



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bill Lewis, Chairman – Ken Eliason – Brian Jeppsen
459 South Main St, Malad, ID 83252

Commissioner's Meeting
9 JUNE 2025 – 9:00 AM

REGULAR

* RECORDING#'S 250609-0135, 250609-0136, 250609-0137 *

IN ATTENDANCE: Commissioner Chairman Bill Lewis, Commissioner Ken Eliason, and Commissioner Brian Jeppsen.

Commissioner Lewis opened the meeting and Commissioner Jeppsen led all in the pledge and a prayer.

Approve Agenda

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

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

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

Total # of Payments	Fund Description	Amount Paid
47	GENERAL FUND/CURRENT EXPENSE	\$15,914.05
40	ROAD AND BRIDGE	\$76,527.08
5	AIRPORT	\$645.51
1	AMBULANCE	\$45.99
1	DISTRICT COURT	\$47.68
5	FAIR, COUNTY	\$3,152.24
27	JUSTICE FUND	\$16,579.90
14	PARKS & RECREATION	\$14,502.99
10	WEEDS	\$483.52
11	E-911	\$2,970.50
1	LATCF FUNDING	\$68,158.75
TOTAL:		\$ 199,028.21

Cell Phone Reimbursement – Approvals for FY2026

The Board discussed improving oversight of cell phone reimbursements and agreed to implement an annual approval process during the budget session for the upcoming fiscal year.

Reimbursements were approved at this meeting for the Road and Bridge Supervisor, Building Inspector, Planning and Zoning Assistant, Revaluations Agent, and both Extension Office staff members.

Requests for the Planning and Zoning Administrator and the Event Center Building Scheduler will be considered at the next regular meeting.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to approve the cell phone reimbursement requests for fiscal year 2026 for Dianna Dredge (Road & Bridge Supervisor), Tory Richardson (Building Inspector), Darla Tombaugh (Planning & Zoning Assistant), Mindi Cluff (Revaluations Agent), Kelly Sorensen (Extension Office), and Lacey Clark (Extension Office). Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

NAIP Imagery Upgrade

Assessor Kathleen Atkinson requested a budget adjustment in the Revaluations Department to accommodate a potential expense related to upcoming aerial imagery. High-resolution imagery will soon be available through the National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP), which is updated approximately every two years. This imagery is commonly used for Geographic Information System (GIS) applications such as land use and zoning analysis, field mapping, and infrastructure and transportation planning.

Assessor Atkinson noted that while the free NAIP imagery is well-aligned with parcel data in the county, it is not properly aligned within city limits. She requested \$600 to cover the cost of an upgrade that would correct the pixel alignment of the imagery with city parcel and road layers.

She anticipates the bill will not be due for several months and stated that it could likely be paid in October using fiscal year 2026 funds, pending approval by the Board.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to increase the Revaluation's other/miscellaneous budget line by \$600 for the NAIP imagery. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Development Code 5th Amendment

Fuller & Fuller presented the fully revised development code, reflecting updates based on public input received during the recent hearing on the fifth amendment to the document. Revisions include a clarified definition of “woodworking” and the removal of the requirement for a mandatory public hearing before the Board of County Commissioners. Under the revised language, the Board may still choose to hold a hearing at its discretion, after reviewing the minutes, public comments, and materials submitted to commissioners by the Planning and Zoning Administrator following a hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission.

These changes are intended to bring the county's development code into closer alignment with relevant provisions of Idaho state code.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to sign the 5th Amendment of the Oneida County Development Code, ordinance number 2022-08-01. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Contacts for Senator Kelly Anthon

Chairman Bill Lewis shared that a recent time-sensitive situation involving Senator Kelly Anthon highlighted challenges in reaching him promptly. As a result, Chairman Lewis followed up with Senator Anthon, who provided direct contact information to help ensure timely communication in similar situations in the future.

Follow-Up – P&Z Training with IAC's Seth Grigg

The Board of County Commissioners expressed their appreciation for the recent planning and zoning training conducted by Seth Grigg of the Idaho Association of Counties (IAC). The event, hosted in Oneida County, brought together representatives from eight counties and was considered informative and beneficial.

For those who were unable to attend or for continued learning, the IAC is in the process of developing a training manual, which is expected to be available by the end of summer. Additionally, the Planning and Zoning Board has discussed dedicating 15 minutes of each regular meeting to ongoing training and education.

The Board also discussed the possibility of scheduling additional training sessions in the future to further build upon the knowledge and concepts shared during the recent workshop.

America 250 Years Celebration

Chairman Bill Lewis reported that Idaho Secretary of State Phil McGrane has tasked State Treasurer Julie Ellsworth with coordinating statewide efforts for the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026. In support of this initiative, Treasurer Ellsworth has enlisted the assistance of county treasurers, including County Treasurer Leigh Love, to help organize local celebration planning. Commissioner Lewis, Mayor Joan Hawkins, and Treasurer Love have begun discussing collaborative planning efforts between the city and county. The goal is to encourage broad community participation, involving local clubs, schools, interfaith organizations, and residents in planning events that promote unity and excitement for the 2026 celebrations.

Suggested ideas include an expanded Fourth of July fireworks display, a mural on a city building, monthly American history-themed activities, a community birthday party with cake, a treasure hunt for children and youth, and graphic t-shirts featuring a design chosen through a local art contest. Ideas and assistance from the community are welcomed.

