



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bill Lewis, Chairman – Ken Eliason – Brian Jeppsen

Meeting Location: Event Center, 459 South Main St., Malad City, Idaho 83252

MINUTES – Commissioners Meeting - 10 November 2025 - 9:00AM

* RECORDING# 251110-0168 *

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

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

Approve Agenda

Commissioner Jeppsen 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 payment of claims and approval of meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Total # of Payments	Fund Description	Amount Paid
28	GENERAL FUND/CURRENT EXPENSE	\$ 15,891.49
40	ROAD AND BRIDGE	\$ 131,293.03
3	AIRPORT	\$ 252.67
1	AMBULANCE	\$ 27.66
1	DISTRICT COURT	\$ 48.88
7	FAIR, COUNTY	\$ 1,231.79
26	JUSTICE FUND	\$ 30,512.98
1	REVALUATION	\$ 19.24
4	WEEDS	\$ 211.27
2	CONSOLIDATED ELECTIONS	\$ 128.93
9	E-911	\$ 4,485.63
3	LATCF FUNDING	\$ 54,416.72
TOTAL:		\$ \$238,520.29

Liberty Gold – Black Pine Project Overview & Update (timestamp: 00:02:40)

Matthew Zietlow, Director of Regulatory Affairs & Sustainability, and Elisabeth Campbell, Community Relations Coordinator, updated the Board on the Liberty Gold – Black Pine project in Southeast Idaho. The mine is entirely in Cassia County, though access roads pass through Oneida County. Mining on the Black Pine Range began in 1880 for lead and silver and later shifted to gold. Remnants of older operations, including the Pegasus pits, are still visible from I-84. The project covers about 17,000 acres and includes water rights, leases, roads, and power infrastructure. Operations are designed to stay above the water table, keeping water use low. Some areas have experienced wildfires, particularly in 2006, 2007, and 2012.

The draft mine plan, currently under agency review, includes expanding existing pits, creating new pits, and developing barren rock storage facilities, along with a heap leach facility, processing plant, access and haul roads, and supporting structures. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), led by the U.S. Forest Service and BLM, will cover air, water, cultural resources, geochemistry, and other areas, with state permitting incorporated. Commissioner Eliason asked about fencing in grazing areas. Agency staff said mitigation and compensation will follow established procedures, and the ranching community is part of ongoing discussions. The team is also addressing concerns from Juniper homeowners and other affected parties, including traffic impacts, with plans to provide buses to help reduce congestion.

Community outreach is ongoing. Mrs. Campbell meets with residents at fairs, schools, and other events to share information, answer questions, and highlight project benefits, including tours, scholarships, and donations. The Board was given an overview of the project schedule and next steps. This was an informational visit; no motions were made.

Engage Wellness (timestamp: ~00:46:00)

The Board of Commissioners reviewed information about the Engage Wellness Program, designed to save money for both employees and the county. Under this program, a set amount is deducted from the employee's paycheck on a pre-tax basis. Part of that deduction pays for the cost of the Engage Wellness Program. The remaining portion is then added back onto the employee's paycheck, which the employee receives just like normal wages. Because the initial deduction is taken pre-tax, the employee's taxable income is reduced, resulting in lower payroll taxes for both the employee and the County. Even after covering the program cost, most employees see an increase in net take-home pay. Depending on earnings and withholdings, this increase may range from about \$25 to more than \$600 per month, with most averaging around \$80 per paycheck.

To remain enrolled each year, employees must self-report four minor wellness activities, such as attending a medical or dental appointment, pledging to wear a seatbelt, turning off devices before bed, or participating in smoking cessation. Activities are tracked online or through a mobile app. Employees who do not complete the requirements may finish them before year-end or be unenrolled for the following year. Enrollment can be completed through a census process in which all employees are automatically enrolled, with the option to decline participation.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to approve the implementation of the Engage Wellness program which will need to include employee training, education, pending contract review and making sure that the program works with our payroll software. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

BLM Forest Timber Sale (timestamp: 01:18:06)

Commissioners shared information from a notice received from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding a timber for sale offered through a sealed bid process. The notice stated that no bid would be accepted for less than the total appraised price of \$62,790.00 and must include a bid deposit of \$6,300.00, along with other requirements outlined in the letter. Sealed bids must be received at the BLM Pocatello Field Office, 4350 Cliffs Drive, Pocatello, Idaho 83204, prior to 2:00 p.m. Mountain Time

on Thursday, November 20th, 2025, when bids will be opened and posted. For additional details, interested parties may contact the Pocatello Field Office and refer to IDI02-TS-2026.0001.

Intersection of 3400 West - 2000 North (timestamp: 01:21:34)

Some time ago, after concerns were raised by a citizen at the December 26, 2023 and September 30, 2024 commissioner meetings, a traffic study was conducted at the T-intersection of 3400 West and 2000 North. As a result of that study, a stop sign was installed.

Recently, a few citizens contacted Commissioner Jeppsen with continued safety concerns. Traffic reportedly has limited visibility due to trees within the 25-foot right-of-way, requiring drivers to pull into the intersection to see oncoming vehicles. Several near-miss incidents have been reported.

