



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bill Lewis, Chairman – Ken Eliason – Brian Jeppsen

459 South Main St, Malad, ID 83252

Commissioner's Meeting

25 MARCH 2024 1:00 PM *RECORDING 240325-0051 *

IN ATTENDANCE: County Commissioners Bill Lewis and Brian Jeppsen (in person), and Ken Eliason (via phone)

The pledge and prayer to open the regular meeting were led by Commissioner Jeppsen.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to accept the agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to accept and approve the minutes as amended and claims as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

The need for an executive session was discussed, regarding Idaho Code 74-206 (b).

Commissioner Lewis motioned to have an executive session on April 8, 2024 prior to the regularly scheduled meeting per Idaho Code 74-206 (b). Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Idaho Code 74-206(b) To consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, or public school student;

Dianna Dredge with Road & Bridge stated that one (1) gravel card per person, per year is good for up to forty (40) tons at the Stone gravel pit. The cards are currently sold for three-dollars (\$3.00) per ton, which is about half of what the county pays. Ms. Dredge requested the commissioners approve raising the price to six-dollars (\$6.00) per ton for the Stone Pit.

Commissioner Eliason motioned to raise the pit run gravel price in Stone from three-dollars (\$3.00) to six-dollars (\$6.00) per ton. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

An RM22 Brouwer Rotary Finishing Mower (serial #1150) for the airport is available to buy from Terry Davis at Davis Sod for three-thousand-dollars (\$3,000). Terry Davis is also on the airport board and would recuse himself of the vote to purchase, but the commissioners can approve the purchase at the commissioner level. Attorney Lyle Fuller advised looking at the fair market value prior to purchase.

The discussions regarding gravel getting onto the airport taxiway and runway was tabled, pending more information. The airport hanger lease agreement was updated and lessees have signed.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve the change to the maintenance section of the airport lease agreement, revision 12.2 from March 12, 2024. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jeppsen referenced Idaho Code 65-601 and the obligation the county may have to assist veterans in applying for benefits/aid and Bob Stokes was appointed as the contact for Oneida County, as he is already the local VSO.

65-601. SERVICE OFFICER APPOINTED TO AID VETERANS OR DEPENDENTS. The board of county commissioners of any county in the state shall have power and authority and in its discretion may appoint a service officer whose duty it shall be to give aid and assistance to any veteran, widow, widower or dependent thereof in applying to the federal or state veterans' agencies for all benefits and aid to which the veteran, widow, widower or dependent thereof is entitled by federal, state or local laws, rules or regulations. Such appointment may, in the discretion of the board of county commissioners, be a separate office or additional duty imposed upon an existing county official, or [,] at the discretion of the board, such appointment may be made, and the expenses and salary thereof financed in conjunction with any service organization or organizations operating within the county.

Mr. Stokes presented updated information as Oneida County's Veteran's Service Officer. With assistance from Commissioner Jeppsen and Melissa Hartman (District Veterans Service Affairs), Mr. Stokes obtained information about a grant for up to \$3,000 and has applied for it. It will be 30-60 days before Mr. Stokes hears if his grant application was approved. At the last commissioner meeting, Mr. Stokes requested a printer/scanner with internet at his home so he can work more efficiently. County Clerk Lon Colton found a used printer within the excess county property. Currently, Mr. Colton is testing the printer to ensure it will work properly.

Commissioner Jeppsen spoke with T.J. Burbank with IT Specialists who said he could set Mr. Stokes up with a virtual private network (VPN) that would allow Mr. Stokes to work securely from home.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to dedicate the excess county property Brother printer/scanner for use by the Veterans Service Officer Bob Stokes in performing his duties. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

The Daughters of the Revolution (DAR) and Hidden Heroes would like Oneida County to put forth a proclamation to recognize Oneida County's military caregivers and designate a point of contact for individuals.

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to accept the responsibility of signing a proclamation in collaboration with The Daughters of the Revolution and Hidden Heroes. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Joining by phone, county treasurer Leigh Love, assisted by Rachel Clark, shared information they obtained from ICRMP, which said it would be good to create an information-only Facebook page that would allow them to publish a quarterly newsletter.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to authorize a Facebook page for the county for sharing information. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

An agreement with iWorQ was recently signed to add the permit planning module for Planning and Zoning, but a public works permit module was unknowingly and mistakenly added. A new agreement was drawn up to remove the unwanted public works permits module and associated cost.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to agree to iWorQ's cost proposal that includes permit management system for planning & zoning for a total of \$6,650. Seconded by Commissioner Jeppsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioners discussed extending the later start time for meetings that has been temporarily in place since February. At that time, the commissioners agreed to a 1:00pm time to accommodate the schedules of Oneida County residents wishing to attend commissioner meetings but having conflicts with the regular 9:00am start time. Discussion on how the later start time has been working revealed that outside of longer meetings and future budgeting sessions,

extending the 1:00pm start time will work for commissioners as well as legal counsel (who has obligations in the late afternoon). Idaho statutes require one of the commissioner meetings each month be on the second Monday of the month but does not give direction otherwise. County Clerk Lon Colton was able to give an estimated timeline for when budgeting meetings would need to begin (end of May or first week of June).

