



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bill Lewis, Chairman – Ken Eliason – Brian Jeppsen

Old Commissioners Room – Oneida County Courthouse

Minutes - Regular Commissioner Meeting

28 JULY 2025 – 9:00 AM

* RECORDING # 250728-0147 *

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

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

Approve Agenda

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

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

Commissioner Eliason motioned to accept the payment of claims. Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. All ayes. Motion carried. Commissioner Jeppsen was absent.

Total # of Payments	Fund Description	Amount Paid
52	GENERAL FUND/CURRENT EXPENSE	\$ 24,710.14
28	ROAD AND BRIDGE	\$ 241,613.02
7	AIRPORT	\$ 2,135.24
14	AMBULANCE	\$ 6,869.98
3	DISTRICT COURT	\$ 693.39
11	07 FAIR, COUNTY	\$ 36,734.83
15	JUSTICE FUND	\$ 17,877.42
12	PARKS & RECREATION	\$ 4,550.62
1	REVALUATION	\$ 3,546.78
1	TORT	\$ 2,736.80
11	WEEDS	\$ 2,266.71
7	E-911	\$ 4,835.16
TOTAL:		\$ 348,570.09

Probation: Certification to Help Moderate Juvenile Conflict

This topic was moved to the August 11, 2025 Board of Commissioners agenda

R&B – County Road Map

This topic was moved to the August 11, 2025 Board of Commissioners agenda

Potential Improvements to Development Code

Removed from the agenda at the request of the person who submitted it.

Executive Session

Removed from the agenda at the request of the person who submitted it.

Crisis Center: Sponsor Letter & Info for Upcoming Fundraiser

A letter from Executive Director Melania Jimenez was sent to commissioners to explain a few minor changes to an upcoming fundraiser and to request that the use of the event center for that event be free of charge, due to the nature of the event.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to allow the Crisis Center to use the Event Center free of charge for their fundraiser on October 3, 2025. Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. All ayes. Motion carried. Commissioner Jeppsen was absent.

Probation: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – CBAS & SUDS

County Probation Officer Gabe Jimenez provided an update on funding resources available through the Community Based Alternative Services (CBAS) and Substance Use Disorder Services (SUDS) programs as they relate to the juvenile justice program in Oneida County. These resources are utilized 2-3 times per year to support youth who are in need of behavioral or mental health care.

The CBAS program provides funding for mental health and behavioral addiction services for youth on juvenile probation. This program is designed to fill coverage gaps for those without Medicaid, limited finances, or whose private insurance doesn't include behavioral health services.

The SUDS program offers treatment specifically for substance use disorders and serves youth who are on probation or in diversion programs. While similar in structure to CBAS, the SUDS program focuses specifically on substance use.

Commissioner Eliason moved to approve the pass-through funds recipient agreement between Oneida County and the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections (IDJC) for the distribution of funds supporting the Community-Based Alternative Services (CBAS) and Substance Use Disorder Services (SUDS) programs. Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. Commissioner Jeppsen was absent.

Airport Grant

The board and secretary Kathy Ray is still attempting to locate qualified electricians to do the airport runway lights. The grant from the state was approved for \$675,000 and will be used for runway lights and the threshold. A bidding process for the job will be opened soon. The terms of the grant state the project must be completed by Spring 2027.

Sheriff – City Contract

Sheriff Doug Williams presented the city contract to the Board of Commissioners at a previous meeting. The contract was then reviewed by city officials and the county attorney before being returned to the Board for final approval.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to approve the Law Enforcement Contract between the City of Malad and the Oneida County Sheriff's Department. Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. All ayes. Motion carried. Commissioner Jeppsen was absent.

Sheriff- Boat Check Contract

Sheriff Doug Williams discussed the boat check station contract with the Board of Commissioners, noting that it is essentially the same as last year's agreement. Officers who volunteer to work the boat check station on their regular days off from the county will be compensated at a rate of \$50 per hour, plus insurance and benefits. Sheriff Williams reported that, last year, only two weeks fell short of the full 35-hour schedule. The contract will remain in effect through the end of October.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to accept the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and the Oneida County Sheriff's Department. Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. All ayes. Motion carried. Commissioner Jeppsen was absent.

Opioid Settlement (Purdue) Participation

Another company, Purdue, is being added to the list of entities contributing to the Opioid Settlement, and Oneida County has the opportunity to participate. In Idaho, these settlements involve companies that played a role in promoting opioid use, and participating counties receive funds to support opioid education, prevention, and treatment efforts. Funds from the Purdue settlement will be paid out over a period of up to 18 years. Participation would follow the same process as the County's existing involvement in the broader opioid settlement. If approved, the Board of Commissioners may authorize County Clerk Lon Colton to electronically sign the necessary documents via DocuSign on their behalf.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to participate in the Purdue Opioid Settlement and authorize County Clerk Lon Colton to electronically sign the Opioids Settlement Agreement (Purdue) on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. All ayes. Motion carried. Commissioner Jeppsen was absent.

III-A Insurance – Amy Manning

The County was recently approached by the Idaho Intergovernmental Insurance Authority (III-A) regarding employee insurance coverage. III-A is a self-funded health benefits trust. While the County currently contracts with III-A for first responder counseling services, the organization proposed broader participation in the full range of benefits it offers. After conducting an assessment, III-A sent a letter to the Board of Commissioners indicating that the proposed rates were not competitive compared to the County's current employee insurance provider.

