



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bill Lewis, Chairman – Ken Eliason – Brian Jeppsen

Regular Commissioners Meeting

TUESDAY 26 May 2026 - 9:00AM

Meeting Location: Event Center

459 South Main Street, Malad City, Idaho 83252

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

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

Approve Agenda

Commissioner Eliason moved to accept the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Billing for Election Day Internet Outage Resolution

Clerk Lon Colton explained a bill for temporary internet service provided during an election outage on May 19, 2026. TJ Burbank of IT Specialists restored connectivity with Starlink within approximately 20 minutes of polls opening. The cost will be split equally between the Courthouse and Elections budgets. No decisions were made.

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

Commissioner Jeppsen moved to accept the consent agenda, which includes the payment of claims, a certificate of residency, and the approval of meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Total # of Payments	Fund Description	Amount Paid
57	GENERAL FUND/CURRENT EXPENSE	\$ 39,695.58
42	ROAD AND BRIDGE	\$ 108,600.43
3	AIRPORT	\$ 415.27
19	AMBULANCE	\$ 8,235.35
4	DISTRICT COURT	\$ 737.77
7	FAIR, COUNTY	\$ 2,953.09
19	JUSTICE FUND	\$ 67,481.74
6	PARKS & RECREATION	\$ 7,026.39
1	TORT	\$ 3,521.10
10	WEEDS	\$ 504.35
1	CONSOLIDATED ELECTIONS	\$ 746.37
1	PILT	\$ 1,305.00
2	E-911	\$ 5,686.00
5	DRUG COURT/SPC.CT. COORDINATOR	\$ 886.16
TOTAL:		\$ 247,794.60



Board of Equalization, if needed

No board of equalization was needed.

Assessor - MLS Licensing Agreement – 9:00 a.m.

Topic removed from the agenda until documentation is received.

Mike Asay Subdivision (Monson Canyon Road Subdivision)

The Board discussed the Monson Canyon Road Subdivision public right-of-way. Discussion included clarification on the required width and placement of public utilities within the right-of-way. Assessor Atkinson suggested the Board proceed with a 30-foot public right-of-way. The surveyor/engineer indicated the applicable requirements allow an "either/or" interpretation.

Commissioner Jeppsen moved to allow public utilities, namely electrical power, for the Monson Canyon Road Subdivision to be located within the County's public right-of-way, which was dedicated to the County when the Asay plat was signed and recorded. The utilities shall be placed at the outer edge of the public right-of-way, as far away from the road as possible, and installed at a depth of 48 inches. The motion included the building inspector's involvement and communication of these requirements to Rocky Mountain Power. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Canvas of the May 19, 2026 Primary Election Results

County Clerk Lon Colton presented the canvass results from the May 19, 2026 Primary Election for board approval. Mike Asay and Randy Willie were elected to the two commissioner seats. Precinct committeemen elected were Bob Crowther (Precinct 1), Sarah Robbins (Precinct 2), no qualified write-in candidate met the required vote threshold for Precinct 3, Randy Willie (Precinct 4), Ben Campbell (Precinct 5), and Paul Smith (Precinct 6). All other county offices were uncontested. Of 2,812 registered voters, 1,094 ballots were cast, representing a 38.37% turnout. For statewide or county results, visit www.voteidaho.org

Commissioner Jeppsen moved to accept the canvass of the May 19, 2026 election as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Back-up Internet Options

During the recent election, internet service was interrupted. Two temporary Starlink units were used to restore connectivity for the courthouse, including critical services in the Sheriff's office, and at the Event Center, allowing election activities to continue running smoothly.

County Clerk Lon Colton presented the board with a request for the county to invest in two Starlink units. This would allow the county an inexpensive backup internet alternative that would ensure uninterrupted services. The Idaho Office of Emergency Management (IOEM) funds may be available for one of the units, with the understanding that IOEM would have priority use during an emergency. Quotes for installation and costs will be obtained for future consideration. No action was taken.



Courthouse & Summit Generators – Sheriff's Department

During the recent power outage, the Courthouse generator did not automatically start and required a manual start. The Holbrook Summit generator experienced a similar issue due to a failed battery. It was determined that both generators had been configured for natural gas rather than propane. The issue has since been corrected.

