

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 30, 2015

Chairman Goff Searl called the meeting of the Chautauqua County Board of Commissioners to order on Thursday, April 30, 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 April 20, 2015 as presented. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Searl read a letter received from Ellen Rushing, Sedan Public Library requesting donations for giveaways to encourage children to read during the summer months. The Fire Department requests an opinion from our County Counselor, Ruth Ritthaler regarding liability for providing assistance to landowners on control burns. Ruth Ritthaler, County Counselor asked for clarification on their request. Ritthaler will research and bring back next steps to commissioners.

Joel Haden, Road & Bridge Superintendent provided his weekly report. Crews are hauling rock to the following: Rd 30 and Bronco going north, Cowboy and Rd 31, Rd 31 and Independence Shortcut, Ranch Rd and the West County Line, Gallop and Rd 16 east and west on Gallop. A ditch liner was placed at Cowboy and Rd 31. Culvert work was completed on Rd 31 and Cowboy. Crews are cleaning ditches in the county. Commissioners discussed a few areas for Haden to review and complimented him on completed work. Trees have been trimmed in the general area of Rd 31 and Valley.

Crystal Wade, HR Administrator joined the meeting to discuss department business. A certificate was prepared for Sherry Johnson for her retirement. Anniversaries for the month were presented. Language of the employee handbook verification form was reviewed and approved to change. Wade brought an opportunity for education in computer software, Excel program, for county employees at no cost to the county as e-community will cover the costs. Wade asks for approval for employees to attend during normal business hours. Commissioners approved.

Janice Fine, County Clerk brought the following to commissioners: 1) Auditor response to question of reduced tax distributions to taxing units. 2) Cost savings for printing of business envelopes in-house. 3) Business cards that are produced in-house. 4) Process change for the Clerk's Office for check signatures.

Jeremy McCully, Appraiser and Jeremy Hendren, Deputy Appraiser joined the meeting to discuss department business. The department is receiving current year requested exemptions. Commissioners discussed this issue. There are three COTA claims filed for vacant property. McCully is asking for legal representation. Ruth Ritthaler, County Counselor will review the cases and determine next steps. Agriculture mailers will be going out in the mail this year as required by statutes. Postal presort will be used again this year. McCully asked for an executive session. Danny Williams made a motion to go into executive session for 5 minutes at 9:15 a.m. to discuss nonelected personnel with Crystal Wade, HR Administrator, Ruth Ritthaler, County Counselor, Jeremy McCully, Appraiser and Jeremy Hendren, Deputy Appraiser present. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Chairman Searl called the regular meeting back in session at 9:20 a.m. As a result of the executive session probation status was removed from employee John Goodin.

Jim Duncan, Noxious Weed Department Head joined the meeting to give an overview of the community meeting. Several speakers were in attendance with 59 participants. Topics of discussion included: Timing on weed control, Biological control of insects and Sprayers and equipment. There was good feedback from attendees.

Lisa Hudson, Treasurer joined the meeting to provide information to commissioners on the recent past year reimbursements to tax payers. Commissioners discussed the loss to all taxing units.

Danny Williams made a motion to go into executive session for 10 minutes with Ruth Ritthaler, County Counselor and Crystal Wade, HR Administrator to discuss nonelected personnel at 9:44 a.m. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Chairman Searl called the regular meeting back in session at 9:54 a.m. As a result of the executive session no action was taken.

Crystal Wade, HR Administrator requested a 5 minute executive session to discuss nonelected personnel. Danny Williams made a motion to go into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss nonelected personnel with Crystal Wade, HR Administrator and Ruth Ritthaler, County Counselor in attendance. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Chairman Searl called the regular meeting back in session at 10:00 a.m. As a result of the executive session no action was taken.

Randy Dick and G. Dailey Jensen with Lifestyle Health Plans joined the meeting to discuss Health Insurance for employees. Today is an introduction to their services. Lifestyle Health Plans is a brokerage company who would like to participate in the bid process for the next employee health contract renewal. Neosho is the closest county to Chautauqua County that they represent. There was discussion about services offered and what the expectation of the county would be for employee health benefits contracts. A broker has more contacts with the insurance industry and can provide multiple options at different cost breaks. Commissioners wish to read the material provided and discuss at the next meeting.

Ruth Ritthaler, County Counselor informed commissioners that the Fence Viewing would need to be moved from May 4, 2015 to May 18, 2015 to accommodate all participants. Commissioners approve the new date for the Fence Viewing.

Commissioners reviewed and approved the Warrants Payable expenses for End-of-Month expenditures as follows:

FUND	TOTAL
General Fund	\$11,738.40
Ambulance District #1	\$4,560.42
Ambulance District #2	\$13,875.00
Appraiser	\$4,875.03
Elections	\$5,018.69
Employee Benefit	\$4,119.30
Health	\$3,063.27
Noxious Weed	\$5,466.53
Road & Bridge	\$10,571.00
Special Rock	\$619.82
Special Machinery	\$24,465.50
Juvenile Detention	\$852.00
Solid Waste	\$1,017.61
Treasurer's Auto	\$815.33
Payroll Clearing	\$66,376.11
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$157,434.01

Danny Williams made a motion to adjourn at 10:34 a.m. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Goff Searl, Chairman, First District Commissioner

Danny D. Williams, Second District Commissioner

Jack Carpenter, Third District Commissioner

ATTEST:

Janice A. Fine, County Clerk