

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

September 14, 2015

Chairman Goff Searl called the meeting of the Chautauqua County Board of Commissioners to order on Monday, September 14, 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: Jack Carpenter made a motion to approve the minutes of September 8, 2015 as presented. Danny Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Susie Wade joined the meeting as an observer.

Joel Haden, Road & Bridge Superintendent provided his weekly report. Crews are hauling rock to the following: Junction Rd east of Rd 1, South of Cedar Vale, Rd 27 and Saddle, Rd 23 and Trail, Rd 29 and Indian. Haden met with FEMA regarding disaster funds. The easement document has been returned with the landowner's additions. Danny Williams made a motion to approve the contract easement change per the landowner which includes crop loss on 6 acres for the Cook Bridge Project. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioners discussed a few road areas needing attention. Susie Wade asked commissioners to address specific road issues as she drives a school bus. Several areas in need of attention were identified.

Chairman Searl commented on the SEK District meeting some employees attended last week in Moline.

Crystal Wade, HR Administrator joined the meeting to introduce Jason Peckler, Heartland Internet LLC to discuss our options for phone service and local internet. Peckler offered his vision for the county system and requests the opportunity to create a plan to implement the phone and internet services provided by Heartland Internet, LLC. Commissioners commented that keeping our phone and internet services local would benefit the county.

Crystal Wade, HR Administrator joined the meeting to discuss department business. A letter for a KWORRC meeting has been received. KWORCC is requesting a voting delegate from Chautauqua County. Commissioners appoint County Clerk Janice A. Fine as the county voting delegate as she will be attending the meeting and has already been named the voting delegate for KAC (Kansas Association of Counties). Travel requests for employees were presented and approved. Wade provided information to commissioners regarding the state health plan. Wade plans to hold open enrollment meetings for health benefit changes.

Amy Goode, Treasurer joined the meeting to discuss office issues. Goode is working with our software provider to clear outstanding issues. There is an Escaped Tax Batch that was created but never completed or distributed going back to 2001. The system shows tax overpayments that need distributed from 2014. These issues must be cleared before the September 20, 2015 distribution can be processed. Commissioners commented they appreciate Goode's extra work on past issues.

Sheriff Newby stopped in to give commissioners an update on an employee's health issue. Newby did hire a part time employee on an as needed basis without benefits.

Jeremy Hendren, Deputy Appraiser joined the meeting to discuss department opportunities. County Counselor, Ruth Ritthaler reviewed the contract Hendren provided for services as Chautauqua County Appraiser. Hendren modified his contract to include language that allows both entities the ability to terminate the contract after giving 30 days written notice. Danny Williams made a motion to approve the contract and appoint Jeremy Hendren as the Chautauqua County Appraiser effective October 1, 2015. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Linda Kline, Solid Waste Department Head joined the meeting to discuss department business. A fence to be installed around the trash dumpsters in Cedar Vale was discussed. The Solid Waste Delinquent Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, October 12, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. Kline asked for legal advice from Ruth Ritthaler, County Counselor.

Danny Williams made a motion to go into executive session at 10:15 a.m. for 15 minutes for client/attorney privilege with Ruth Ritthaler, County Counselor. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Chairman Searl called the regular meeting back in session at 10:30 a.m. As a result of the executive session no action was taken.

Jim Duncan, Noxious Weed Department Head joined the meeting to let commissioners know that he will be at the State Fair next weekend in the Noxious Weed booth.

County Clerk Janice A. Fine brought the following to commissioners: 1) There was an error with the August 31, 2015 minutes. It was stated Hepatitis C injections for the fire department Jaws of Life crew and the injections are for Hepatitis B. 2) Civic Day is Friday, September 18, 2015. Commissioner Danny Williams will be available to talk about the responsibilities of the Board of County Commissioners to the students in attendance. 3) County Clerk had received a letter regarding one of the photo's hanging in the courthouse. 4) Commissioners received an invitation to an event at The History House October 1, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Danny Williams made a motion to adjourn at 10:40 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