



## ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bill Lewis, Chairman – Ken Eliason – Brian Jeppsen

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

**Regular Commissioners Meeting - 12 January 2026 - 9:00AM**

**\* RECORDING# 260112-0177 \***

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

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 Lewis. All ayes. Motion carried. Commissioner Eliason was absent.

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

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

| Total # of Payments | Fund Description             | Amount Paid         |
|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 40                  | GENERAL FUND/CURRENT EXPENSE | \$ 16,873.05        |
| 35                  | ROAD AND BRIDGE              | \$ 14,310.73        |
| 3                   | AIRPORT                      | \$ 201.54           |
| 1                   | DISTRICT COURT               | \$ 49.45            |
| 2                   | FAIR, COUNTY                 | \$ 269.99           |
| 29                  | JUSTICE FUND                 | \$ 47,214.91        |
| 1                   | PARKS & RECREATION           | \$ 26.12            |
| 3                   | WEEDS                        | \$ 422.98           |
| 5                   | CONSOLIDATED ELECTIONS       | \$ 583.70           |
| 9                   | E-911                        | \$ 7,479.08         |
|                     | <b>TOTAL:</b>                | <b>\$ 87,431.55</b> |

### Bannock County Juvenile Detention Center Increased Cost (timestamp: 00:03:03)

During the budget process for fiscal year 2026, the Bannock County Juvenile Detention Center was budgeted based on the figures received at that time. When the first semi-annual payment was received, the amount owed was higher than originally budgeted. It was determined that a miscalculation had occurred and that the higher amount is correct. The annual bill is now approximately \$36,266.00. No decisions were made.

### **State of Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation - Report** (timestamp: 00:06:18)

A letter was received from Shelly Smith, East Region Grant Specialist with the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, outlining the results of a grant compliance inspection at the LeGrande Aqua Plunge swimming pool conducted on August 5, 2025. The inspection results were mostly positive; however, a return visit will be required because the pool was closed during the initial inspection. The purpose of the inspection was to ensure the facility remains open and inviting to the public and that a sign acknowledging Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) participation is properly displayed. As no sign was present at the time of the inspection, one has now been provided and will be prominently placed at the swimming pool. No decisions were made.

### **Grant Solutions - Approval for Email Update** (timestamp: 00:16:59)

Road & Bridge Office Coordinator Lisa Baker is receiving a new county email address. To update the email address with Grant Solutions, a supervisor (commissioner) signature is needed on the form provided by the company.

*Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to allow Chairman Lewis to sign the document from Grant Solutions regarding a user account change, specifically the email addresses for Lisa Baker from [lbocr@atcnet.net](mailto:lbocr@atcnet.net) to [lbaker@oneidaid.us](mailto:lbaker@oneidaid.us). Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. Commissioner Eliason was absent.*

### **Emergency Prep Fair** (timestamp: 00:25:18)

An Emergency Preparedness Fair is being planned for March 21, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Oneida County Event Center. The planning committee for last year's fair spent approximately \$500 on advertising and the purchase of supplies, gifts, and door prizes. Donations from the county and local churches were used to cover those costs. The county is being asked for a donation for this year's fair. Commissioner Jeppsen confirmed with Emergency Manager Dan Williams that funding is able to come from the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP).

*Commissioner Lewis motioned to donate \$200 from SHSP Emergency Management funds to support the Emergency Preparedness Fair on March 21, 2026, provided the funds are used by the February 28, 2026 SHSP spending deadline. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried. Commissioner Eliason was absent.*

### **ONAN Diesel Generator Donation through DIGB5** (timestamp: 00:39:35)

Previous discussions during commissioner meetings highlighted the need for a generator at the Holbrook Fire Station. During a meeting of the District Interoperability Governance Board, District 5 (DIGB5), a regional board that coordinates emergency communications planning among multiple counties, it was announced that Bannock County may have ONAN diesel generators available for donation. Commissioner Jeppsen made inquiries regarding availability. It was noted that further information is needed to determine whether the Holbrook Fire Station or the Holbrook School is

wired to support the generator and it may be necessary to assess the readiness of the building(s) in Holbrook to accommodate the generator.

For the purpose of this meeting, the board felt it was important to determine whether or not to accept the donation of the generator and have a county representative pick it up. The other discussion points will be addressed in a future meeting.

*Commissioner Lewis motioned to accept the Onan Diesel Generator donation from DIGB5 through Bannock County. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried. Commissioner Eliason was absent.*

**Safety Issue on Old Highway 191 – Summit** (timestamp: 00:53:58)

Safety concerns on roads at the Summit, specifically Old Highway 191 from Devils Creek to the Summit, were discussed. Jeff Semrad spoke on behalf of Summit residents and reported that as vehicles travel north onto the Summit from the south, there are no posted, enforceable speed limit signs. He described safety concerns, including excessive vehicle speeds, concerns regarding the upcoming rumble strip project, and the requirements of Idaho Code § 49-207. Residents requested measures to reduce traffic speeds and county liability, noting they do not believe rumble strips would reduce speeds.

