



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BILL LEWIS, CHAIRMAN – BOB CHRISTOPHERSEN – KEN ELIASON

10 COURT STREET, MALAD, IDAHO 83252

Commissioner Minutes October 12th, 2021

All commissioners present.

Commissioner Lewis called for a review of the agenda.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to add "road standards" to the agenda for discussion. Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

The consent agenda consisting of the payment of claims and meeting minutes for September 13th, and 22nd, was addressed.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Christophersen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Michelle Parker presented a PLAT map for commissioner approval per the county development code regarding minor subdivisions. A letter of recommendation from the planning and zoning department was also provided.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the PLAT map for Michelle Parker. Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

The pathology agreement with Ada County is due for renewal. This agreement is utilized when Oneida County needs autopsies or other type work done. This agreement has been in place for several years.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the renewal of the pathology agreement with Ada County.

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

Gene Caldwell met with the commissioners to request additional funding for the American Legion building. They are having issues with their roof and would like to replace it next summer. Commissioner Lewis asked about their financial situation and how they have utilized the money the county has allocated to them in the past. Concern is that other buildings like the museum are also in need of repairs and the county has limited resources that can be allocated to non-county facilities. Commissioner Lewis exclaimed that he would like to see their financial plan and maintenance schedule in order to discuss an issue like this.

John Evans; Samaria roads - Concerns were expressed about the condition of the roads in Samaria and questions were raised in regards to how the road and bridge determined which roads/pot holes were fixed and which ones were skipped over. It was explained that the department has limited resources and that roads



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needing repair are looked at in a few different ways including total usage and type of repairs needed. It was further explained that when they are filling the pot holes the crew must look at which holes will accept the repair and which ones will fail if repaired. They then must utilize the available repair mix in those holes best suited for being repaired. Mr. Evans also had other questions regarding cost to repair roads based on their structure such as gravel vs. asphalt.

Road and bridge reported that the new truck that was ordered several months ago had been canceled due to high demands and low supply coupled with the manufactures inability to keep up with their production. The seller did state that they had a limited number of trucks that had been delivered and that they would hold one for Oneida County however the cost would be \$10,000.00 dollars more due to their cost increase. The suggestion was to accept the increase in cost mainly because of the need for the truck now and the uncertainty of when the supply chain would open up and another opportunity to purchase a truck would become available.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the purchase of the truck for \$213,963.39 in lieu of the canceled order by the manufacture.

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

Secret canyon road – A road running across Mr. Baggley's land connects a county road with Forest Service land known as Secret canyon. Mr. Baggley had installed gates on this road and has been working with the county and Forest Service to place a maximum width on this road to help keep people from driving on his land and causing damage. He is seeking to reduce the right of way to 25 feet. Attorney Brower indicated that if the right of way is in the counties name that they may have to conduct a vacation/validation hearing to make any changes.

Road and bridge reported that one of their newest employee's had contracted COVID and they were wondering what could be done in regards to pay. He has only been employed for a few months and has not been able to save many hours of PTO time.

Commissioner Eliason was excused for another appointment.

Caribou Jail Contract – The contract with Caribou County was modified to reference a 6 beds guaranteed rather than the previous 8 beds. All other aspects of the contract remained much the same.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the new jail contract with Caribou County. Commissioner Lewis seconded. Both commissioners approved and the motion carried.

The Sheriff's office is required to have a policing policy for their department. The current policy is due for renewal and the request has been made to renew the policy.



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Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to renew the Idaho Policing Policy for the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Lewis seconded. Both commissioners approved and the motion carried.

A communication grant for the E-911 system was presented. The grant, in the amount of \$69,726.94.00, will span two years covering around 80% of maintenance costs.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve the communications grant for the Sheriff's office. Commissioner Lewis seconded. Both commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Clerk Colton presented a resolution, #2021-10-01, to allow for the use of the county's forgone taxes as approved when the budget was finalized and approved.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to approve resolution #2021-10-01 using the forgone taxes in the next budget cycle.

Commissioner Lewis seconded. Both commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Historic preservation plan – The county created a certified local government (CLG) entity for the purpose of historical preservation. The board for this CLG applied for and received a grant to help write a historic preservation plan. The plan was written with the help of Kirk Huffaker who attended the meeting and gave a brief description of his plan and the processes.

Buildings in the community already on the registry were discussed along with those structures that may potentially be included in the future.

Per diem allowances – Earlier in the year the commissioners approved an increase for the per diem rates effective October 1st. They also discussed an allowance for employees who drive their own car when the county car is available. This allowance would be half of the regular rate. Further a new voucher request was presented at the request of the commissioners, allowing

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve the use of a voucher for the employee reimbursement and to award 50% of the mileage rate for employees who choose to drive their own vehicle when the county car is available.

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

Events center policy – The commissioners discussed the need to create/update a policy for the event center. Commissioner Lewis asked commissioner Eliason to work with Rhonda to create a policy for the board to review.

Department hiring – The commissioners reiterated the fact that all department under their direction must work with the commissioners when hiring a new part time or full time employee. Commissioner Eliason will work with probation regarding their need for a part time tutor.



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Opioid settlement – The commissioners received an offer to join in a class action suit dealing with the opioid pandemic. By joining in the suit, they would commit to not initiating a separate law suit on their own in exchange for a portion of the total payout. The payout would have restrictions on use and would go towards prevention and rehabilitation efforts.

Commissioner Christophersen made the motion to join in the Opioid settlement.
Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

COVID benefits discussion – The commissioners addressed the possible need to help employees out when they contract COVID. Commissioner Lewis reported on how a few of the other counties are handling the issue including Bear Lake, Franklin and Caribou Counties. When the counties previous temporary policy expired it was agreed that the employees have the opportunity to bank PTO sufficient to cover their medical needs. The consensus was that any new policy should be for employee sickness only and not to care for family. The determination was made to grant two weeks of paid COVID leave to any employee contracting the sickness provided they have a positive test from a medical provider/doctor and that they haven't previously received any time off in the past for the same issues. If an employee has already received two or more weeks off due to COVID then they must use PTO, comp. time or sick time for their absence. The two weeks can only be used for the employee's illness and not for the employee's time to care for others. Rare exceptions may allow for the extension of the two-week period but only if approved by the commissioners.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to provide COVID relief in the form of two weeks paid time off for all employee's contracting COVID, verified by a positive test by doctor or other certified medical provider, if the employee hasn't already received time off for the same illness in the past. The time will be for the employee sickness only and can not be used to care for others, that emergence essential workers may be exempt from the policy, and that the effective date will be October 1st, 2021 and run through April 30th, 2022.
Commissioner Eliason seconded the motion. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

The commissioners asked for all departments to come prepared to discuss possible APRA expenditures in the next meeting. This discussion will be used to help prepare a final plan on how to utilize the available funding.

Commissioner Lewis reported that a notice will be placed in the paper for the replacement of extension office secretary.

The road standards effectivity was questioned and verification was given that the new road standards will be valid after the public hearing to change chapter 17 of the development code and the road standards have been approved by resolution.

The meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Lewis".

Bill Lewis, Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew J. Colton".

Lon Colton, Clerk