Commissioner Jeppsen motioned to continue with the 1:00pm start time through April and May, with the ability to move the time to accommodate the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All ayes. Motion carried.

The TV Translator (TVT) District in Oneida County was started in 1975. As of 1977, the county has the ability to not only receive a signal but to also broadcast, which is good in the event of an emergency. The TVT District is struggling for funding and the five-member board currently has two open spots to fill.

Fish & Game representative Patrick Kennedy met with Commissioner Jeppsen regarding a few issues. The Deep Creek Agreement with the Forest Service states that Oneida County will maintain the facilities and the ramp and in turn, Fish & Game will stock the fish. In the event the county ends the agreement or no longer maintains the facilities, the County is responsible for pulling out the facilities and returning the land to its original state. Fish & Game is willing to assist with maintaining facilities and stocking the fish, so long as the area remains free for public access and use. Devils Creek Irrigation (possibly called MVI) is now charging to launch or dock boats. The docks are owned by Oneida County, but the county has no formal agreements with the entities that own the reservoir(s). By September of 2024, commissioners are interested in pursuing agreements/contracts with the private irrigation companies.

There is an opportunity to join other counties in an environmental consultant contract with Mary Darling of Darling Geomatics (out of Arizona) who does really good work managing things such as grizzly reintroduction, wolf and sage grouse management, timber, and etc. Oneida County may not have the issues on a scale large enough to necessitate joining the other counties on the contract, but commissioners would like to obtain more information and pricing for consideration.

Sheriff Arne Jones attended a training where budgeting methods were discussed. Many counties are adopting the concept of "percentage budgeting" where a department head submits the total of their budget line and requests an increase in the form of a percentage, rather than an actual number on a line-by-line basis. Then, the official can determine where that percentage

needs to be divided out. With regards to pay scales with the percentage budgeting method, job pay is performance-based rather than the current step-and-grade method.

Peter Shabestari and Elisabeth Campbell with Liberty Gold Mine presented the Black Pine Project expansion, an update to what they presented to Oneida County a few years ago because they found gold and plan to reopen the mine. Liberty Gold is a publicly traded company located on the border of Cassia and Oneida Counties, about 40-60 minutes from Malad. It has been part of the historic mining district since the 1890's and was formerly known as the Pegasus Gold / Black Pine Mine. With re-opening the mine, Liberty Gold is very focused on meeting all requirements and regulations at every phase of re-opening and operating the mine similar to how it was done in the 1990's. The rock to be mined is already oxidized, so there will be no harmful byproducts or tailings. The company has bonding for reclaiming the land for any disturbance they make. The mine also has an agreement with Oneida County Road & Bridge for use and maintenance of Oneida County Roads (some of the roads leading to the mine are in Oneida County). Dianna Dredge with R&B stated the county is satisfied with the terms of the agreement with the mine. Regarding an incident in the 1990's where cattle died after getting into the tailings from the 1950's mining operation, those tailings were cleaned up. Current laws require fencing and safety measures. Traffic on the road will likely encounter cattle, and traffic will be mitigated to only what is necessary. Employees will be bussed in to the mine from designated parking areas. Emergency services for the mine will likely be from Snowville because it is the closest location and is aware of the rules of reciprocity. Mrs. Campbell said they are working on getting a new repeater so that emergency calls will be directed to Snowville first (only 20 minutes away). She is also a volunteer EMT in Cassia County and the mine will have an on-site emergency crew that can respond first. The company is also looking into building up the small emergency locations in surrounding areas so that they would be better equipped to respond to emergencies at the mine. There will only be a small number of employees who live / stay permanently at the mine. Long term employment of approximately 300 employees, with up to 600 being employed during the construction phase. The expected life of this operation, once it opens, is 18-20 years. Mr. Shabestari and Mrs. Campbell ended their presentation by inviting groups of all kinds (family, employee, scout, youth, county, etc.) to come for tours.

*** Meeting adjourned at just prior to 4:00 pm***



Bill Lewis, Chairman



Shanci Dorius, Deputy Clerk