



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bill Lewis, Chairman – Ken Eliason – Brian Jepps

459 South Main St, Malad, ID 83252

Commissioner's Meeting
10 FEBRUARY 2025 – 9:00 AM

REGULAR

*** RECORDING# 250210-0113***

IN ATTENDANCE: Commissioner Chair Bill Lewis and Commissioner Ken Eliason.
Commissioner Brian Jepps was excused.

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

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

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

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

Scout Meeting Location – Tony McClain

Troop #1776 Committee Chairman, Tony McClain, spoke with commissioners about needing a permanent meeting space for the local scouting organization, which is chartered by Hess Pumice and self-funded. He explained that each scout is covered by insurance through the scout program.

Mr. McClain requested permission to hold meetings in a large room in the Annex Building and to display the scout oath and other scouting-related posters on the walls in that room. Currently, the troop includes twenty youth, who would meet Thursday afternoons, and around 10 Cub Scouts in the pack, who would meet on Monday's.

Commissioner Lewis fully disclosed that both he and Commissioner Jeppsen are members of the scout committee. Attorney Lyle Fuller advised that recusal from the vote on this matter is not mandatory where there is zero financial gain involved. He also mentioned that if the commissioners chose to recuse themselves, one commissioner could make the motion and second himself.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to allow the boy scouts and cub scouts to meet in the annex building weekly as long as it doesn't interrupt with the regular day-to-day services that happen in the building. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried. Commissioner Lewis abstained from the vote and Commissioner Jeppsen was not present.

Idahome Subdivision Irrevocable Bond – Brad Hess

Brad Hess came before the commissioners to verify that all is in order between Oneida County and the Idahome Subdivision. Mr. Hess has met the requirements set, which include providing an irrevocable letter of credit, getting the state to approve an approach from Highway 38, installing storm drains, and putting up fencing (except for one section owned by Kirk Willie, who wrote a letter of acceptance to keep barbed wire versus the net wire on the section that abuts his property).

Mr. Hess reported that all work is complete, but he plans to have an engineer re-survey the drain to verify whether its size is adequate. The discussion then turned to the requirement for an irrevocable letter of credit (bond) to remain in place for one year. Mr. Hess initially provided a bond for \$25,000, but it was determined that the amount needed was \$31,250. Both parties discussed and agreed to this revised amount.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to accept the amount of \$31,250 for the irrevocable letter of credit for the Idahome Subdivision. Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. All ayes. Motion carried.

After the motion, County Inspector Tory Richardson noted that a few tasks remain before the project is fully approved: the twelve-inch culvert must be replaced to meet county standards, and a berm must be removed before the county would consider taking over the road.

Abandoned Road Near Illum Spring – Bart & Julie Kendall

Bart and Julie Kendall, owners of property near Illum Springs on 6100 West, attended the meeting to discuss the potential abandonment or conversion of a road to "agricultural access." The road in question is not maintained although it is listed as a county road in the assessor's office. It connects 2500 West and loops

back to 5600 West. Prior to the CRP farm program, the road was frequently used, but now only Austin Tubbs and Lance Leavitt still use it. Mr. Leavitt, who was present at the meeting, agreed to use an access point further down if someone helped him expand the access to accommodate his farm equipment.

If the road were abandoned, it would be closed to everyone. As an alternative, the Kendalls inquired about establishing a permanent easement, but were informed that both options would require a public hearing. This hearing would allow the public to review the information and offer feedback. The commissioners' role in the hearing would be to determine whether the requested action is in the county's best interest. Attorney Lyle Fuller advised the Kendalls to take some time to decide whether to proceed with a petition for a public hearing.

Ambulance – EMS Organization

Kade Price of Oneida County Ambulance discussed how Idaho's Open Meeting Law applies to the volunteer ambulance board. Due to the small size of the staff, they are unable to formally operate a board as required by Idaho Code. As a result, the idea of forming a committee, rather than a board, was considered. Mr. Price confirmed that the ambulance organization has its own budget, which is funded through ambulance billing rather than taxpayer dollars. He also clarified that the ambulance service was not created by ordinance and does not have the authority to set policies or make formal recommendations to the county.

