

# **CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

March 31, 2017

Chairman Jack Carpenter called the regular meeting to order on Friday, March 31, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. in the commission room of the Court House. Commissioners Goff Searl, Commissioner Rodney Shaw, and County Clerk, Niki Collier were all present. Commissioner Goff Searl opened the meeting with prayer.

Commissioner Shaw made a motion to approve minutes from March 20, 2017, and the minutes for the special meeting held on March 23, 2017, as presented, Commissioner Searl gave the second. Motion passed 3-0.

Employees from the road & bridge department addressed the Commission. In attendance were, Richard Hambleton, Mark McCall, Billy Goode, Damon Wolfe, Dallas Hartley, Jennifer McNow, Larry Jennings and Lance Carter. They expressed concerns on what they feel is an imbalance of wages in relation to ability and longevity. Discussion about a recent increase for one employee was answered by Commissioner Carpenter. He explained that Road & Bridge Superintendent, Joel Haden had made a request for the increase because Mr. Haden felt that he could rely heavily on this individual. A question about an employee's "good standing" in relation to delinquent taxes was also answered. Commissioner Carpenter stated that Kansas employment laws prohibit the situation of delinquent taxes from being considered, when dealing with employment issues. Road & Bridge employees requested that the Board of Commissioners review their annual evaluations, then the Board would better informed when raises are considered in the future. Several of the employee's present, expressed their concern about the need for a second in command to be named. They stated that they need know who to contact or take instruction from in the event of an emergency.

Commissioner Shaw and Treasurer, Amy Goode voiced concern with ditch brush hogging at this time of the year, when many in the area will be burning the fields and ditches for spring.

Commissioner Carpenter said that they would have a discussion with Joel Haden at the next meeting, and begin resolving the issues brought before them.

Deputy Clerk, Becky Smilko presented the Commission with information about how the Homestead exemption works and answered their questions.

Commissioner Jack Carpenter motioned to go into an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss non-elect personnel for privacy of the employee. Commissioner Searl gave the second. Motion passed 3-0 at 9:15.

Open meeting resumed at 9:30. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Sandy Wolfe introduced herself to the Commission. She has been with the County Health Department for 23 years. Currently she conducts home visits where she sets up medications for a week at a time, takes blood pressures and draws blood for patients that have a hard time getting to a clinic.

Diane Wiggins introduced herself as the newest employee at the Health Department where she is a House Keeper for the elderly that qualify. She does light cleaning, runs errands and some grocery shopping. Diane feels the most important thing she does is listen to and visit with her clients.

Annie Blankinship, Health Department discussed the membership dues for Kansas Association of Local Health Departments. She does not feel that KALHD is moving in a direction that benefits the Chautauqua County or other smaller surrounding counties and suggested not renewing the membership this year.

County Counselor, Ruth Ritthaler joined the meeting.

County employee, April Carter, heard of a complaint about her daughter being in her office. April informed the Commission that she has discussed it with her department head. She feels that she is being singled out and would like to discuss other concerns as well. Commissioner Carpenter said they can follow up with her supervisor when he attends the meeting on Monday.

Larry Robinette, Director of the 911 system, informed the Commission about a state-wide upgrade to the 911 system. He expects the transition to the wireless system to begin by the end of the year. The new system will have improved mapping and if Kansas legislature approves, it can receive text messages as well.

Sheriff, Richard Newby discussed with the Commission the difficult task the Sheriff Department Dispatchers have in contacting livestock owners. With the help of a map from the County Appraiser and plot books they can usually locate land owners. But if the land is leased, they may not have information on livestock owners. Dispatch keeps contact records and the department continues to ask for the public's help. Please contact Dispatch on the non-emergency number 620-725-3108 to update contact information, so they can notify the correct people when fences are damaged due to auto accidents, severe weather, etc.

County Clerk, Niki Collier, brought suggestions from the County Auditor, Rodney Burns. Mr. Burns suggested that the Sheriff should be receiving reimbursement for his budget expense of housing out of county inmates and suggested the correct practices to do that. Commissioner Searl motioned to divide the income 50/50 between the general income fund and the jail reimbursement fund. Commissioner Shaw gave the second. Motion passed 3-0

Mrs. Collier also inform the Commission on a clerical correction to resolution 17-02 regarding burn restrictions. It should have contained the word "very" in the body as discussed in the meeting. Making it less restrictive and only prohibiting burning on days with "very high fire danger or extreme fire danger" conditions.

Commissioner Carpenter made a motion to move the election canvass date from Friday, April 14, 2017, to Monday, April 17, 2017. Commissioner Searl gave the second, motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Shaw questioned an increase in pay for contract labor. Jennifer McNown from Road & Bridge Department was asked to join the meeting and she advised that supervisor Joel Haden instructed and authorized the increase. Commissioner Shaw will talk to Joel at the Monday meeting.

Motion from Commissioner Shaw to adjourn the meeting at 11:25, seconded by Commissioner Searl, motion passed 3-0.

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Goff Searl, First District Commissioner

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Rodney Shaw, Second District Commissioner

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Jack Carpenter, Chairman, Third District Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Niki Collier, County Clerk