

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

May 31, 2016

Chairman Goff Searl called the meeting of the Chautauqua County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, May 31, 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: Goff Searl made a motion to approve the minutes of May 24, 2016 as presented. Danny Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Joel Haden, Road and Bridge Superintendent, provided his weekly road report. Cathy Sanders, R&B Office Manager joined the meeting to discuss her research on Possum Trot Rd. In 1802 it was open but Sanders does not have a record of it closing. Sanders discussed this with the Appraiser to clarify a right of way. Sanders stated Possum Trot Rd is considered private property. Haden offered his understanding of that property and states that there was a request many years ago to close the road or abandon the road. There was continued discussion on this issue and research needs to be continued to uncover the facts.

Crews are hauling rock to the following: School St and Kansas Rd, Rd 8 and Kansas going west, Union between Rd 27 and Rd 31. Brush was removed from culverts and low water crossings. There was discussion regarding current staff levels. Commissioners asked Haden to review several road issues.

Ruth Ritthaler, County Counselor brought research to commissioners regarding the request from the City of Cedar Vale for the counties assistance. After discussion with our liability insurance the county is covered to haul materials but nothing else. Jack Zimmerman representing the City of Cedar Vale joined the meeting. The risk is that the county may not have real liability if the City of Cedar Vale was sued for any reason but the county would be a part of the lawsuit. Commissioners discussed the issue. Ritthaler suggested a (MOU) Memorandum of Understanding and liability documents be signed between Chautauqua County and the City of Cedar Vale. Jeremy Hendren, Appraiser joined the meeting. Zimmerman stated that Cedar Vale will help with the fuel costs. Zimmerman believes they will only need help with one staff person with one truck one day a month. Cedar Vale City Council determines which houses are first on the list based on owner requests. Ritthaler will create the MOU and liability documents for review and signatures before we begin any support for the City of Cedar Vale project.

Jeremy Hendren, Appraiser brought a contract for commission signature. Danny Williams made a motion to sign the contract with McCully and Associates for modeling service with no increase from last year's contract pricing. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Hendren discussed a bill that was vetoed in Topeka regarding the tax lid.

Danny Williams made a motion to enter into an agreement with Southeast Kansas Workforce Development. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Sheriff Newby joined the meeting to discuss modifications to the current new phone system. There are improvements and Kansas Communications will continue to make improvements in the system. Sheriff was notified that AT&T will no longer support land lines by 2020 so the actual new phone system is all that will be offered by any company.

Linda Kline, Solid Waste Department Head joined the meeting to provide commissioners with a landfill inspection report. Kline is asking that the grass portion at the Cedar Vale dumpster area be mowed. Kline will see if she can get someone to mow the dumpster area in Cedar Vale.

Janice Fine, County Clerk brought the following to commissioners: 1) Request from Larry Markle to purchase chairs using diversion funding. Commissioners signed the document. 2) KPERs has changed and the county will no longer be penalized for elected officials who have retired KPERs prior to their election effective July 1, 2016. 3) Asked commissioners to set the date for the Primary Election Canvass for Monday, August 8, 2016 and commissioners will not meet on Tuesday, August 9, 2016. Commissioners agreed that the canvass and meeting date after the primary election will be August 8, 2016.

Commissioners reviewed and approved the end-of-month expenditures for May 2016 as follows:

Fund	Amount
General	\$41,872.20
Equipment Reserve	\$1,321.56
Ambulance#1	\$4,043.75
Ambulance #2	\$13,233.33
Appraiser	\$1,541.07
Election	\$4.04
Employee Benefit	\$1,041.74
Health	\$3,257.80
Mental Health	\$9,734.00
Noxious Weed	\$1,522.06
Road & Bridge	\$36,893.55
Juvenile Detention	\$653.00
County 911	\$164.35
Solid Waste	\$846.97
Treasurer's Auto	\$604.57
TOTAL Expenditures	\$116,733.99

Danny Williams made a motion to adjourn at 10:29 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