Discussion was held regarding changing the generators' self-test schedule from monthly to weekly. It was also noted that the current generator service provider plans to retire next month. Precision Power was identified as a potential service provider and offers contracts that include six-month and annual inspections. No action was taken.

Vehicle Use / Travel Policy

The recently updated Vehicle Use/Travel Policy was reviewed to clarify several items that caused confusion. The Board discussed adding the Vehicle Assignment page as an appendix and including language in the policy directing employees with assigned vehicles to that appendix. It was noted that the policy applies to all county employees operating or riding in county vehicles, including expectations for passengers, reporting accidents promptly, and driving responsibly.

Proposed revisions to paragraph 12 will clarify that the checklist/clipboard requirement applies only to the three vehicles maintained by the Assessor's Office. Additional clarifying language was also recommended.

Revisions will be made and brought back for approval at a future meeting. No action was taken.

Development Code – 7th Amendment Approval

The board approved the final draft of the development code that incorporated the amendments to allow Welding Shop, Storage (enclosed building) and Storage (fenced area) in an agricultural zone with the issuance of a conditional use permit. Additionally, welding shop was added to the Ordinance to establish standards for the issuance of conditional use permits for welding shops.

Commissioner Eliason moved to approve the amendments to the Oneida County Development Code, Ordinance No. 2022-08-01. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Quotes for Projected R&B Purchases for FY2027

Road and Bridge Supervisor Dianna Dredge reported that a new wing is needed for the Holbrook grader, as the current wing has been repaired multiple times and is no longer serviceable. It was also reported that the truck currently used for magnesium chloride application has experienced significant corrosion, resulting in frame damage and a cracked tank. A replacement water truck is needed, and Supervisor Dredge advised that a county truck could be outfitted with a tank and requested an authorization request to place an order and use fiscal year 2027 funds for payment due to the limited-time pricing.

Budget estimates were also presented for a replacement truck and snow removal equipment, including a truck chassis and related equipment consisting of a sander,



plow, hydraulics, and bed. She stated that the pricing was obtained through the Sourcewell purchasing program and that supporting documentation would be provided. In addition, a wing ripper was identified as a needed purchase.

Commissioner Eliason moved to approve Road & Bridge Department purchases for fiscal year (FY) 2027 beginning October 1, 2026, with orders to be placed in advance due to lead times, including an estimated \$27,153.32 for a Wing Ripper, \$143,147.00 for a new Mack truck, \$162,232.95 for the accompanying sander, plow, and hydraulics, and \$44,850.00 for a water truck and tank installation, which includes approximately \$15,000.00 for installation costs, all using Sourcewell cooperative purchasing comparisons. Seconded by Commissioner Jepps. All ayes. Motion carried.

Changes to the Oneida County Road Ordinance No. 2009-02-01

Road & Bridge Supervisor Dianna Dredge was present to discuss the proposed updates to the current ordinance, which will add a section addressing commercial gravel hauling. It was noted that, in the past, aggregate materials have been hauled and deposited on county roads without coordination with the Road and Bridge Department, creating concerns for county road infrastructure.

Several clarification points were discussed, and revisions will be made before the updated ordinance is brought back to the Board for consideration at a future meeting. No action was taken.

Commissioner Eliason moved to incorporate updates to the Oneida County Road Ordinance with adoption to take place at a future meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Jepps. All ayes. Motion carried.

Changes to the Highway Standards & Road Development (HSRDP)

The Board discussed the County Road Standards, which have been in place for nearly five years and need to be reviewed. The Board would like Legal Counsel, Road and Bridge, and Planning and Zoning to meet and go through the standards and bring back recommended updates. It was also discussed that an engineering firm may review the updates before finalization. No action was taken.

Bid Process for Propane Contract (7/1/2026 – 6/30/2027)

The Board approved the bid solicitation process for the propane contract for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. Sealed bids received will be reviewed at the last meeting in June. No motion was required.

