasing a water filtration system. Freeze-dried foods for use by volunteers in the event of an emergency would allow the county to produce and store food with a 25-year shelf life, though suitable foods are still being sought. The water purification system costs around \$400 and can filter 26,000 gallons, enough for 100 people for 3-5 years. It requires no plumbing or setup costs. Both options would significantly enhance the county's preparedness for emergencies.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to purchase two (2) LifeStraw Community High-Capacity Water Purifier filtration systems for \$395 each as well as the \$80

spare filter for an approved total cost of up to \$1,000 using SHSP funds. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Community / County Emergency Preparedness Event / Fair

Emergency Preparedness Manager Dan Williams and Commissioner Brian Jeppsen are discussing plans for an emergency preparedness fair, tentatively scheduled for February or March. The event would feature vendors, specialists, and speakers. County involvement would be limited to promoting the event and providing the use of the Event Center, while volunteers would handle the planning and execution of the fair.

Emergency Communications Update

Emergency Preparedness Manager Dan Williams and Commissioner Brian Jeppsen are planning another communications event for January or February. The county is divided into sections, and weekly radio check-ins are held on Sunday evenings at 7:00pm for handheld radios and at 8:00pm for ham radios. Thanks to Racoon Club member Jim Mustos, a hand-drawn map showing the section lines and the locations of each ham radio operator in the county was presented to each commissioner.

Idaho Public Alerts and Warning System (Oneida County Status – Suspended)

The Idaho Public Alerts and Warning System (IPAWS) is managed through the sheriff's office, and every three years, a new memorandum of agreement (MOA) must be signed. The agreement comes at no cost to the county but requires significant training. Commissioner Brian Jeppsen reported that the sheriff's office is already working on the renewal process.

Review of IOEM Conference

Commissioner Jeppsen attended the Idaho Office of Emergency Management (IOEM) annual conference in Boise, where key discussions focused on preparedness, contingency planning, and the growing threat of cyberattacks. Cybersecurity threats are doubling every 18 months, with smaller entities being increasingly targeted. Attendees were urged to frequently update passwords and stay current with training. The movie *Leave the World Behind* (2023) was recommended to illustrate how cyberattacks can disrupt anyone at any time. The conference also emphasized the importance of communication during crises, noting that lack of clear communication often leads to greater losses. Business Continuity Plans (BCPs) were highlighted as essential, and counties were encouraged to designate a spokesperson for emergencies. Additionally, agreements with neighboring counties for mutual emergency assistance were advised, as Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) may take weeks to respond. Local-level response is critical in the early stages of a disaster.

ICRMP Building Valuations and Insurance

The Idaho Counties Risk Management Program (ICRMP) provides risk management services and insurance for county assets and property. To ensure accuracy and adequate insurance coverage, each department conducts a regular review of assets. The ICRMP policy includes assessments of any buildings valued more than \$1 million every 5-6 years, with Oneida County due for review in the next few years. For other buildings, commissioners will meet with County Building Inspector Tory Richardson to review the current building schedule and assess values.

VSO (Bob Stokes) Resignation & Replacement

Oneida County Veterans Service Officer (VSO) Bob Stokes recently resigned due to health issues. All VSO equipment has been returned and is being stored in the clerk's office until a replacement has been found.

Meeting was recessed for lunch and reconvened at 1:00pm.

R&B - Flooring Quote

Road & Bridge Office Coordinator Lisa Baker has requested quotes for flooring updates to the road and bridge building. The \$11,431 quote from Wall 2 Wall Flooring includes commercial grade flooring everywhere except the office, which will have carpet. This planned expense was part of the road and bridge building repair budget for this fiscal year.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to accept the Wall 2 Wall Flooring quote for \$11,431 to be paid out of the road and bridge building repair fund. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

R&B - Truck Purchase

Due to issues with one of the trucks in the fleet, the road and bridge department planned for the purchase of a replacement during the 2025 budget discussions. A used 2010 International 7600 snowplow was recently purchased for \$29,500 and it came with the wing, snowplow, sander, and other extras already mounted.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to ratify the road and bridge's decision to purchase the 2010 International 7600 truck for \$29,500 that was in the budget. for. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

R&B – LHTAC Rumble Strip Report #1 & #2 (Keller)

A safety grant was applied for in 2023 through the Local Highway Safety Improvement Program (LHSIP) to install centerline rumble strips along the entirety of Old Highway 191 and on Old Highway 37 extending from the Highway 38 turnoff north to the county line. Many roads in Oneida County are surfaced with only layers of chip seal, lacking a foundation of hot mix. Additionally, there have been concerns about the narrowness of these roads and the need for clear centerline markings. While painting provides a temporary solution, it is not eligible for grant funding. Rumble strips, however, offer a more durable and long-lasting solution, which is why they are included in the grant coverage.

The estimated cost of the project is \$770,000, with Oneida County responsible for 7.34% of the total cost. The county is required to cover all engineering expenses upfront, but any amount paid beyond the 7.34% will be reimbursed once construction begins. Keller Associates has been selected as the engineering firm for the project, with their fees not exceeding \$118,700. The Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) will provide regular statements to the road and bridge department, including progress reports and invoices. The first two progress reports with statements have been received and need to be paid. Report #1 is \$30,147.28 and the total for Report #2 is \$18,450.34.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to approve the professional agreement # 96830 and progress report #1 for LHTAC program number T245350 and to pay Keller Associates the amount of \$30,147.28 from the road and bridge budget. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to approve the professional agreement # 96830 and progress report #2 for LHTAC program number T245350 and to pay Keller Associates the amount of \$18,450.34 from the road and bridge budget. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

R&B – Excess Property

The county has cloud seeder equipment that has not been used for quite some time and Franklin County has expressed interest in them. Commissioners will gather more information and revisit this discussion in the future.

Weed – BLM Reimbursement

The BLM is requesting reimbursement in the amount of \$15,881.83 with 4% interest added for helicopter spraying on state and private grounds. This is not what Weed Supervisor Cody Clyde was initially told, and he has supporting

documentation showing there would be no charge for spraying the weeds coming from BLM land onto private land a was part of an agreement between the BLM and Oneida County that was created by a former weed supervisor. County attorney Lyle Fuller will review all information with Mr. Clyde. Mr. Fuller will send a letter to the BLM and hopes to have a response prior to the next commissioner meeting on January 24, 2025.

Thank You Cards for Outgoing Board Members

Thank you cards for outgoing board members were signed by commissioners in appreciation for each person's service.

Planning & Zoning

- RonDell Skidmore
- Parker Venable

Airport

- Scott Gunter
- Mike Hess Sr.
- Roxanne Albretsen

Hospital

- Casey Jones
- Wendy Boyer
- Nikki Schwartz

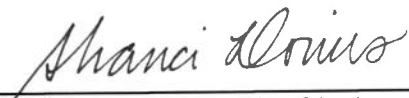
Executive Session

Commissioner Lewis motioned to move into executive session per Idaho Code 74-206 (1) (b) *To consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, 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. The mere presence of legal counsel at an executive session does not satisfy this requirement.* Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. A roll-call vote was taken: Aye from Commissioner Lewis, Aye from Commissioner Jeppsen, and Aye from Commissioner Eliason.

***** Meeting adjourned by 2:30 pm*****



Bill Lewis, Chairman



Shanci Dorius, Deputy Clerk