

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 20, 2015

Chairman Goff Searl called the meeting of the Chautauqua County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. in the commission room of the courthouse.

Commissioner Jack Carpenter and Danny Williams were present as was County Counselor Ruth Ritthaler and County Clerk Janice A. Fine. Danny Williams opened the meeting with prayer.

Minute's approval: Danny Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of January 13, 2015 as presented. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Joel Haden, Road & Bridge Supervisor, provided his weekly road report. Chairman Searl commented on crews working the roads and appreciated seeing crews working hard. Crews are hauling rock to the following: Marshall west of Highway 99, Independence Road and Rd 23 east, Gallop and Rd 5, Rd 3 south of Highway 166, Indian Road (dead end road on the west side of Cedar Vale), Rd 23 south of Independence Rd and Peru Shortcut (Indian). Crews worked the Cook Bridge on Ranch Road. Haden offered his grader position to Dwayne Rogers of Cedar Vale. Commissioner Carpenter asked that Haden review and talk with an owner regarding a whistle placement. Commissioner Searl asked to review a few roads with Haden later in the week.

Commissioners discussed the commissioners meeting room move.

Linda Kline, Solid Waste Department Head joined the meeting to provide commissioners with the department monthly report. Fuel costs for the trash truck reflects a reduction on the report.

Ruth Ritthaler, County Counselor asked how her office was coming along. Ritthaler requests her new office be painted.

Crystal Wade, Human Resources Administrator requested an executive session with Ruth Ritthaler in attendance. Danny Williams made a motion to go into executive session with Wade and Ritthaler to discuss non elected personnel for 10 minutes at 8:50 a.m. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Chairman Searl called the regular meeting back in session at 9:00 am. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Jenny McDaniels, 4H Agent let the commissioners know that they have vacated the 1st floor.

Randall Allen, Kansas Association of Counties Executive Director joined the meeting. Allen thanked commissioners for their confidence in joining KAC this year. Allen provided information to commissioners regarding the legislature session, a handout on county government positions and priorities, shifting state funded programs to county responsibilities, social services are being reviewed for less funding which places a burden on counties. Chairman Searl asked how Allen thought the governor would pay the state bills. Many possible options were discussed. Allen provided an overview of services offered for members, advocacy, training and monitoring regulations. Allen provided an update on the wage study they have in progress. Crystal Wade, HR Administrator offered that she is the president elect for KCHRA. An updated commissioner desk manual will be emailed to Chautauqua County. KAC would like to receive a list of elected and appointed individual's contact information.

Jim Duncan, Noxious Weed Supervisor has been certified for another year and brought commissioners his certification.

Jeremy McCully, Appraiser and Jeremy Hendren, Deputy Appraiser joined the meeting and requested an executive session. Jack Carpenter requested an executive session with McCully and Hendren to discuss non elected personnel for 15 minutes at 9:31 a.m. Danny Williams seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3-0. Chairman Searl called the regular meeting back in session at 9:36 a.m. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Ruth Ritthaler, County Counselor asked for an executive session to discuss personnel practices with HR Administrator Crystal Wade present. Jack Carpenter requested an executive session to discuss personnel practices with Wade and Ritthaler present at 9:46 a.m. for 15 minutes. Danny Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Chairman Searl called the regular meeting back in session at 10:01 a.m. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Janice Fine, County Clerk brought the following to commissioners for review or discussion: 1) The procedure for commission meetings when they fall on a Monday holiday. The solution is to have the meeting on Tuesday that follows. 2) A letter from the Prairie Star regarding requested consideration for reduced charges for publications. Commissioners reviewed the letter. 3) An invoice for Sedan Chamber of Commerce for 2015. Danny Williams made a motion to join the Sedan Chamber of Commerce for 2015 at a cost of \$50.00. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Goff Searl made a motion to join the Cedar Vale Chamber of Commerce for 2015 at a cost not to exceed \$50.00. Danny Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. 4) There was discussion regarding evening meetings, town hall meetings and options for citizens to ask commissioners questions using the Chautauqua County Website. 5) There was further discussion regarding Cemetery # 12 and eligibility for that board. Commissioner Williams will discuss the possibility with two viable candidates.

Ruth Ritthaler, County Counselor reviewed the office space she will occupy and indicates a fresh coat of paint and the carpets cleaned would be in order. Commissioners discussed what her need would be for a phone line. Ritthaler is to contact Rodger Green, Maintenance Supervisor to facilitate her office needs.

Danny Williams made a motion to adjourn at 11:05 a.m. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Goff Searl, First District Commissioner

Danny D. Williams, Chairman, Second District Commissioner

Jack Carpenter, Third District Commissioner

ATTEST:

Janice A. Fine, County Clerk