County road standards indicate the trees could be removed because they are within the 25-foot sight triangle and obstruct visibility. While the Road and Bridge Department has authority to require removal, it is exploring options that address both safety concerns and the property owner's interests. To date, the department has installed a "Stop Ahead" sign, a flashing warning sign, intersection signs, and lowered the speed limit. Crews also trimmed the trees, which improved visibility somewhat, but the tree trunks still obstruct the view. No decision was made.

R&B - Request to Exceed Grants Line Item in Budget (timestamp: 01:33:55)

When preparing the fiscal year 2026 budget, the Road and Bridge Supervisor assumed the Woodruff Bridge project would be completed during fiscal year 2025. However, portions of the bridge and rumble strip projects extended into the new fiscal year after the 2026 budget was finalized. As a result, the "Grant" line item will show an overage in 2026 and an excess in the 2025 budget, since funds earmarked for the bridge were not billed within the same fiscal year.

The current \$70,000 budget should cover the Rumble Strip Project billing, while the remaining bridge work is expected to cost approximately \$50,000. No action was taken.

R&B – Rumble Strip Grant Agreement(timestamp: ~01:43:18)

It was determined that it was appropriate and necessary to amend the agenda to list the signing of the Rumble Strip Agreement with the State of Idaho as a separate agenda item.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to amend the agenda to include a separate agenda topic to allow signing of the agreement with the State of Idaho and Oneida County to begin the Rumble Strip project. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

The agreement was reviewed by the board. The \$35,000 to be sent for the Rumble Strip Project represents Oneida County's anticipated share of the grant. The agreement also requires a designated, authorized representative who can respond to change orders within 10 days. Because this timeframe may not align with regular commissioner

meetings, the Board authorized the designee to approve change orders up to \$10,000 without prior Board approval.

Commissioner Jeppsen moved to approve the State/Local Agreement, Project No. A024(345), to begin construction of the Centerline Rumble Strip Project, and to designate Commissioner Eliason as the authorized representative with authority to approve change orders up to \$10,000 without requiring a Special Commissioner Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

As part of the grant cost share, Oneida County's portion of the Rumble Strip Project must be paid via ACH transaction, and proof of payment must be submitted with the signed agreement.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to approve payment of \$35,320 to the Idaho Transportation Department via ACH transaction, which is Oneida County's portion of the Rumble Strip Grant. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Excess County Property (timestamp: 01:54:04)

The Road and Bridge Department would like to sell an older air compressor that automatically shuts off once it reaches 80 psi. To exceed that pressure, the compressor must be shut down, drained, and refilled.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to dispose of the Road & Bridge Department's old air compressor by listing it on the auction site. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Comprehensive Plan & Future Land Use Map (timestamp: 01:56:30)

As a general rule, the comprehensive plan provides guidance and sets expectations but does not legally bind property owners. It works in conjunction with the county's development code, helping to guide land use decisions, zoning, and future growth while providing a framework for consistent decision-making.

MSBT Law Attorney Geoff Schroeder and Consultant Nichoel Spencer joined the meeting by phone to discuss changes made to the comprehensive plan and future land use map since the last discussion on October 27, 2025, and to orient the Board with the new draft of the comprehensive plan. The land use map portion of the plan is ready for approval as part of Phase 1 updates, and Resolution No. 2025-11-01 is ready for approval. Additional changes will be made, and the Board will review those changes as part of the Phase 2 updates in the spring.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to approve Resolution No. 2025-11-01, a Resolution to amending and replacing the 2017 Oneida County Comprehensive Plan with the 2025 Oneida County Comprehensive Plan Affirming Compliance with Idaho Code § 67-6509(3). Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Old Metal Detector (timestamp: 02:11:16)

The old courtroom metal detector was last used when court was held in the event center during the courtroom remodel. It is currently not in use and has no proper storage location. Permission was sought to list the metal detector for sale.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to list the old Security Metal Detector from the courtroom for sale. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Fireman's Ball - Application for Temporary Alcohol License (timestamp: 02:13:55)

The annual Fireman's Ball will be held on December 6, 2025. An application was submitted for a temporary liquor license for the event.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to approve the application for a temporary alcohol license for the Fireman's Ball as submitted by The Chat N Chew, catering license number 1958, on December 6, 2025 from 6pm-12:00am. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Event Center Cleanup (timestamp: 02:16:38)

The Event Center cleanup standard was discussed, and it was determined that each board or group using the building must clean up after themselves. The rental agreement has been updated to include a checklist of items to be completed at the end of each meeting to ensure the building is left tidy for the next group. Boards will receive a reminder about these responsibilities. No motion was made.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (timestamp: 02:20:23)

*Commissioner Eliason motioned to move into Executive Session per **Idaho Code 74-206 (1)(a)** To consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, wherein the respective qualities of individuals are to be evaluated in order to fill a particular vacancy or need. This paragraph does not apply to filling a vacancy in an elective office or deliberations about staffing needs in general; **and 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. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. Roll call vote: Ayes from Commissioners Eliason, Lewis, and Jeppsen. Motion carried.*

Commissioners moved out of executive session and the meeting ended.

***** Meeting adjourned by 1:15 pm*****



Bill Lewis, Chairman



Shanci Dorius, Deputy Clerk