



## ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BILL LEWIS, CHAIRMAN – KEN ELIASON – BRIAN JEPSEN

10 COURT STREET, MALAD, IDAHO 83252

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### Meeting minutes for September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Attendance: Bill Lewis, Brian Jepps

Absent: Ken Eliason

Pledge of Allegiance and prayer offered by Commissioner Lewis.

Commissioner Lewis called for a review of the agenda. No changes were made.

Commissioner Jepps made the motion to approve the consent agenda except for the meeting minutes.

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

Commissioner Jepps wanted to reconsider the planning and zoning board suggestion to survey the proposed impact zone mentioned in the minutes. No changes to the meeting minutes were suggested. The recommendation will be reviewed.

Commissioner Jepps made the motion to approve the meeting minutes as written.

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

Ben Naylor went before the planning and zoning board with a request to rezone some land from agriculture to rural residential. Ben stated that at the hearing he was told that a one-time split was still available and because he had other options his request was denied. The decision from the public hearing was taken to the commissioners and a commissioners public hearing was scheduled. Ben is in the process of getting the new application as suggested by the planning and zoning board and was instructed that the commissioner hearing could be canceled. He has come before the commissioners to seek an additional 60-day extension on his hearing from the scheduled 18<sup>th</sup> of October to the 18<sup>th</sup>, of December. If he is successful in complying with the requirements for the one-time split and a permit is issued then he can cancel the public hearing but was apprehensive in doing so without the permit in hand.

Attorney Brower was consulted. He stated that if the request was made by Mr. Naylor, then it would be ok. He further stated that the 60-day requirement to hold the hearing, as written in the development code, was there to protect the applicant.

Commissioner Jepps made the motion to approve the request by Ben Naylor to extend his public hearing by 60 days and to hold the hearing on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

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

Boundary line agreement – Assessor Atkinson explained that a local realtor, Mike Atkinson, had recently purchased an older home adjacent to the court house. He has been talking to neighbors about the boundary lines and existing fence lines. He has made a request that the county sign a boundary line

September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023



## ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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10 COURT STREET, MALAD, IDAHO 83252

agreement for that area of his property that borders the county property and further asked if the county would help pay for the survey.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to support a boundary line agreement with Mr. Atkinson at no cost to the county.

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

Rhonda Neal, representing Sam Carter, presented a PLAT map to the commissioners for a minor subdivision. It was stated that all entities such as the school, road and bridge and the fire department, had given their approval. The application was also approved by planning and zoning and is now before the commissioners. All signatures on the PLAT map have been obtained.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to approve the minor subdivision request by Sam Carter and to sign the PLAT map.

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

Road agreement – Hess Pumice was presented with a road agreement early in the year pertaining to a section of road connecting the pumice and perlite mines in the Daniels area. The agreement was like one signed with Pilot Gold who is operating in Cassia County adjacent to the south west portion of Oneida County. Mike Hess Jr. reported to the commissioners that their legal team has been reviewing the agreement and making some changes. Mr. Hess pointed out that unlike Pilot Gold, the mine road near their operations was also used by other individuals and he did not feel they should be responsible to take over the entire road. Nevertheless, he was in favor of working with the county and signing an agreement, just not the same one as was presented to him. Once the changes have been made, a copy will be presented to the county for review.

Idaho Public Communications Grant – this grant will assist in operating the E-911 system in the county. the grant is for \$44,461.11 dollars total.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to approve the Idaho Public Communications Grant for \$44,461.11 dollars.

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

The Sheriff's policing policy is up for renewal. All law enforcement agencies are required to have a policy and Oneida county uses one offered by the Law Enforcement Policy Center LLC.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to approve the renewal of the sheriff's policing policy.

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

September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023



## ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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10 COURT STREET, MALAD, IDAHO 83252

Sheriff Jones expressed concern with foot traffic in the phone room located in the basement of the court house. During the elevator construction many subcontractors have been accessing this room for various reasons causing concern with the integrity of the communications. Most notably the E-911 system. His request is to place a lock on the door whereby anyone needing access can contact his office, giving some accountability to all that have access to his equipment. The clerk stated that the same awareness would be beneficial for all who want to access the server room on the main floor. With the elevator now complete, there are a few blind spots in the court house where additional cameras would be of benefit for security reasons. One of those areas is on the top floor in the hallway adjacent to the elevator lobby. Commissioners will work with building official Tory Richardson to get bids for an additional camera.

The Sheriff identified a recent reduction in his staff and his need for more manpower. He further noted that several of his employees are working overtime to fill the positions that are vacant. He anticipates that comp time could become an issue and wanted the commissioners to consider a paydown of accumulates hours. he further stated that a few of his employees are at the maximum accrued rate for PTO and would also like this time paid down. Currently the comp time for the sheriff's office has a maximum accrual limit of 150 hours before action can be taken. PTO will stop accruing after 500 hours. The sheriff stated that a few of his employees are already at the 500 maximum for PTO. It was further identified that those with 500 PTO hours have been there for several months because of their own decisions and not because of the current manpower crisis. Also, there are others in the county are in the same situation in both road and bridge and the clerk office.

