



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BILL LEWIS, CHAIRMAN – KEN ELIASON – BRIAN JEPSEN

10 COURT STREET, MALAD, IDAHO 83252

Meeting minutes for April 10th, 2023

Commissioners in attendance: Bill Lewis, Ken Eliason, Brian Jeppsen

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and pray offered by commissioner Lewis.

Commissioner Lewis called for a review of the agenda.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to add the following item to the agenda for discussion.

Construction manager posting, town hall meeting, weed department part time position.

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

Commissioner Lewis addressed the consent agenda consisting of payment of claims and meeting minutes from March 20th, and 27th.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the consent agenda.

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

Tax exemption requests – Oneida Crisis Center, Presbyterian Church and the American Legion Post 65 returned forms seeking to receive the property tax exemption for tax year 2023, per Idaho Code.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the continued property tax exemption for the Oneida Crisis Center and American Legion Post 65.

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

The Presbyterian Church has a home on the property near their church. In the past this home was provide to their clergy but is currently being rented to a family which causes some concern to the commissioners because it is for profit. Toni Werk, representing the church, gave argument as to why she felt they should receive the exemption. Attorney Brower stated that Idaho Code does not allow for the tax exemption on properties being used for profit. The commissioners deliberated the issue but could not find a path that would allow the exemption.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve the continued property tax exemption for the Presbyterian church for all property except the rental home.

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

Road and Bridge – some budget lines such as the fuel budget, will be exceeded this year due to the additional work during the winter. Dianna reported that even though these lines will be exceeded, they should underspend other lines and stay within the overall approved amount. Also reported was the loss of a grader motor and the need to rent another grader for a month. The reason for the rental is to

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allow for continues work of blading the gravel roads while they have moisture in them before they dry out. The rebuild will cost from \$30,000.00 to \$50,000.00.

The grader rental will cost around \$10,000.00 plus about \$2,000.00 for them to deliver.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to ratify the decision to rent a road grader for \$10,625.00 with \$2,424.00 for delivery.

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

Dianna suggested signing a road agreement with Hess Pumice for the pumice mine road. the agreement would be like the agreement with Pilot gold mine in the Juniper area. An agreement was presented to the commissioners for review.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the pumice mine road agreement.

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

Emergency Services – Dan Williams stated that work had been completed on the All-Hazard Mitigation plan and final approve by the commissioners was needed. Resolution 2023-04-01 giving this approval was presented.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve resolution 2023-04-01 adopting the new All-Hazard Mitigation plan.

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

Swimming pool – a proposal was presented to help with scheduling the swimming lessons each year. Bookeo, a software for scheduling these activities has been requested. It would cost around \$240.00 per year and would eliminate having a manager spending time receiving phone calls and tracking the registrants in a note book. The commissioners questioned the revenues from swim lessons and what the credit card fee would be. The topic was tabled pending further information.

Beer licenses – the convenience store doing business as KJ's has been sold and the new owners would like the beer license to reverence their ownership. The State license was updated with this new information and the request is for the commissioners to approve the change on the county information as well.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to approve the license for KJ's under the new ownership of Parkland USA.

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

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The commissioners asked about the budget process for FY2024. Clerk Colton stated that budget request sheets will be delivered to the departments this month and should be returned by the third Monday in May. Commissioner discussion will begin in June and should be finalized by the first of August to allow for publication in the newspaper prior to a public hearing and final adoption.

Election precincts – Larry Oja spoke to the commissioners against the proposal to increase or decrease the number of election precincts in Oneida County. Attorney Brower, speaking as a citizen and representing himself, suggested that precinct #5 and #6 be combined for the purpose of giving more equitable representation at the political party level. Commissioner Eliason and Commissioner Jeppsen spoke to the circumstances of convenience for the voters in these remote areas and the comparison to other precinct with in the state that also have differing numbers of voters.

Clerk Colton, the county election director, stated that election precincts are created for one purpose only and that is to provide adequate access to voters so that they have the opportunity of voting. On occasion they are used for other purposes such as election precinct committeemen however the precinct boundaries should not be determined based on their desires.

One-time expenses – Commissioner Lewis shared a report on money spent and money available for one-time expenses. He further suggested that these expenses be taken from the LATCF money coming from the Federal Government, given to the county after the covid pandemic.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to move one-time expenses from PILT to the LATCF fund and to create a budget line in the LATCF fund for money received after the budget was approved. Commissioner Jeppsen seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Road and bridge generator – previously the commissioners had approved the shared cost for a backup generator for road and bridge. And for the purchase of a traffic counter. With the availability of the LATCF money he has proposed to pay for 100% of the generator and traffic counter. Further it was found that the traffic counter was sold at a discount and they purchased two of them for the same cost previously approved by the commissioners.

Commissioner Jeppsen made the motion to reimburse the road and bridge for the backup generator and two traffic counters with LATCF funding. Commissioner Eliason seconded. All commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Two bids were presented for the installation of a fence around the HVAC unit at event center. The first bid was for \$3,050.00 and the second one was for \$2,150.00. The second bid also included a larger gate.

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Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the bid of \$2,150.00 from Costney fence to put chain link fence around the HVAC at the event center.

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

Gravel is needed around the sides of the event center to build up the road way. it is estimated that six to ten loads will be needed. Commissioner Lewis also stated that due to issues with a renter of the event center, that five loads of gravel were spread in the parking area and that a concerned citizen further contributed \$500.00 dollars to help with the additional gravel. Commissioner Lewis asked for ratification of this \$2,000.00 expense.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve the five loads of gravel for the event center parking.

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

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve up to eleven loads or \$4,500.00 dollars for gravel to be placed on the roadways on each side of the event center.

Commissioner Jepsen seconded. All commissioners approved.

Construction manager position has been out for bid with a due date of May 1st. No response has been given at this time.

Weed department would like to move forward with hiring part time help for spraying noxious weeds. The commissioners stated that in the past they have allowed \$14.00 dollars per hour or \$15.00 dollars per hour if they are certified.

Cody also asked for a two way radio for his vehicle. Communication is difficult via cell phone in some parts of the county and a radio would help minimize the dead spots.

It was suggested that perhaps one of the entities would have a used one he could use.

The commissioners were reminded that Governor Little will be coming to Oneida County for his "Capitol for a day" program. The city is hosting the event and they have asked for monetary help.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve up to \$600.00 dollars for help with food and another \$600.00 dollars to help with advertising.

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

Attorney Brower recapped the changes that have been suggested for the development code. The commissioners will continue to work on the upgrades.

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Comprehensive plan – the commissioners recognize the need to review and update the comp plan and further suggested that perhaps some outside help could be obtained.

Commissioner Lewis reminded those present that the town hall meeting will be held on Wednesday of this week beginning at 6:00 pm.

County policies – Commissioner Jepsen questioned the priority of use that has been determined in the event center policy by asking which departments have precedence over the others. They further discussed when rental fees and when a renter would be given use of the facility without charge or a reduce charge. They will work on defining a fund raiser compared to a commercial venture for profit. The travel policy needs to be provided to all commissioners prior to discussion in a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bill Lewis", written over a horizontal line.

Bill Lewis, Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Matthew L. Colton", written over a horizontal line.

Matthew L. Colton, Clerk

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