

MEETING MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The meeting was opened by Commissioner Lewis leading the Pledge of Allegiance and offering a prayer.

Commissioner Lewis called for a review of the agenda.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to add planning and zoning discussion and subdivisions discussion to the agenda.

Commissioner Christophersen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of the claims, meeting minutes for March 22nd, and one certificate of residency of Emily Allen.

Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Kathy Ray asked the commissioners to pledge \$5,000.00 dollars to the four-county economic development program for the coming fiscal year. The commissioners were apprehensive due to the uncertainty of available funds in the coming year.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve a letter of support for the four-county economic development program and to pledge \$5,000.00 dollars in the next budget pending available funds.

Commissioner Eliason seconded the motion. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Kris Smith asked the commissioners if they wanted to participate in the printing of a "Welcome to Malad" brochure. This paper has been printed for several years and is distributed throughout the county and placed in prominent locations for travelers to see. The purpose of the flyer is to enhance awareness to what amenities are available and to promote the county.

The requesting amount is \$290.00 dollars.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve \$290.00 dollars towards the "Welcome to Malad" Paper.

Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Swimming pool maintenance – Manager Kami Willie reported that the pool is still looking for someone to take care of the maintenance and that a local school teacher, Mr. Foster Garrett, has experience in pool maintenance. She asked the commissioners if Mr. Garrett could be approached about the position. The commissioners were in favor of the suggestion. The rules for operation this summer were discussed. It was determined that they should follow the Governors directive for number of people gathered at the same event. Kami further reported that the dividers in the bathrooms were in bad condition and that they could be replaced. The

estimated cost to install new partitions was \$3,372.00 dollars. The commissioners indicated that the stalls could be replaced if the money was in the current budget.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve Foster Garrett as pool maintenance person on a part time basis.

Commissioner Christophersen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Financial audit for FY2020 – Farrell Steiner presented the annual financial audit information for FY2020. Graphs were presented for each fund showing the revenue, expense and cash balance. The auditor gave a “clean audit” or unmodified audit report for the county.

Hailey Smith reported to the commissioners regarding her position of specialty court coordinator. She explained the drug court program and how she works with the participants and drug court personnel to provide treatment plans that will allow the greatest success among the participants.

Treasurer Leigh Love reported that the job of the county treasurer was to safe guard the county funds and as such, she was moving the county finances to Idaho Central Credit Union (ICCU). This move came after recent discussions with both US Bank corporate representatives and ICCU representatives regarding fees and other charges billed to the county for management of county funds. ICCU offered their services with greatly reduced fees which prompted the move.

Kim Evans approached the commissioners about two different road issues. The first was that of the Harold John canyon road. The access is being limited by gates presumably installed by a private citizen and is said to impact access to BLM ground. The commissioners thought it best to travel to the location to obtain a better understanding of the road and where it’s starting and ending points are. They will investigate the area following the first commissioner meeting in May.

The second road concern was the limited access of the New Canyon road. It was said that the Forest Service should be allowing access beyond the mouth of the canyon to a designated turn around that was installed in the past. Mr. Evans asked the county to communicate with the Forest Service to see if the road can be opened. Commissioner Lewis indicated that he would investigate this site.

Road validation – Lisa Baker has been working to prepare needed information to validate all current county roads. In her investigation she found that no official records were available to prove the county rights of way and she thought it best to have a current record giving validation to the roads used on a daily basis. Process and requirements for properly giving notice of the hearing and conducting the hearing were discussed.

Commissioner Lewis reported the activities surrounding the design and bidding of the elevator addition to the court house. Currently the committee is waiting for the final bid documents to be provided by the architect after which they will move forward with efforts to bid the project.

Road and bridge wages – Foreman Blaisdell asked the commissioners to consider a wage increase of \$1.00 for the road department operators. He explained that he has had two employees resign due to better paying job offers. He further explained that it is hard to find quality candidates for the operator position due to the low starting wage. It was also identified that possibly three other employees are considering retirement before the end of the calendar year. He suggested a starting wage of \$16.50 with the option to increase to \$17.50 if they have experience. Commissioner Lewis indicated that he would like to see additional incentives for operators completing designated training.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to authorize road and bridge to hire replacements for the two open operator positions.

Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve a \$1.00 dollar increase for the current road and bridge operators effective immediately and to allow \$16.00 dollar starting wage for all new hires up to \$17.00 dollars if they have experience.

Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Road foreman Blaisdell asked for authorization to order a new truck complete with the dump bed, snow plow and sander. The bid for this truck is \$216,017.20. Because it is a piggy back bid the county does not need to re bid for the truck. If ordered now the truck would be delivered in the next fiscal year which will allow the cost to be placed in the next budget and current cash on hand will cover the expense.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve the ordering of a new T880 Kenworth truck at a cost of \$216,017.20, contingent on verification of the bid meeting proper bid processes.