Pool / Southeastern Idaho Public Health (SIPH) Inspections

Pool Manager Kami Willie reported that discussions regarding updates to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Le Grand Aqua Plunge (county swimming pool) and Southeast Idaho Public Health (SIPH) have been completed, and a final version is expected to be presented for approval at a future meeting. No action was taken.



Helicopter Spraying Project with the Forest Service - Weed Department

Dyer's Woad was discovered, and mitigation will be included as part of the Helicopter Spraying Project with the Forest Service. Weed Supervisor Cody Clyde will use a portion of grant spraying funds to help address the noxious weed. The Forest Service has funding available for this project, with anticipated full reimbursement to the County, although the exact dollar amount is currently unknown. If any agreements require signature prior to the next Commissioner meeting, a special meeting will be held as needed. No action was taken.

Water Study Report

Information from a recent water study meeting was discussed during the Board of Commissioners meeting. The water study meeting included representatives from MSBT Law and Great West Engineering.

Discussion centered on the information presented at that meeting regarding a complex water study report that has cost approximately \$74,000. Based on long-term water level data and the study findings, updates to development and comprehensive plans may be needed to help address potential aquifer depletion.

The final portion of Phase One of the water study includes informing the public. Estimated costs for outreach were discussed, including approximately \$1,500 for mailing postcards or letters, depending on the level of detail provided. A public meeting was also discussed, with an estimated cost of up to \$19,000, including mailing expenses.

Commissioner Lewis moved to authorize up to \$19,000.00 from contingency funds to move forward with an outreach program and additional updates to the county comprehensive plan related to mitigation of impacts from the decreasing aquifer. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Petty Cash Funds in Extension 4-H and Fairboard

Discussion was held regarding checks and balances for certain county-associated funds and accounts. Auditor Dane with Searle Hart & Associates recommended the discussion to ensure appropriate financial controls are in place.

The Fair Board was discussed, including raffle fundraising activities and the use of a self-funded checking account for fair-related expenses. It was noted that two signatures are required on checks. Clarification was requested regarding approved processes, as the Fair Board operates differently than other county departments. The County Clerk noted a desire to seek guidance from the state on interpretation of applicable state code to ensure proper procedures are followed.

The Extension Office 4-H program was also discussed. It was noted that the program maintains a separate checking account for 4-H funds, including registration fees and donations, and operates under a University of Idaho charter with established state protocols and annual audit procedures.

The Board expressed appreciation for the Fair Board and 4-H program. No action was taken.



Private Burial Grounds Ordinance

Board requested to move this to the June 11, 2026 agenda.

Oneida County Annual Juvenile Justice Report (2025) – Stace Gearhart

Juvenile Corrections District 6 Liaison Stace Gearhart and County Chief Probation Officer Gabe Jimenez presented the 2025 Oneida County Annual Juvenile Justice Report to the Board. No action was taken.

Youth arrests were reported as 26 in 2023, 24 in 2024, and 25 in 2025. Detention admissions into Idaho detention facilities (excluding IDJC holds and out-of-state placements) were 4 in 2023, 4 in 2024, and 11 in 2025. Youth petitions were 11 in 2023, 19 in 2024, and 6 in 2025.

Felony charges were reported as 15 in 2023, 2 in 2024, and 6 in 2025. Misdemeanor charges were 9 in 2023, 24 in 2024, and 7 in 2025. Status offenses were 2 in 2023, 1 in 2024, and 0 in 2025.

In 2025, probation intakes were 9 and releases were 3. Diversion intakes were 2 and releases were 0.

The probation success rate was reported at 67%, and the diversion success rate at 0%. Recidivism rates were reported at 8% at 6 months, 15% at 12 months, and 15% at 24 months. Youth on probation in 2025 totaled 7, with 0 on diversion. Youth in Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections custody totaled 3.

The average profile of youth offenders in Oneida County was reported as 14–16-year-old white males.

Oneida County Probation Policy Manual - Approval of Updates

Requestor moved this topic to the June 11, 2026 meeting to allow time to review recent changes.

Court House Flagpole

The 45-foot-tall flagpole in front of the Courthouse will need to be moved several feet to accommodate the updated sidewalk layout. Quotes are being sought for an upgraded pole with internal cords and a crank system. Assistance for the project, including potential crane and excavation support, is being explored.