It was also mentioned that the Board of Commissioners is currently fulfilling the role of an ambulance board and there may not be a need to make any structural changes. However, public records laws would still apply to them, regardless of the informal setup.

Weeds – BLM Reimbursement Follow-Up

Attorney Lyle Fuller sent a letter to Ms. Kayla Blades at the BLM, and her office acknowledged receipt of the letter, promising a reply once the issue had been investigated.

R&B – Road Maintenance Agreement with Pilot Gold

This topic will be addressed at a future meeting after needed information is obtained.

129k Annual Overweight Permits – Hess Pumice

Hess Pumice submitted their annual 129k overweight permit applications as well as payment. This year they plan to run six trucks on the route.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to accept the six annual 129k overweight permit applications from Hess Pumice Products, Inc from Wrights Creek to Malad. Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. All ayes. Motion carried.

129k Freight Route

Commissioner Lewis reported on the 129k Freight Plan, which is designed in urban and rural areas to support business in Idaho. In 2009, legislation changed and 129k routes needed to be submitted to the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) for approval. This action was signed off on the county side, but missed submission to ITD.

Molly Besaris with 4CASI has been appointed to the ITD Advisory Committee in District 5 and has received a grant (10,000 each from county and city). Keller & Associates will evaluate the needs of the road by May 2025. Freight route grants could be available in 2026-2027.

Commissioner Lewis will speak with road engineer Steven Freiburger regarding the temporary detour of the 129k route during the Bannock Street Road Project. The proposed detour would move traffic to Highway 38 from Bannock Street via Samaria Lane and North Depot Road.

Depot Road Expense

The board of commissioners previously approved funds to straighten the "s" curve on Depot Road. To date, the expenses for this project have come in under the estimated and approved amount. Once the project is complete, the Road & Bridge department will submit for reimbursement through county PILT funds (per a motion from the 5/28/2024 commissioner meeting).

Rural Idaho Economic Development Professional (EDPRO) Grant Amendment

An additional \$5,000 was approved for the program and requires a signature and invoice to be signed by commissioners.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to approve the Rural Idaho Economic Development Professional (EDPRO) Grant amendment in the amount of \$5,000. Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. All ayes. Motion carried.

Project Silver (REDI)

Teresa McKnight, CEO of Rural Idaho Economic Development (REDI), often receives inquiries from companies interested in relocating to Idaho. Recently, a company began conducting a site selection evaluation for a confidential manufacturing company under the codename Project Silver. The company is planning to construct a new state-of-the-art, rail-served production facility in the Western U.S. that will create approximately 150 jobs. Counties able to meet those needs and may extend an invitation for the business to consider relocating to their area.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to send documentation to Project Silver (REDI) expressing interest in this business coming to Oneida County. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Bulk Fuel Tank Refill

The county's bulk fuel tank is approaching the refill threshold set by the commissioners. Three companies submitted bids in the previous round, and they were invited to provide updated bids for approximately 7,000 gallons of 88-octane, ethanol-free fuel. Although Hall Oil's bid was the lowest, it did not specify the type of fuel.

Bear River Valley Coop:	\$3.195
Hall Oil:	\$2.569
Valley Wide:	\$2.966

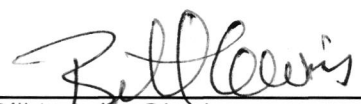
Commissioner Eliason motioned to accept the bid from Hall Oil in the amount of \$2.569 for up to 7,000 gallons of 88-octane ethanol-free fuel if the quote is for the type of fuel needed. Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eliason motioned that if the bid from Hall Oil is not for 88-octane ethanol-free, then the county would accept the next lowest bid from Valley Wide in the amount of \$2.966 per gallon. Seconded by Commissioner Lewis.

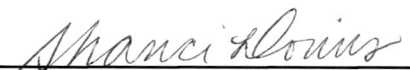
Executive Session

Commissioner Lewis motioned to move into executive session per Idaho Code 74-206 (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;

***** Meeting adjourned by 12:00pm*****



Bill Lewis, Chairman



Shanci Dorius, Deputy Clerk