

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 12, 2013

Jack Carpenter called the meeting of the Chautauqua County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday February 12, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. in the commission room of the courthouse. Commissioners Danny Williams and Goff Searl were present as was County Counselor Larry King. County Clerk Janice A. Fine was also present. Danny Williams gave prayer.

Joel Haden, Road & Bridge Supervisor gave his weekly work report. Department staff are hauling gravel on Rd 21 and Frontier. They have hauled rock at Gallop and Rd 24 as they have a school bus route. The bridge approach caved in at Bronco Rd and Rd 18, ½ mile west, and it has been fixed. They replaced a culvert at Rd 21 south of the city limits of Chautauqua. Mrs. Sanders at Cedar Vale requested they put an entrance in at Rd 5 and Junction, ½ mile west. The past rainy days they loaded the Solid Waste truck and took it to Wichita. Joel indicated the work is not yet complete at the old landfill. Richard and Jim are to attend a meeting in Topeka and Joel asked permission to pay for Richard's hotel from Road and Bridge funds. Richard comes in as necessary as he is certified for noxious weed applications. Commission approved the expenditure.

Verizon bond discussion – Wildcat Construction, contractor, wants to put up a bond for the work they perform at \$1,000 per mile rather than \$20,000 bond as discussed at the last meeting. If commissioners are in agreement Joel is requesting signature on the contract. This is a standard contract. Road and Bridge has received a \$13,000.00 check to hold until cabling is complete and the road is brought to existing standards. The length of the cabling is 12.9 miles on Rd 14. Goff Searl made a motion to sign the contract. Danny Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners ask Joel to look at a few particular areas where citizens have raised concern. Joel stated that gravel had been hauled to south of the sale barn as mentioned at the last meeting.

Commission reviewed the proposed AT&T contract which provides a \$12,000.00 annual saving to Chautauqua County. After County Counselor Larry King reviewed the contract Danny Williams made a motion to accept the contract. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners expressed their appreciation to the Sedan City Hospital and Administrator, Michelle Williams, for working with Chautauqua County to establish a contract for reduced charges for jail inmate services. This first invoice provided a \$1,000.00 savings.

Commissioners reviewed invoice from TYCO, formerly ADT, for services. After discussion with the vendor Chautauqua County departments who wish to will be able to opt out of the contract reducing yearly costs to the county budgets.

Goff Searl made motion to approve the minutes for February 5, 2013 with two corrections. Danny Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Goff Searl reported he had received an email from Karen Spencer who reported the Kansas Supreme Court had denied our petition. The Court of Appeals decision stands regarding non-payment of taxes at the Boy Scout Ranch.

Commission received a letter from Julie Bays stating her complaint is satisfied.

The upcoming tax sale was discussed briefly.

Karen Spencer, County Appraiser, met with Commissioners. She reported that Jeremy would be attending an Oil and Gas class in Chanute. Oil is down. Our top dropped from 85 to 80 with multiple changes and she would need to wait to see how it impacts the overall value. Last year's legislation regarding refinery/fertilizer may impact citizens in Chautauqua County. Larger entities do not understand how it affects surrounding smaller entities. Our representative and senator are fighting this legislation. Ag land went up a bit, real estate is up a bit, oil will hopefully be a wash. Oil locating/drilling areas around Cedar Vale are prepped and ready to go.

It was suggested that the county may want to reconsider previous suggestions on a per acre basis for non-taxing entities. The Fire Districts can charge them for services, but to our knowledge, they do not. Commission doesn't believe pursuing this matter will have a positive impact. The Boy Scout Ranch is all one parcel and we do not have authority to separate.

Danny Williams made a motion to go into executive session for 10 minutes at 9:43 a.m. and requested Karen Spencer, County Appraiser, to remain. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commission reconvened at 10:53 a.m. No action was taken.

Matt Hartley met with commissioners. Commission asked that he coordinate efforts for all fire departments to contribute to the repair of the piece of equipment that compresses air into back packs. The back packs will need to be cleaned as oil is present. There is a meeting on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. for all fire chiefs and they will discuss who can help with this equipment purchase. Equipment estimate is @\$15,000. Commissioner Searl requested that Matt check with Cedar Vale before spending monies as they were given a piece of equipment from an out of county fire department. Matt asked if he could come back to the commission if he was unable to secure enough funding for the needed equipment. Matt will meet with Commissioners after the meeting on Wednesday. Commissioner Searl asked to attend the fire chief meeting.

Commission asked if Matt was aware of the Homeland Security EMPG Grant. Matt needs to attend classes to be certified. Matt indicated all necessary material was submitted for

Nathan in all prior years. There is a new person in the state office that he is trying to contact. Matt indicated his belief that they have received monies every year on a quarterly basis.

A concerned citizen met with commissioners regarding improper usage of county vehicles. Commissioners will address this issue with the department head.

Jim Duncan met with commissioners to discuss his end of year report. He provided commissioners with a copy of his Noxious Weed Control Plan which must be sent to the State of Kansas for their signature. Commissioners asked questions for clarification.

Jim discussed signs that need to be budgeted. He has been pricing machines to create signs and the estimate is @\$7,000.00 and then additional costs for material to create the signs. He mentioned a smaller machine which is 30" at a price of \$4,195.00 and then additional costs for materials. Commissioners discussed cost differences which are approximately \$4 to \$5 each. Jim indicated we need 120 to 130 signs. Normal replacement of signs, per the state requirement, would be 12-14 sets per year. There is a company (department of corrections) who has made signs for Chautauqua County and he's having difficulty making contact with them. Our own piece of equipment to make signs would be used to replace information on multiple signs, graphics for vehicles, handicapped signs as well. Commissioners indicated that Jerry Walker in Cedar Vale has a machine and Jim will check with him to see if the machine will work for us and if they are interested in selling it. Commission requested that Jim check on a grant through KCAMP.

County Counselor Larry King discussed with commissioners the report from the Kansas Court of Tax Appeals order for the No Fund Warrant. He advised that he is filing a petition to correct their error in reporting that the county counselor was a large contributing factor in needing to secure the No Fund Warrant instead of the County Attorney as was discussed during the proceedings. He also advised the commission that the unidentified woman who sat in on the hearing was an individual from the Department of Revenue. He also presented the invoice for payment for receiving hard copy of the transcript.

Danny Williams made a motion to approve payment of \$110.65 for the transcribing fee to Nora Lyon & Associates, LLC. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Jack Carpenter tabled discussion on Clerk's Office workers salary until the next meeting.

Danny Williams made a motion to adjourn at 11:22 a.m. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Goff Searl, First District Commissioner

Danny D. Williams, Second District Commissioner

Jack Carpenter, Third District Commissioner, Chairman

ATTEST:

Janice A. Fine, County Clerk