

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 23, 2016

Chairman Goff Searl called the meeting of the Chautauqua County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 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 February 16, 2016. Danny Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Joel Haden, Road & Bridge Superintendent provided his weekly road report. Crews are hauling rock to the following locations: Rd 19 and Saddle, Rd 19 and Union, Prairie between Rd 9 and Rd 11. Rd 8 and Marshall the right of way is complete. A right of way was worked at Indian and Rd 30 going west and south. Trees were mulched on Bronco, 2 miles east of Chautauqua by Ranchland Management. Dalton and Rd 4 is a dead-end road going south which has been gated since 1998. Haden stated a fence is going up on one side. Personal road work has been accomplished over the years and now Haden has been requested to make the road drivable and accommodate the owners need to erect a fence.

Ruth Ritthaler provided copies of statutes regarding the road in question. Haden offered information regarding the landowners wish to fence property and maintain the open road between the properties. A letter will be drafted to inform the owners of their responsibility and a timeline. The property was discussed in-depth.

Haden was called on Saturday to look at the bridge which was damaged during a wreck. The insurance of the individual who hit it should cover the repair costs. Haden discussed the repair process. It was suggested that Haden talk with the Sheriff regarding the recovery of a damage claim process. Commissioners discussed road issues they asked Haden to review.

Crystal Wade, HR Administrator joined the meeting to provide commissioners with employee travel requests for their approval. Wade asked commissioners, after discussion with our auditor, if they were in favor of the county collecting funds from employee's pay, when requested, to help them cover the cost of their taxes. There is also discussion with the Sheriff regarding an account similar for employees to purchase work related items. The research suggests that this isn't the best approach. Each employee has the opportunity to deposit funds to up to three different accounts of their choosing for direct deposit of earned income. Educating employees on this process might solve the issue. Commissioners are not in favor of becoming a bank for employees.

Danny Williams made a motion to go into executive session for 10 minutes at 9:15 a.m. with Ruth Ritthaler, County Counselor and Crystal Wade, HR Administrator present to discuss non-elected personnel. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Chairman Searl called the regular meeting back in session at 9:25 a.m. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Danny Williams made a motion to go into executive session at 9:28 a.m. for 10 minutes with Ruth Ritthaler, County Counselor to discuss attorney/client privilege. Jack Carpenter

seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Chairman Searl called the regular meeting back in session at 9:48 a.m. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Amy Goode, Treasurer joined the meeting to discuss department business. Chairman Searl discussed past Treasurer distributions. Goode offered that corrections were made per the auditor and a distribution was made. However, the system had a glitch with the check-write program and the system has been corrected and a distribution will be made next week to a particular watershed that did not get the entire distribution they expected. There were so many issues to correct based on prior lack of distributions but Goode has been working diligently to make all necessary corrections and distribute accordingly. Entities who levy funds for their budgets receive collected taxes during distributions. Goode offered that Delena (DeAnn) Santo has been named Deputy Treasurer. Goode asks that Santo be added as a signer on all bank accounts. Danny Williams made a motion to add Delena (DeAnn) Santo to The First National Bank, account 203182 and the Bank of Sedan, account 000167. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Janice Fine, County Clerk brought the following to commissioners: 1) The 2014 Financial Report from our auditor, Schlotterbeck & Burns. 2) A letter from County Attorney, Larry Markel advising commissioners that he will be using the funds in his equipment reserve for audio/visual equipment for use in the District Court Courtroom. Commissioners agree that the purchase is a good use of the Attorney's equipment fund.

A letter was received from a concerned citizen regarding trash on the roadway and commissioners discussed the issue.

Chairman Searl offered he attended the Soil Conservation most recent meeting. Searl offered it was a good meeting. Several awards were presented.

Jack Carpenter made a motion to adjourn at 10:40 a.m. Danny Williams 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