Budget Discussion

Commissioners discussed finalizing items for the fiscal year 2026 budget. The budget hearing will be August 28 at the board of commissioners meeting.

R&B – Discuss Potential Approval of Bids for Woodruff Project

Whittaker Construction was recommended as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, having submitted the lowest bid among those who met all requirements outlined in the bid notice. Bids were opened on Friday, following the submission deadline, by the County's contracted engineer, Stephen Freiburger, and the Road & Bridge Supervisor to ensure each bid met the stated criteria.

Several bidders met all requirements; however, three were found to have material deficiencies and were therefore not considered responsive. The County had reserved the right to waive minor informalities, but these issues exceeded that threshold.

Based on the engineer's evaluation and with the concurrence of Attorney Lyle Fuller, the Board of Commissioners accepted the recommendation to award the project to Whittaker Construction. Mr. Freiburger, with Paragon Consulting, will notify all contractors of the Board's decision.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to accept the bid from Whitaker Construction in Brigham City, Utah for the Woodruff Bridge Excavation Project in the amount of \$193,560.50 and to also authorize the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners to execute the contract once it has been signed and returned by the contractor. Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. All ayes. Motion carried. Commissioner Jeppsen was absent.

Credit Card Policy / Training

The Board of Commissioners finalized a county credit card policy, which had previously stalled after the former county attorney—who was assisting—left his position.

Commissioners agreed that all credit card users—including elected officials, employees, and board members—must sign a statement confirming they've read and understand the policy. This will be included in annual personnel policy training at the start of the new budget year.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to accept the changes made to the Oneida County Employee & Elected Officials Credit Card Policy as outlined and incorporate the policy, with the approved edits, as part of the Personnel Policy and that policy training be conducted as soon as possible for all employees who use county credit cards. Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. All ayes. Motion carried. Commissioner Jeppsen was absent.

Department Updates & Highlights

Clerk / Auditor / Elections

The elections department is preparing for the November election. The courtroom remodel and other updates to the courthouse are coming along well and

expected to be completed in the near future. Clerk Lon Colton is still going through the records approved for destruction, but is removing documents from binders and folders so they can be reused. Part of the 5-year plan for the recorder's office is to have money set aside to digitize records.

Airport

Secretary Kathy Ray discussed the 5-year plan for the airport which includes fixing the fence around the facility. Mrs. Ray also reported several items of concern at the airport:

- The airport septic system is having issues and is being looked at by local plumbing contractor Donny Hunt.
- A safety issue with 1/3 of the current runway lights being out may be remedied for about \$900. The current budget may be able to support both this fix and the septic issue.
- Recent theft and trespassing at the airport show a need for an additional camera to be added to the current system to deter/detect future incidents.

Extension

County Extension Agent Sawyer Foncesbeck reported a very busy – and successful – quarter citing over 250 individual club meetings being held and nearly 400 kids learning about agriculture at a recent event with the soil and water conservation district. With this growth, a few communication issues have occurred, but they have been addressed, and measures are in place to help prevent future problems.

The Oneida County Fair will take place in two weeks. Beginning this year, all weigh-ins will be held on Monday to improve efficiency and better accommodate all parties involved. Additional changes to this year's fair include the extension of the fair barn and the installation of a screen and projector (repurposed from the old elementary school auditorium) in the event center. Both projects are expected to be completed prior to the start of the fair.

Mr. Foncesbeck expressed appreciation for the fair board's continued support of the 4-H program. Planning for winter classes is already underway. A volunteer has been identified to refresh the planter boxes at the event center and address the watering leaks near the plants.

Assessor / Revaluations

The Assessor's Office is finalizing the abstract values using the new system. A small glitch on the state's end that caused a \$40,000 discrepancy was found and fixed.

The Real Property Leased Ground (RPLG) data in our subsystem caused the values on most of the cell towers in the county to zero out. The Assessor's Office has been on-site to verify these and will send letters to each company.

Rural revaluations are recommended to be completed every five years. The new system will aid this process by incorporating improvements made by the Revaluations Department in the subsystem, making future revaluations more efficient.

After reviewing the expenses related to the county's three vehicles, it was determined that the cars have paid for themselves when compared to the reimbursements that would have been paid if employees used their personal vehicles. Additional savings have come from using the county's bulk fuel tank to refuel the vehicles whenever possible. County Assessor Kathleen Atkinson also recommended setting aside funds in next year's budget to purchase a replacement vehicle for Building Inspector and Maintenance Supervisor Tory Richardson, as the current truck is old and averages only about 8 miles per gallon.

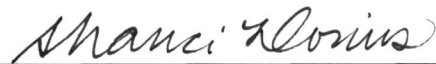
Ambulance

The ambulance report was read by the board and noted that call volume has been lower than normal recently, allowing the team to focus on internal improvements and community outreach. Billing issues are being resolved, and processes are being streamlined moving forward. A new ambulance has been ordered, with delivery expected in early 2026. The annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the ambulance was successful and continues to grow, particularly the designated area for children with special needs. Participation in the community's 4th of July parade was also successful. Additionally, the ambulance sponsored a scholarship through the Oneida Education Foundation, which was awarded to a graduating senior pursuing a career in the medical field.

***** Meeting adjourned by 10:50am*****



Bill Lewis, Chairman



Shanci Dorius, Deputy Clerk