Commissioner Jeppsen moved to use up to \$10,000 of contingency funds for a 45-foot flagpole at the Courthouse. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Department Updates & Highlights

Sheriff

Sheriff Williams reported that, since the last quarterly report, the Sheriff's Office has responded to 205 incident calls in the county, 192 calls in the city, and 12 calls involving the schools. Citation activity included 60 citations in the city and 37 in the county, and a total of 59 warnings were issued.



The Oneida County Sheriff's Office was recognized in a letter from the Idaho Attorney General's Office dated May 15, 2026, for its work on Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) cases. Sheriff Williams reported that several drug investigations are currently underway and noted that low staffing levels remain an ongoing concern for the department.

Evidence Technician Brittania Butler tested for the position of Deputy Sheriff and successfully passed all requirements. She is scheduled to attend POST training in September and will work on Field Training Officer (FTO) training in the interim. She is expected to be deputized soon. Sheriff Williams also noted that upcoming IDAPA rule changes may require a psychological evaluation and polygraph examination prior to hiring a deputy.

Sheriff Williams reported that a new shed for the gun range was delivered and installed through a grant obtained by the Extension Office. While preparing the site for installation, he removed the old canopy and discovered a significant amount of trash and debris that had been left at the range. He also noted a tripping hazard at the shed entrance and plans to obtain quotes to finish the interior and install cameras to help deter misuse of the facility. Revisions to the user waiver are also being considered.

Planning & Zoning

Oneida County's new Planning & Zoning Administrator is Darla Tombaugh, who reported an increase in development activity and permit requests. Main goals for the office will be to continue trying to streamline processes and ensure continuity of operations and increasing her knowledge base.

Attorney

The Prosecuting Attorney's Office discussed the ongoing issue of citations issued within the city when code enforcement services are not included in the county attorney's contract with the city.

Recent case dispositions were reviewed. Of 320 total cases handled in 2026 to date, 4 were felonies, 37 were misdemeanors, and 279 were infractions. Of those cases, 211 originated in the county and 109 within city limits. Case dispositions included 270 guilty findings, 46 pending cases, and 4 dismissals. The dismissed cases included one citation for driving without a license after proof of licensure was provided, one for driving without privileges, one speeding citation that resulted in bond forfeiture, and one additional dismissal.

The office also reported 11 juvenile cases in 2026 to date, including 2 felonies and 9 misdemeanors. Of those cases, 2 have resulted in guilty dispositions and the remaining cases are pending.

The office continues to work with Planning and Zoning on enforcement issues and hopes to resolve those matters prior to pursuing further legal action.

Probation

Chief Probation Officer Gabe Jimenez reported that Deputy Chief Probation Officer Kristi Christophersen completed Drug Court and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) training. Chief Jimenez and Deputy Chief Christophersen also completed Mental Health First Aid training in March.

Chief Jimenez reported that two juveniles were released from Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections custody. One was placed with a parent out of state, and one was placed with family locally. Additionally, five new diversion cases were received. The diversion agreements include more than 40 hours of community service and other program requirements. Participants will be supervised under diversion guidelines rather than probation.

Revisions to the probation manual are nearly complete and are pending final approval.

Fair

Fair Board Member Ken Moss Jr. reported that preparations for the annual fair are underway and that most entertainment has been scheduled.

Quotes to extend power for vendors came in higher than expected, and additional bids are being sought. The project is expected to use most of the Fair Board's available capital funds. Steve Werk is putting together preliminary plans for a future indoor arena to help the Fair Board understand what would be needed to make the project happen. Other long-term needs being discussed include improvements to the horse barns, additional electrical upgrades, and vendor infrastructure.

Three major water leaks have occurred on the fairgrounds this year and required repairs. It was also reported that the groundskeeper is doing well.

The Board of County Commissioners requested that the Fair Board provide its long-term plan and project priorities.

Veterans Service Officer

County Veterans Service Officer Dave Colten reported completing approximately a dozen veteran footstones. He also reported helping veterans with VA benefits issues.

The Memorial Day program was successful; however, the sound system needs improvement as attendees had difficulty hearing.