Commissioner Christophersen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Teresa McKnight presented information on the regional economic development inc. REDI, as it is known, represents 15 east and southeast Idaho counties and helps provide information to interested companies investigating options for construction or relocation of their facilities. Commissioner Lewis as been working with REDI in an effort to build a long-term plan for Oneida County.

Solid Waste exemption- The commissioners received a request for exemption of the solid waste fees from Jennette Romero, a citizen living in the south west corner of the county. Jennette has never received a collection can and has not utilized the drop cans in Juniper. Commissioner Lewis, along with IDAWY representative Jayson Lower investigated the issue. The commissioners thought that the fee was necessary due to the county requirement to provide a landfill to be paid by all citizens. it was further identified that waste pickup services may get better when the Black Pine mine opens up.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to deny the solid waste exemption submitted by Jennette Romero.

Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

The quarterly joint Treasurer/Auditor report was reviewed.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the quarterly joint Treasurer/Auditor report.

Commissioner Christophersen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Treasurer Leigh Love asked the commissioners to sign a sheet giving approval for all fuel sales at the airport to be transferred into the new county account at ICCU.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the transfer of airport fuel sales to the ICCU account.

Commissioner Christophersen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

The commissioners reported that the local chamber of commerce was stepping back from hosting certain functions in the community such as the 4th, of July celebration. The city suggested that the city/county economic development could take on the role as hosts. Commissioners were in favor of helping the city host the celebration but did not think it should run through economic development. Commissioner Eliason further indicated that he was in favor of helping out but did not think the county should be an equal partner in the cost.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to support the city in hosting the 4th of July celebration. Commissioner Christophersen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Commissioner Lewis reported that building permits have increased as compared to those sold one year ago. He stated that the inspector has need for more hours to complete the required inspections he is facing and indicted that the county may need to increase his wage in order to keep him as an employee.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to increase the eligible hours for the building inspector from 30 hours pre week to 40 hours per week.

Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

It was suggested that the county explore placing a moratorium on all subdivision for a short time. More discussion will come in the future.

The commissioners addressed the current jail contract with Caribou County. The suggestion was made to approach Caribou to see if the contact would be modified or suspended for a short time during the COVID-19 pandemic. The current contract is for a minimum of 8 beds at \$65.00 dollars per bed, per day. Oneida has not utilized all the allotted beds for several months and would like to negotiate a lower rate for the sort term.

The county commissioners joined in a conversation with Caribou via telephone to explore the options. Caribou consented to a minimum of four beds guaranteed plus beds used in excess of this agreement with a review to be held in four months.

The commissioners discussed the three ordinances that were shared in the last meeting.

Ord #2 – for motorized vehicles and trespass laws.

Ord #1-83 – dealing with possession of beer kegs.

Ord #87-1 – gathering of more than 1000 people without a permit.

The commissioners were in agreeance that the trespass ordinance was not needed as Idaho law already addresses this issue and multiple laws would not be needed. They further agreed that the keg law controlling who could possess the keg was not needed due to kegs not being utilized and again state law was already in place. The third ordinance dealing with gatherings over 1000 thousand people was thought to be a good ordinance as it helps control how people assemble in a manner as to address safety and health.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to repeal Ord. #2 dealing with trespass law.

Commissioner Christophersen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to repeal Ord. #1-83 dealing with beer kegs.

Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to keep Ord. #87-1 dealing with larger gatherings of people.

Commissioner Christophersen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

A grant was awarded for historic preservation in Oneida County. The grant is in the amount of \$15,000.00 dollars for the purpose of writing a historic preservation plan. As the money is expended then reimbursement can be requested. Kirk Huffaker has been asked to help write the plan and has submitted a bill for \$1,300.00 dollars.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve the expense of \$1,300.00 dollars from the historic preservation grant.

Commissioner Christophersen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to move into executive session per IC 74-206 (1)(d) To consider records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in chapter 1, title 74, Idaho Code;

Commissioner Christophersen seconded. roll call vote was taken

Commissioner Eliason – aye

Commissioner Lewis – aye

Commissioner Christophersen – aye

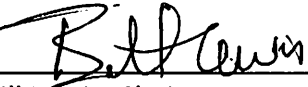
The motion carried.

April 12th, 2021

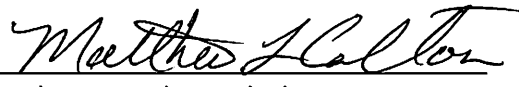
Following the executive session the commissioners discussed the medical indigent case #10-HW1.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to deny medical indigent case #10-HW1 due to the county not being the last resort and lack of cooperation.

Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.



Bill Lewis, Chairman



Matthew L. Colton, Clerk