

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 31, 2017

Chairman Jack Carpenter called the regular meeting to order on Monday, January 31st at 8:30 a.m. in the commission room. Commissioners Goff Searl and Rodney Shaw were both present. As were County Clerk, Niki Collier and County Counselor, Ruth Ritthaler. Commissioner Goff Searl opened the meeting with prayer.

Commissioner Searls made a motion to approve the January 23rd minutes as presented. Commissioner Shaw seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Joel Haden, Road & Bridge Superintendent, reported the crews have spread rock in the following areas; HWY 166 & Rd 21, Kansas & Rd 14, Trail & Rd 11, Union & Rd 2, Peru shortcut, Union & Rd 13, Overland & Rd 2, Grafton, Lariat & Rd 11. Mr. Haden is working to repair a lateral line damaged during bridge construction.

The bridge at Lariat & Rd 3 was closed on Wednesday. A state report indicated the need for additional structural support. Mr. Haden provided the commissioners with pictures of the bridge and said he is meeting with an engineer this week.

Annie Blankinship, Health Department Administrator joined the meeting to provide the commissioners with her monthly Financial Report. Mrs. Blankinship introduced herself to new Commissioner Rodney Shaw, and gave a short background about her years of service to the county.

Mrs. Blankinship requests that the cutting torch, used to remove metal from the old jail, not be operated during business hours. The fumes filter down to the Health Department and last Tuesday caused health problems for two employees.

Crystal Wade, HR Administrator, requests an executive session. At 9:15 Commissioner Jack Carpenter made a motion to go to executive session for personnel privacy, lasting 20 minutes to discuss non-elect personnel with the County Counselor present. Commissioner Goff Searl seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Returned from executive session at 9:35 with not action taken.

Amy Goode, County Treasurer brought a statute to the commissioners' attention regarding warrant checks. Statute allows warrant checks written by the county to any individual or company with delinquent taxes, to be applied to those past due taxes. After lengthy discussion Commissioner Searl made a motion to authorize the Treasurer to withhold checks and apply the funds to past due taxes. More concerns were brought up and Commissioner Searl withdrew his motion and tabled it for next week.

Cody Collier, Emergency Manager, has located generators with lights at a good price for the county. He is going to look at the condition and quality of them. The Commissioners agreed this is a worthwhile purchase.

Crystal Wade, HR Administrator joined the meeting to bring travel requests for approval.

Mrs. Wade informed the Commissioners that the county has a couple of new retirement investment options. Following a discussion, Commissioner Goff Searl motioned that Mrs. Wade should move forward with the 457 investment and the Empower program for the employees that may want to participate. Commissioner Rodney Shaw seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Crystal Wade provided commissioners with the monthly payroll report, and answered questions about the Treasure Auto fund. Statute provides how these funds can be spent, and the County Treasurer can pay employees out of this fund.

At 10:30 Commissioner Jack Carpenter made a motion to go to executive session for personnel privacy, lasting 5 minutes to discuss non-elect personnel with the County Counselor present. Commissioner Goff Searl seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resumed regular session at 10:35 with no action as a result of the executive session.

Commissioner Carpenter motioned to add Cole Crain and Dustin Artherton to Fire District #2 and remove Kyle Finney. Commissioner Searl seconded, motion passed 3-0.

Commissioners reviewed and approved the total month expenditures for January 2017 as follows:

Fund	Amount
General	\$78037.31
Equipment Reserve	\$149679.51
Appraiser	\$7058.62
Election	\$104.00
Employee Benefit	\$1206.53
Health	\$3116.33
Noxious Weed	\$353.21
Road & Bridge	\$23359.62
Special Bridge	\$26835.10
Juvenile Detention	\$1733.00
County 911	\$100.00

Unreimbursed Medical	\$227.84
Solid Waste	\$2411.86
Treasurers Auto	\$247.75
TOTAL Expenditures	\$294,470.68

Commission recessed for 5 minutes to reconvene at the old jail to view progress. The removal of the metal from the old jail is coming along, with still more to do.

Commissioners returned to the commission room to finish the regular meeting.

Commissioner Rodney Shaw motioned to join the Sedan Chamber of Commerce, with Commissioner Goff Searls seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Motion from Commissioner Shaw to adjourn at 11:20 Seconded by Commissioner Searl, motion passed 3-0.

Goff Searl, First District Commissioner

Rodney Shaw, Second District Commissioner

Jack Carpenter, Chairman, Third District Commissioner

ATTEST:

Niki Collier, County Clerk