

# **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

December 30, 2015

Chairman Goff Searl called the meeting of the Chautauqua County Board of Commissioners to order on Wednesday, December 30, 2015 at 8:30a.m. in the commission room of the courthouse. Commissioner Danny Williams and Jack Carpenter were present as was County Counselor Ruth Ritthaler and County Clerk Janice A. Fine. Goff Searle opened the meeting with prayer.

Minute's approval: Goff Searl made a motion to approve the minutes of December 21, 2015 as presented. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Joel Haden, Road & Bridge Superintendent presented his weekly road report. Crews are hauling rock to the following: Rd 32 on the east county line, Rd 26 north of the Independence Shortcut, Bronco going east of Chautauqua, Ranch and the west county line. Cleared right of ways on Rd 30 south of Niotaze and on Rd 28 and Eagle. Ice control was used on Monday and Tuesday. The department inventory was completed. A culvert was worked on Rd 5 north of Highway 166.

Haden stated the Special Bridge account was not depleted as the state decided to wait until spring 2016 to begin the Cook Bridge project. Our auditor advised that \$231,453.33 be carried over to be used in 2016. Jack Carpenter made a motion to approve the carry over as requested. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Road & Bridge has unencumbered funds that need to be moved. Haden asks that \$80,000.00 be moved to special rock and \$100,000.00 moved to special machinery. Jack Carpenter made a motion to approve the money moves as requested. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Commissioners asked Haden to review a few specific areas. Chairman asked that Road and Bridge staff help move furniture in District Court. Haden will speak with Cindy Weaver, District Court Clerk.

Jim Duncan, Noxious Weed Department Head joined the meeting to ask commissioners to move \$9,000.00 from his 2015 budget to equipment reserve. Danny Williams made a motion to approve the money moves. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners reviewed the Fire District #2 by-laws. Jack Carpenter made a motion to approve the by-laws as presented. Danny Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Linda Kline, Solid Waste Department Head joined the meeting to provide commissioners with the department monthly report.

Janice Fine, County Clerk brought the following to commissioners: 1) An invoice was received from KCAMP for the county liability insurance in the amount of \$51,900.00 to be paid in January 2016. 2) The inventory reports were received from each county department as required by December 31, of each year. 3) Reminded commissioners that all 2016 appointments should be made at the January 4, 2016 meeting. 4) Asked for consideration to move commission meetings back to Tuesday mornings for 2016. 5)

Informed commissioners that the new server had been delivered. 6) Requested that \$16,000.00 be moved from 2015 unencumbered election funds be moved to equipment reserve and \$5,000.00 from the Clerks budget to equipment reserve if that funding was available after all 2015 invoices were paid. Danny Williams made a motion to approve the move of money as requested. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. 7) Reminded commissioners that within the next few years all election equipment will have to be replaced and the estimated cost is \$100,000.00. The most effective and least burdensome on tax payers is to place unencumbered budgeted funds in the equipment reserve account.

Kansas FiberNet is coming to Sedan and there was discussion on how this would benefit the county. County Counselor Ruth Ritthaler was asked to research this possibility.

Sheriff Newby dropped in to ask that unencumbered 2015 funds be moved to the equipment reserve fund. Sheriff requests \$17,500.00 from the Sheriff Administration fund, \$14,500.00 from the Jail, \$9,500.00 from Dispatch and \$7,000.00 from Emergency Management moved to equipment reserve. Danny Williams made a motion to approve the money moves as requested. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioners commented on how well Sheriff Newby is handling his budgeted funds. The commissary funds were discussed. Commissioners ask Sheriff to talk with our auditor regarding transfer of commissary funds to the general funds.

Jeremy Hendren, Appraiser joined the meeting to discuss department business. Hendren provided a contract that needed commission signature for Kimble Mapping for 2016. Commission approves the contract. Hendren asks that any unencumbered 2015 budget be moved to equipment reserve. Danny Williams made a motion to approve the money move as requested. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Hendren requested an executive session. Danny Williams made a motion to go into executive session for 10 minutes at 9:26 a.m. with Ruth Ritthaler, County Counselor and Jeremy Haden present for attorney/client privilege. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Chairman Searl called the regular meeting back in session at 9:46 a.m. As a result of the executive session additional research was requested of the County Counselor, Ruth Ritthaler.

Crystal Wade, HR Administrator joined the meeting to discuss the tax abatement program. Wade had received a call from Mr. Cude's attorney that she will be receiving an application from Sedan Floral. Commission requests that Wade work with County Counselor and Appraiser regarding the application process. Wade and Ritthaler will develop the process. Commission discussed employee holidays for 2016. Commission requests that December 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016 will not be observed as a holiday. Wade will inform department heads of the change.

Rodney Burns, Auditor joined the meeting to ask if funds can be moved from the general fund for the Juvenile Detention fund. Amy Goode, Treasurer joined the meeting. Burns suggests that a new line item be added for 2017 budget for Juvenile Detention. Danny Williams made a motion to go into executive session with Burns, Amy Goode and Ruth Ritthaler for attorney/client privilege for 15 minutes at 10:15 a.m. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Chairman Searl called the regular meeting back in session at 10:30 a.m. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Amy Goode, Treasurer asked commissioners to move \$15,000.00 from her 2015 unencumbered funds to the equipment reserve. Danny Williams made a motion to approve the move of money as requested. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Searl stated for the record that on Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup> the courthouse was without power due to a failure of Westar's lines to Caney Valley Electric. The courthouse generator would not function. All other generators fired as expected. Road & Bridge assisted Rodger Green and the courthouse generator was functional by mid- morning.

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

FUND	TOTAL
General Fund	\$54,605.73
Equipment Reserve	\$836.00
Ambulance District #2	\$7,400.00
Appraiser	\$1,519.70
Employee Benefit	\$1,695.02
Health	\$2,003.28
Noxious Weed	\$140.11
Road & Bridge	\$12,171.16
County 911	\$42.20
Juvenile Detention	\$1684.00
Solid Waste	\$830.07
Treasurer's Auto	\$591.85
Payroll Clearing Fund	\$70,977.20
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$154,496.32</b>

Danny Williams made a motion to adjourn at 10:53 a.m. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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Goff Searl, Chairman, First District Commissioner

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Danny D. Williams, Second District Commissioner

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Jack Carpenter, Third District Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Janice A. Fine, County Clerk