Commissioner Lewis wanted time to research and asked that the topic be place on the next agenda. The vehicle insurance was discussed as the sheriff explained that each windshield will cost around \$800.00 dollars to replace. the current deductible rate is \$1,500.00 dollars and will increase to \$3,000.00 dollars with next years renewal. It was questioned if there was anything that could be done to reduce this amount.

It was explained by ICRMP that the actuarial findings for Oneida County dictated an increase. the two options were to increase the deductible to \$3,000.00 dollars or to increase the annual premiums by 30%. The increase in deductible had less of an impact.

Road and bridge would like to move forward on their safety grant that was awarded to them for the purpose of installing centerline rumble strips on approved roads. The first step in this process is to hire an engineering firm. Three firms were named as possibilities in showing interest in this project. Those firms were J-U-B, Forsgren, and Keller. The county has worked with all three firms in one capacity or another over the last 10 years. another firm, Civil Science was also added to the list.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve J-U-B, Forsgren, Keller and Civil Science as firms that should receive bid paperwork for the county road safety project.

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

September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023



## ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BILL LEWIS, CHAIRMAN – KEN ELIASON – BRIAN JEPSEN

10 COURT STREET, MALAD, IDAHO 83252

Court room remodel – a committee has been working with architect Ted Booth to design a remodel of the court room for ADA compliance. This committee has made their final proposal and further spoke to Jared Lusk of construction services. The remodel will locate the judge on the west of the court room and make needed changes to other rooms. The overall cost is projected to be around \$280,000.00 to \$300,000.00 dollars. Commissioner Lewis thought that some contingency should also be added into the total.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to set aside \$330,000.00 dollars from the Federal LATCF money for the purpose of remodeling the court room for ADA compliance.

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

Joint Powers Agreement – this agreement with ICRPM is the county insurance program that covers the insurance requirements necessary for a county.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to and sign the joint powers agreement with ICRMP for 2024. Commissioner Lewis seconded. Both commissioners approved and the motion carried.

Forest service runoff on county roads – Road secretary Lisa Baker informed the commissioners on the water runoff from two-mile road that crosses Old Hwy. 191 south of Malad. She spoke of the impact that it has had on washing out the sides of the county road and the actions the county has taken in the past to mitigate the issue. It was further noted that this water is under agreement with the Forest Service and the Alders and she felt that the owners should be responsible for the damages. Other like situations in the county were spoken of as well. The recommendation was made to provide a notice of responsibility and liability of cost for anyone who causes damage to county roads.

Attorney Brower has been selected as a district judge to serve in Caribou County and throughout the 6<sup>th</sup> judicial district. The process to fill this position was reviewed. The county would like to have a wide spread advertisement to ensure a good pool of candidates. The hope is to have someone in place by the first of November. Commissioner Lewis stated that the county may want to help pay for advertising to help get the notice out.

Commissioner Jepsen made the motion to approve the prosecutor to work with the republican party chairman in the submitting of a notice for a replacement of the county prosecutor.

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

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to move into an executive session per IC 74-206 (1)(c) To acquire an interest in real property which is not owned by a public agency;

Commissioner Jepsen seconded. a roll call vote was taken.

Commissioner Lewis – Aye

September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023



## ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Commissioner Jepsen – Aye  
The motion carried.

The executive session was concluded and the regular meeting resumed.

Commissioner Lewis stated that the county may be interested in purchasing a couple of properties in the county and suggested they be appraised. The appraisal will allow the commissioners to determine if the purchase should be sought after.

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve the expense, up to \$3,000.00 dollars, for the appraisal of two parcels of land for possible purchase.

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

The commissioners were pleased to accept an award at the annual IAC conference on behalf of the ambulance service for having zero car crash fatalities in 2022. This award was given to only a few counties. At the commissioner's request, members of the ambulance crew attended the commissioner meeting to receive the award.

Commissioner Lewis and Jepsen also discussed the training from the conference, on how to develop county employees.

One suggestion was a book called "Thank you for the Feed Back". It was suggested that this book could have a positive impact on employees. The commissioners suggested working with the department heads first and then branch out to other employees.

Lacie Clark met with the commissioners about a request earlier in the year. this request was to help purchase portable horse stalls. The extension office was awarded a small grant that could purchase one stall however they were hoping to achieve at least three or four stalls. It was stated that the deadline to use the grant money was November 1<sup>st</sup>. The commissioners asked Lacie to verify the time line and to check on which brand of stall was being considered. Commissioner Lewis stated that if they were to purchase new stalls, he wanted to get something that would last. He suggested researching the brand used in Knab Utah. He stated that he has used them in the past and felt they were a very good brand.

The meeting was adjourned.

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

Bill Lewis, Chairman

September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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

Matthew L. Colton, Clerk