

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 23, 2013

Chairman Jack Carpenter called the meeting of the Chautauqua County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. in the commission room of the courthouse. Commissioners Goff Searl and Danny Williams were present as was County Counselor Larry King and County Clerk Janice A. Fine. Danny Williams gave prayer. Susan Shaff joined the meeting as observer.

Joel Haden, Road & Bridge Supervisor, updated commissioners on department business. Grafton Hill needs to be looked at. Rd 4 and Kansas ¼ mile south there's a hole in the road that needs to be looked at. Hwy 99 and Valley Rd were rocked to Rd 13. Indian and Rd 30 is where the big culvert is being installed. Staff worked with the gas company with the install of the gas line in this area. There remains a couple of culverts to install. Elgin roads were discussed. Joel needs approval from the commission to work on roads connecting to the brick Elgin city streets. Joel will be talking to Bob Bean to discuss road issues/repairs needed in a couple of weeks. Rd 3 work is still on the list to do. Road grading consistency was discussed. Citizens are use to seeing graders on a regular basis and current work load doesn't always allow this. Citizens are free to call when there is any issue with roads and someone will review and repair as quickly as possible.

Old jail use discussion: There's a lot of history which would be removed. Joel indicates it would take his staff a long time to complete but he is willing to do as the commission directs. Commissioners will review and discuss all options before making a decision.

A rain day for Road and Bridge staff is used to make repairs to equipment and reviewing low water crossings.

The hand rail for the Sheriff's south steps is still being worked on as time allows.

Crystal Wade joined the meeting to discuss employee benefits with commissioners. Commissioners requested current information and options to reduce the benefit costs as the 2013 budget will be exceeded if no adjustments are made. She provided a handout with information/research materials as requested. She reminded commissioners that employees with overtime increase the amount of FICA and KPERS deductions that come out of the general fund. The county contribution is what gets us in the red repeatedly. 70% of employees must participate in the current health plan to remain eligible. Commissioners reviewed all documentation and asked questions. If an adjustment isn't made now it appears we will be over budget by the end of the year. Crystal reminded commissioners that a retirement meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2013. A KPER's representative will be here to talk with employee's who have indicated they may be retiring in the very near future. Commission discussed different scenarios. **Danny Williams made a motion to increase employee contribution for health benefits only to 30 % so the county doesn't exceed budget and to increase single**

employees contribution to 100% of the state allowed amount effective April 22, 2013. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commission indicates a department head discussion regarding overtime needs to be scheduled in the near future.

Crystal continues to work with department heads regarding the pay plan. It is unrealistic that every employee within a department is paid the same. Crystal makes herself available for discussion. She is open to receive information. Crystal requests that the commission support her.

Edwin Bowman, Fair Board, joined the meeting to discuss a resignation from the Fair Board. Danny Williams made a motion to accept the resignation of Jonathan Cude from the Fair Board. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Danny Williams made a motion to appoint Dennis Bever to the Fair Board. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Larry King requested to go into executive session to discuss attorney/client privilege. Jack Carpenter made the motion to go into executive session at 9:40 a.m. for 25 minutes to discuss attorney/client privilege. Danny Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Chairman Jack Carpenter called the regular commission meeting back into session at 10:05 a.m.

Danny Williams made a motion to accept the meeting minutes for April 16, 2013. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Susan Shaff asked what the law is regarding those who do not pay their taxes. Delinquent taxes have been an issue for Chautauqua County. Tax Foreclosure sales is the only option. Property classifications determine the length of time property can be delinquent. Homestead has the longest length of time before tax foreclosure sales can begin. Average is four (4) years delinquent before that property can be included in a tax sale. County Counselor, Larry King, offered an in-depth discussion with Susan Shaff and commissioners regarding Tax Foreclosure Sale requirements and expectations.

Goff Searl made a motion to join other Kansas Counties to create and adopt a resolution, 2013-04, to the federal/state government regarding unsustainable debt requesting the governor to call for a national constitutional convention on the issue of a balanced budget amendment as first petitioned by the State of Kansas in 1978. Danny Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Jeanie Beeson joined the commission meeting to discuss hiring the vacant Health Department Administrator position. Commission will wait until May 7th so she will be available for discussion.

Commissioners reviewed the 2012 department inventory.

Danny Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Goff Searl, First District Commissioner

Danny D. Williams, Second District Commissioner

Jack Carpenter, Chairman, Third District Commissioner

ATTEST:

Janice A. Fine, County Clerk