Micro-grants of up to \$2,500 may be available to assist with event costs. More information and resources are available at the official America 250 website: <https://america250.org>

Attorney Lyle Fuller suggested the potential formation of a community-based 501(c)(3) foundation. Such a nonprofit entity would provide a structure for accepting donations for the event (or future events) while allowing contributors to receive tax deductions for their charitable contributions.

Extension – Storage Container

County Extension Agent Sawyer Fannesbeck proposed that Oneida County participate in the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's (ISDA) Grasshopper Control Program by establishing a local bait distribution site. To support this effort, Mr. Fannesbeck recommended the purchase of a metal shipping container for the storage of pelleted bait. Currently, the nearest ISDA-approved distribution center is located in Idaho Falls; establishing a site in Malad would provide a more accessible option for producers in Oneida County and neighboring areas.

Mr. Fannesbeck noted that Oneida County has received the highest number of assistance requests in the state and has been designated by ISDA as an "outbreak zone." As a result of this designation, the county is no longer required to undergo property inspections for participation in the program, as the need for pest control has already been clearly established.

The ISDA Grasshopper Control Program provides pelleted insecticide bait free of charge to eligible producers experiencing infestations of grasshoppers or Mormon crickets (also known as shield-backed katydids), which are known to form large migratory swarms that can significantly damage crops and vegetation. To qualify, landowners must own or manage at least five acres of agricultural-use land and be experiencing an active infestation.

Mr. Fannesbeck noted that former County Extension Agent Ruhn Panting had previously secured funds through the USDA-Extension program, which have remained unused for several years. He confirmed that approximately \$2,500 in those funds are available and that using them for this purpose is appropriate and allowable. The estimated total cost for the storage container is between \$3,000 and \$3,500.

Mr. Fannesbeck requested that the Board consider approving county funds to cover the remaining balance. He also confirmed that the container would not require a permit, as it falls below the 200 square-foot threshold. Additionally, he intends to consult with Planning & Zoning Administrator Rhonda Neal to ensure any other applicable considerations or requirements are addressed.

When he spoke with Road and Bridge Supervisor Dianna Dredge, she confirmed that the gravel pit near the 2-Mile scale would be a suitable location to place the container. Shared ownership of the container is anticipated.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to support the Grasshopper Control Program with up to \$1,000 from the contingency fund to assist in the purchase of a metal shipping container to be used as storage for bait. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Idaho 457 Retirement Plan

It was not realized until representatives arrived at the meeting that this topic—though previously included on the agenda with supporting documentation for commissioner review—had been inadvertently removed during a last-minute update prior to posting the agenda. In consideration of the individuals who had traveled a significant distance to attend, the Board allowed a general discussion to provide the Commissioners with information.

To ensure transparency and compliance with open meeting laws, the same information will be formally presented at the next regular meeting, where it will appear on the agenda as an action item.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to amend the agenda due to extenuative circumstances to add, for discussion only, Mark Knudsen and John Lamm who represent Nationwide and the State of Idaho 457 Supplemental Retirement Plan. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mark Knudson, a Financial Planning and Personal Retirement Consultant with Nationwide, appeared before the Board of Commissioners along with Program Director John Lamm to discuss a supplemental retirement plan. The Idaho 457 Plan is a deferred compensation retirement plan available to public employees, allowing them to contribute pre-tax income to a retirement account. Unlike the PERSI Base Plan, the 457 Plan is a supplemental option and comes at no cost to the county. A retirement specialist would visit the county one to two times per year to assist employees and answer questions in person. This discussion – and any decisions on the topic – will be continued at a future meeting.

Executive Session

Commissioners moved into executive session for two items.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to move into executive session per Idaho Code 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; and 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; not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. Roll call vote resulted in Ayes from Commissioner Lewis, Commissioner Eliason, and Commissioner Jeppsen.

Recess for Lunch

Commissioners moved out of executive session and recessed for a brief lunch before resuming the regular meeting to discuss department updates and budgets.

Department Updates & Highlights

Fair Board

Fairboard hopes to have the barn extension completed by August in time for the fair. Board members are already working hard preparing for the fair and have made arrangements for ribbons, awards, and entertainment.

Planning & Zoning

Planning & Zoning Administrator Rhonda Neal shared the department focus is on efficiency, education, and elevation. Plans for the upcoming fiscal year is to answer questions by providing a monthly update to the county website, have the planning & zoning department supported by fees rather than through taxes, and to have roles defined. Additionally, Mrs. Neal would like to regularly review the applications process and forms on an ongoing basis.

Coroner

County Coroner Brad Horsley appeared before the Board to highlight the many responsibilities and duties he performs in his role as coroner for the county. During the discussion, it was acknowledged by both Mr. Horsley and the Board that a recent decision had been made to have the County cover certain in-county, office-related expenses on an annual basis and to implement a flat reimbursement rate for transport and costs incurred when autopsies are performed in Boise.

Mr. Horsley discussed cremation expenses, citing one recently covered by Horsley Funeral Home for a decedent who had no family or other means to pay. Mr. Horsley inquired whether reimbursement by the County for that specific expense was possible under current policies.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to reimburse Horsley Funeral Home \$2,484 for the indigent cremation expense for Linda Ray Griggs, who passed with no one to pay the bill.

BUDGETS

The commissioners met with several department heads to discuss budgets for the upcoming fiscal year: Fairboard, Airport, Veterans Service Officer, Planning & Zoning, Probation, Emergency Management, Clerk, Elections, District Court, Coroner, Ambulance, Clerk/Auditor, and other budgets with commissioner oversight.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

***** Meeting adjourned by 5:30pm*****



Bill Lewis, Chairman



Shanci Dorius, Deputy Clerk