Mr. Semrad stated that Idaho Code § 49-207 provides the Board of County Commissioners authority to change speed limits but requires an engineering and traffic study. He noted that the county owns a traffic counter and could perform the study. Road & Bridge Supervisor Dianna Dredge reported that at least two traffic counts had been conducted, collecting data such as traffic volume, time of day, and vehicle classification. The results were reviewed by the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) and Keller Associates, both of which indicated the data did not justify lowering the speed limit to an enforceable level, and that a complete study may not support the speed reductions requested by residents. Supervisor Dredge noted the roadway is one of the wider roads in the county and that traffic signs are occasionally switched or stolen. She stated she would be willing to allocate approximately \$5,000 from her budget to complete a traffic study, but prior engineering review suggests additional data from a study is unlikely to change the outcome.

Commissioners stated they have relied on recommendations from engineers and the Road & Bridge Department. County Attorney Lyle Fuller questioned whether unreported incidents could create a disconnect between engineering data and conditions experienced by residents. Mr. Semrad stated that residents believe the human factor is not fully reflected in the data and requested that county representatives visit the area. Commissioners suggested residents compile documentation of unreported incidents and other relevant information to supplement traffic study data, particularly if a public hearing is held in the future. No decisions were made.

**Payment for Juniper Fence Project** (timestamp: 02:02:46)

A county employee who performs occasional outside work but does not operate under a business name was hired by the Road & Bridge Department to complete the Juniper fence project. The employee performed the work outside of county hours. The project price was determined based on fence length per foot, with the county providing materials, and compensation was consistent with what the county would pay another contractor. The invoice for the project is \$16,000, which would normally require issuing a 1099; however, because the employee also receives a W-2 from the county, issuing both a W-2 and 1099 for the same individual could create a conflict.

Attorney Lyle Fuller suggested that one way to properly compensate the employee without creating tax or reporting issues would be for them to establish an LLC and be paid under that entity. No decisions were made.

**Excess County Property – Floor Mats** (timestamp: 02:23:57)

Two mats are available as excess county property and can be used by another department if needed, or otherwise disposed of.

*Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to approve the surplus of the floor mats on the condition they are not needed in another county office. Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. All ayes. Motion carried. Commissioner Eliason was absent.*

**Certify County Commissioner Districts - Resolution 2026-01-01** (timestamp: 02:25:13)

Certifications for County Commissioner Districts were discussed. It was noted that Idaho Code § 31-704 requires the Board of County Commissioners, at the regular meeting in January preceding any general election, to district the county into three commissioner districts, as nearly equal in population as practicable.

The legal description in Exhibit A of the proposed Resolution is unchanged from the 2022 version. Commissioners discussed that because some referenced property owners' names may change over time, it would be more appropriate to use the Assessor's parcel (RP) numbers in the legal description of district boundaries rather than owner names.

*Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to approve the Oneida County Resolution No. 2026-01-01, a Resolution establishing the Oneida County Commissioner Districts in accordance with Idaho Code 31-704, with an amendment to substitute property owner names with the parcel numbers. Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. All ayes. Motion carried. Commissioner Eliason was absent.*

**Certify County Precinct Boundaries - Resolution 2026-01-02** (timestamp: 02:29:57)

Certification of county precinct boundaries by resolution was discussed per Idaho Code § 34-301, which requires the Board to establish precincts and provide lists and maps to the Secretary of State by January 15 of a general election year. Current registered voter totals for each precinct are as follows:

Precinct 1 – 798  
Precinct 2 – 608

Precinct 3 – 703  
Precinct 4 – 505

Precinct 5 – 102  
Precinct 6 – 92

It was noted that having a single in-person polling location for all precincts, along with two mail-out precincts, provides continuity and aligns with the goals of consolidated elections in Oneida County.

*Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to approve Resolution No. 2026-01-02, A resolution designating precincts and polling locations for the 2026 election year. Seconded by Commissioner Lewis. All ayes. Motion carried. Commissioner Eliason was absent.*

**LATCF Funds Discussion** (timestamp: 02:41:04)

The Board discussed milestones with Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) funds, noting that the funds had been received and utilized on eligible county projects. The last of the funds were designated for the courthouse remodel, which included making the courthouse ADA compliant. The account currently has a remaining balance of \$41,201.10, which could be used for final courthouse improvements. Potential projects discussed included remodeling the basement public restroom, additional improvements to the jury room and courtroom, artwork for the courtroom, and additional chairs to replace the bench on the landing. Bids are being sought for the bathroom remodel. No decisions were made.

**129K Truck Route from Malad to Hess Mines - Idaho Code 49-1004A** (timestamp: 02:40:42)

Attorney Lyle Fuller reported that a study for the proposed 129,000-pound truck route was completed in August and that a resolution is needed to formally approve the study. He noted that the draft resolution on the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) website was ambiguous, and after contacting LHTAC, he was referred to Kelly Keither, an engineer with LHTAC, to clarify the governing board. Because the county does not have a separate Local Highway Jurisdiction (LHJ), the Board of County Commissioners serves as both the governing board and LHJ. Oneida County has held a public meeting regarding the route, but not a public hearing; under Idaho Code § 40-1004B, a public hearing is not required. Therefore, the board may move forward with approving a resolution without holding a public hearing.

The Board briefly discussed whether the Bannock Street project will require a temporary deviation of the 129,000-pound truck route to circumvent Bannock Street during construction. No decisions were made.

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



Bill Lewis, Chairman



Shanci Dorius, Deputy Clerk