Coroner

The Coroner was not present. No department report was received.

Hospital

County Hospital Administrator John Williams provided an update based on preliminary audit and financial information for their fiscal year, which runs from July 1 through June 30.



Year-to-date operating revenue and expenses were reported at approximately \$23.3 million, with two months remaining in the fiscal year and a projected total near \$25 million. The hospital is slightly behind projections but expects to make it up by year end. Contractual write-offs, including bad debt, were reported at approximately 34% for April and 37% year-to-date.

Cost-saving efforts have improved overall financial performance, with a small year-end deficit expected to be eliminated. The hospital is holding reserves of more than 10% of operating expenses, equal to about 100–120 days of cash on hand.

Critical Access Hospital status was reviewed earlier this year and continues to be an important factor in reimbursement rates. Ongoing efforts continue to focus on managing costs and maintaining service stability.

Facility updates include completion of an interior remodel and prior use of COVID funds for lab equipment. Potential service expansion, including in-house dialysis, is being explored depending on space availability.

A deficiency-free clinical survey was reported for the prior year, with some anticipated deficiencies in long-term care. Overall, the facility continues to report strong statewide rankings and quality indicators, with future consideration of additional services such as total knee replacements.

Parks & Recreation

Parks & Recreation Department Manager Kami Willie, who oversees the Le Grande Aqua Plunge pool, provided an update.

Last year, the swimming pool received multiple grants and donations that funded updates including new dressing room stalls, a pergola, and other facility improvements. Pool usage included approximately 933 reservations. Nearly 800 students participated in swim lessons, with increasing demand for private lessons on Fridays and limited available scheduling time.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) related to inspections is currently under review and is intended to help clarify and support county responsibilities moving forward.

Maintenance items include replacement of deteriorated plywood in the pumphouse, which is included in the five-year plan due to long-term water exposure. A settling area along the south wall has impacted drainage and is not functioning properly. Office desks are also worn and will eventually need to be replaced.

Extension

County Extension Agent Sawyer Foncesbeck reported that the first three months of 2026 were a busy start to the year for the Extension Office, with the beginning of 4-H club meetings and multiple Extension classes and seminars.



Educational programming included hay research presentations at the Idaho Range Livestock Symposium, a calving school in Malad led in partnership with University of Idaho Extension veterinary staff, equine education seminars in East Idaho, and a beef school in Jefferson County. Additional training included livestock transportation emergency response instruction, with participation in a statewide effort to provide this curriculum to first responders.

Local programming included a seed-starting class taught by the Power County Extension educator and a Mental Health First Aid training that brought together participants from local healthcare, education, and government agencies.

The Oneida County 4-H program continued to grow, including a successful market beef weigh-in with 22 steers enrolled for the county fair, up from 15 the previous year. Active clubs included leather and cooking. Youth programming also included preparation for a spring break series and recruitment efforts for a summer AmeriCorps member.

Additional youth development activities included parliamentary procedure training provided to Malad High School FFA, FCCLA, and BPA students in preparation for competition.

Assessor

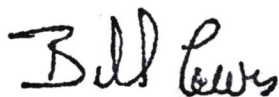
Assessor Kathleen Atkinson was present for part of the meeting; the Assessor's report was read into the record.

The report stated that appraisal tables have been updated, with review completed to ensure property values remain accurate and are not over- or under-assessed. The annual assessment notice drive has been completed and submitted to The Master's Touch for printing and mailing. Property owners were encouraged to review their assessment notices and contact the Assessor's Office with any concerns.

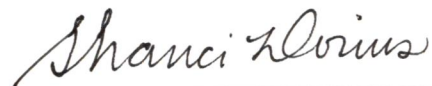
The office is seeking access to Multiple Listing Service (MLS) data to support more accurate property valuations, noting that most assessors across the state have access to this resource.

It was also reported that, following the departure of a DMV employee, the office will hire an appraiser trainee/DMV clerk to provide cross-training and improve succession coverage within the office. Certification for the appraiser trainee role typically takes two to three years.

***** Meeting adjourned by 2:15 pm*****



Bill Lewis, Chairman



Shanci Dorius, Deputy Clerk

