



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bill Lewis, Chairman – Ken Eliason – Brian Jepps
10 Court Street, Malad, ID 83252

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

* RECORDING# 250630-0141 *

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

Approve Agenda

Commissioner Jepps motioned to approve the agenda as presented for the special commissioner meeting held on June 30, 2025. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

R&B – Approval to Seek Sealed Bids for Woodruff Project

Road & Bridge Supervisor Dianna Dredge informed the Board that the preliminary cost estimate for the proposed public works project would be at least \$350,000, as provided by Bucky Reeder with Reeder Excavating LLC.

In accordance with Idaho Code § 67-2805, which governs procurement for public works construction projects estimated to exceed \$200,000, the Road & Bridge Department recommended proceeding with a formal sealed bid process. The statute allows the county to request a 5% bid bond, but they are not required. The county has requested them on past projects, and elected to require it for the project at hand.

The department plans to publish a Notice to Solicit Sealed Bids in the legal section of the county's official newspaper on July 3, 2025, and again on July 10, 2025, satisfying the statutory requirement for two publications.

Sealed bids, with their 5% bid bonds, will be due by 5:00 PM on July 16, 2025, and will be publicly opened at the Road & Bridge Department office on July 17, 2025, at 2:00pm. The Board of Commissioners will review and award the contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder during their regular meeting scheduled for July 28, 2025.

Commissioner Jepps motioned to approve the sealed bid process for the Woodruff Bridge Project as outlined by Idaho Code for posting. The first posting would be July 3 and the second posting would be July 10.

Sealed bids – and the required 5% bid bonds – are to be submitted to the Road & Bridge building (459 South Main, Malad, ID) or to the Clerk's Office in the Courthouse (10 W. Court Street, Malad, ID) by 5:00 p.m. on July 16. The bids will be opened at 2:00 p.m. on July 17 at the Road & Bridge building. The commissioners will determine which party will be awarded the bid at the commissioner meeting on July 28. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Opioid Expenses

To ensure transparency and compliance, the Guidelines on Opioid Settlement Fund Use were distributed to the Board of Commissioners and Opioid Committee member Doug Williams. Clerk Lon Colton explained that, while federal grants involve significant oversight, the Opioid Settlement Funds—from a statewide class action—are also highly regulated. All expenditures are subject to review by the Idaho Attorney General's Office.

Recent funding requests have been interpreted as appropriate, even when the guidelines are not explicitly clear. The Clerk, Opioid Committee, and Board expressed a shared intent to fully understand and comply with the guidelines and maintain accurate records of all fund use.

John Williams, Administrator of Oneida County Hospital, attended and shared that the hospital is actively engaged in opioid response efforts and has formed partnerships with Idaho State, Utah State, and Weber State universities. He expressed interest in collaborating with the county. The Board advised Mr. Williams to meet with the Opioid Committee to explore partnership opportunities aligned with settlement fund guidelines.

Engineering Firm for Future County Projects

Road & Bridge Supervisor Dianna Dredge presented concerns regarding the current level of engineering support, which began with the Depot Road project and continued with subsequent projects. She noted that while the initial engineering services were effective, the level of on-site support appeared to decline during project execution, leading to some confusion and rework. Ms. Dredge expressed concern that the engineering provider may be overextended, limiting their availability for timely, hands-on assistance to the Road & Bridge Department.

Additional feedback shared with the Board indicated that the county's engineer plays a prominent role in Planning & Zoning meetings, and that certain legal or procedural matters might be more appropriately addressed by county legal counsel rather than by engineering staff.

Planning & Zoning Administrator Rhonda Neal offered a differing perspective, recommending that the Board speak with Planning & Zoning Board members to

better understand the scope and value of the engineering services provided. She emphasized the engineer's experience, familiarity with the County Development Code, and contributions to several complex, first-of-their-kind projects currently in development. Ms. Neal advised against any immediate changes to engineering services, particularly given the momentum of current planning initiatives, and noted that legal counsel is regularly consulted when appropriate.

To ensure the county's infrastructure and development needs are being met effectively, the Board agreed to review and evaluate engineering services. This will include interviewing a selection of engineering firms, including the current provider, to assess qualifications, capacity, and alignment with department needs. In preparation, the Board requested that both Ms. Dredge and Ms. Neal compile a list of their department's current and anticipated engineering needs and submit them to the Board prior to the next scheduled meeting on July 14, 2025.

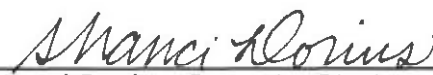
The Board plans to contact engineering firms Paragon Consulting, Keller Associates, and Forsgren Associates to determine interest in participating in interviews. Sunrise Engineering will be contacted as an alternate if any of the three primary firms are unavailable.

Commissioner Lewis motioned that commissioner's interview – in 30-minute segments that allow 20 minutes for the interview and 10 minutes for questions – Paragon Consulting, Keller Associates, and Forsgren Associates at the next meeting on July 14. If one company is unavailable for the interview, Sunrise Engineering will be contacted as an alternate for an interview. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

***** Meeting adjourned by 10:00am*****



Bill Lewis, Chairman



Shanci Dorius, Deputy Clerk