

# **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

June 4, 2013

Chairman Jack Carpenter called the meeting of the Chautauqua County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, June 4, 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.

Joel Haden, Road & Bridge Supervisor, updated commissioners on department business. Crews put rock on the following roads: Rd. 22 and Valley Rd between Rd. 22 and Rd. 21, Gallop Rd. and Rd. 3 between Rd. 3 to Rd. 5, from Highway 99 and Union Rd. going east for 1 & ¼ miles. Crews started working Rd. 14 shaping it up from the phone line at the south end of 166. The last couple of week's crews have been cutting up trees that fell in the storms. Rd. 23 going off Indian Rd near File's place needs some attention. Crews worked the end of bridge near Aiken's place. Crews worked water wash-outs on Rd. 29 and Rd. 28. Washout places are being worked as time allows. Haden advised commissioners that Harshman's is hiring a new person at the quarry. Joel indicated he believes he will be losing a staff member. Haden informed commissioners that Tim Venable was hurt last weekend at his home so another staff member is using his grader. Commission asked for a load of dirt to use on the courthouse lawn where it needs leveling. Goff Searl stated that between Rd. 11 and Rd. 12 on Lariat he was informed that a whistle was pushed out and asked Joel to review. Joel indicated it was fixed on Monday, 6/3/13. Washout issues were discussed. The question: is there a chance to tamp in the right kind of dirt that might avoid a washout. Could clay be used so water might wash over without eroding?

Old Jail: Commissioner Searl asked if the commissioners could come to a decision on sending for bid the job to salvage the metal or leave it as is.

Danny Williams asked for an executive session to include Larry King, County Counselor, for 10 minutes to discuss attorney client privilege beginning 8:55 a.m. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Jack Carpenter called the meeting back into regular session at 9:05.

Jack Carpenter called for an executive session at 9:05 for 5 minutes to include County Counselor, Larry King to discuss attorney client privilege. Danny Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Jack Carpenter called the regular meeting back into session at 9:10 a.m. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Laura Beeson joined the meeting to discuss the mowing contract. Jack Carpenter stated the employee benefit fund is being impacted by the current mowing situation. Laura asked to maintain the mowing contract. Contract labor for mowing needs to be paid from the contractual line item. The rock on Highway 166 (Chautauqua County Gem Stone) no longer belongs in the current mowing contract.

**Bids should go out for 2014 budget.** The State needs to take over the rock mowing since they own the right of way. An individual owns the land but gave up the right of way so the rock could be displayed. The State was called and they will research and let us know. The State indicated they could mow when they were in the area.

Rodger Green joined the meeting at the commissioners' request. Rodger agreed to spread dirt that Road and Bridge will deliver to fix low places on the courthouse lawn. Joel Haden, Road and Bridge Supervisor, should check with Rodger for information of where the dirt should be located. They informed Rodger that the mowing will continue as is for this year. The telephone poles need to be removed from the courthouse lawn and Rodger agrees. Commissioners will ask Joel Haden to haul them off when time allows.

Annie Blankinship, Health Department Administrator, joined the meeting to offer an invitation to commissioners regarding the Kansas Association of Counties and Association of Health Departments training session to be held June 27, 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. in Chanute. Commissioners are the local Health Board for Chautauqua County. This training highlights what the responsibilities are for commissioners. Annie needs to know who wishes to attend by June 11<sup>th</sup> so she can confirm attendance.

Danny Williams made a motion to pay the SCKEDD dues from the Economic Development budget in the amount of \$623.73. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Goff Searl made a motion to accept the meeting minutes for May 31, 2013 with one correction. Danny Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Joe O'Rourke joined the meeting to discuss New Beginnings. Commissioners recommended their budget request be submitted as soon as possible. New Beginnings will not be increasing their request. O'Rourke asked if that was going to be workable. Jack indicated he hopes to fund for the same amount as last year. New Beginnings offers long term care where other entities do not. Legislation regarding these services through Health Care Reform was discussed.

Richard Potter joined the meeting to discuss Veteran Markers. He's requesting the County to purchase 50 of the same markers purchased the last time, bronze resin markers. VFW reimbursed the county for the last 50 purchased.

Crystal Wade, HR Manager, joined the meeting to discuss employee issues. She updated the commission on employee numbers as reported last meeting. Dual employment was discussed and what options the commissioners can use for accountability for any claim submitted. Employees need to be aware that the commissioners are looking at worker's comp claim issues. The State has been called regarding 2014 health benefit cost updates and the current conversation is that no increases are expected for health insurance. Any employee who works 30 hours per week is considered a full time employee. The projection for employee benefit for 2014 is \$1,300,000.00. Review of job descriptions will be on the

schedule for next Tuesday, June 11, 2013. Hiring was discussed. Commissioners asked that Crystal talk with Annie Blankinship, Health Department Administrator, to make sure the Healthy Start part-time position is reimbursing the county for payroll taxes.

There was a lengthy 2014 projected budget discussion.

Danny Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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Goff Searl, First District Commissioner

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Danny D. Williams, Second District Commissioner

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Jack Carpenter, Chairman, Third District Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Janice A. Fine, County Clerk