

# **CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**May 1, 2017**

Chairman Jack Carpenter called the regular meeting to order on Monday, May 1, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. in the commission room of the Court House. Commissioners Goff Searl, Commissioner Rodney Shaw, County Counselor, Ruth Ritthaler 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 April 28, 2017, Commissioner Searl gave the second. Motion passed 3-0.

Joel Haden, Road & Bridge Superintendent, reported the crews have spread rock in the in multiple areas, installed culverts, cleared fallen trees and attempted to use the rock picker however the roads were too wet.

Commissioner Searl stated he was contacted with a request to look into installing a cattle guard on Road 8 by the Kelly's property near the dead end. County Counselor, Ruth Ritthaler had questions as to the exact location and Joel asked who would be responsible for maintaining the cattle guard and fence in the future. Ruth stated she would be happy to visit with the citizen making the request to obtain needed information and then advise the Commissioners.

Jim Duncan gave a reported that he was working replacing signs and spraying chemicals. Commissioner Shaw asked about the cost of the chemicals and Mr. Duncan explained it seems expensive but we use so many ounce per acre and it covers a lot of land and some of the chemicals last up to 18 months. Commissioner Carpenter brought attention to roads that are in need of low water crossing signs. Commissioner Searl asked about signs that say children at play, Commissioner Carpenter stated if the landowner request signage for children it is their responsibility to pay for the sign. Commissioner Searl asked about signage at Round Mound Cemetery and Mr. Duncan stated the State of Kansas must be called to obtain permission if the sign will be on the State's right of way, or they can obtain permission to place the signs on the landowners property or fence.

Jim Duncan also advised he would be traveling to Fredonia for continued education and asked permission to use his work truck in order to haul the side by side on the trailer and participate in an effort to stop the spread of Grecian Foxglove weed. Mr. Duncan explained this weed is toxic and that there is a case in Kansas of a man mowing and having a heart attack after contact with the weed. The Commissioners observed pictures of the weed and granted permission for Jim to participate in the exercise using the sprayer truck.

Sharon Clark joined the meeting and her new contract was discussed. Commissioner Searl asked how many parcels were completed? Mrs. Clark stated she has twenty completed and approximately one hundred fifty partially completed because it is more efficient to complete them together in stages. Commissioner Searl expressed a concern with the completion date and the fact that previous tax sales have taken so long. Commissioner Shaw made a motion

to approve the tax sale contract with Chautauqua Hills Abstract, Commissioner Carpenter gave the second. Motion passed 2-0, Commissioner Searl abstained from the vote. County Counselor Ruth Ritthaler asked the Commissioners when they would like to schedule the fence viewing, so she could draft a letter to the land owners. Counselor Ritthaler stated she would send a letter and ask the land owners to respond by May 19, 2017 and tentatively schedule the fence viewing for May 22, 2017 if needed.

Reta Pipher stated she had a letter of appreciation from the French students that visited Chautauqua County and would provide it for the Commissioners. She asked about the speed limit on the gravel roads and was advised the speed limit was 55 MPH. Ms. Pipher asked if during the Red Bud Tour there could be caution signs to protect the people that stop to take pictures. Reta expressed concern regarding semi-truck drivers that exceed the speed limit and Commissioner Shaw stated she should notify the Sheriff and see if he could patrol the area. Commissioners Searl asked her if these were temporary or permanent? She stated that they would be for year round tourism. Commissioner Searl advised she would need to obtain permission from the land owners.

Sue Kill advised the Commissioners she would be attending the Winfield Sampler to represent Chautauqua County. She also asked that the roads to the City Lakes be graded due to poor conditions. There is a 5K race scheduled and she would like the roads to be safe. The Commissioners advised that they would speak with the Road & Bridge Department to see what could be done, they thought that currently the City is responsible for the maintenance of the roads and that she would also need to speak to the City first.

Sue Kill also told the Commissioners that she attended the South Central Kansas Economical Development district meeting in Wichita and they interviewed for a new director. Steven Wilkinson was selected for the position, he comes from Washington State and he has banking and loan experience and he will be working with local communities. The annual meeting will be June 8, 2017 and there is an email survey that will be sent out and all citizens are encouraged to take the survey and share it.

Linda Kline, Annie Blankinship, Laura Beeson and Jeremy Hendren joined the meeting. Clerk Niki Collier advised the Commissioners that Crystal was in contact and KCAMP has not yet announced the policy regarding children in the workplace. Annie Blankinship reminded the Commissioners that there was a breastfeeding room for employees & clients to nurse or pump if they are breastfeeding. Laura Beeson stated she had an employee that was having a baby and she hopes that the child would be allowed to visit if needed. Linda Kline reminded the Commissioners that a majority of the employees are women and live out of town and the children that come after school have been well behaved. Commissioner Searl assured the employees that this decision was being handled with consideration and Commissioner Shaw stated that while he was sympathetic to the employees with children, he has had multiple calls from concerned citizens.

Commissioner Searl stated while touring the building last week Annie Blankinship mentioned she did not know where the breaker was portions of the Health Department. He said in the event of an emergency every department head should know how to turn the power off to every room in their office. Mrs. Blankinship advised she knows where the breaker box is located for the newer portion of the Health Department, however she went on a tour with Rodger Green and he could not locate the breakers for the older portion of the building in the Health Department. Commissioner Carpenter advised there is a set of blue prints that

could help identify the correct breakers. Annie Blankinship question who would be contacting the electrician, she obtained permission as a department head to do so and Commissioner Carpenter left a message for Chad's Plumbing.

Commissioner Carpenter moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes in regards to non-elected personnel to for privacy of the personnel. Commissioner Searl gave the second. Motion passed 3-0 at 9:40 a.m.

Returned to regular meeting at 9:55 a.m. and Commissioner Carpenter stated no action was taken. Commissioner Shaw motioned to adjourn at 9:57 a.m., Commissioner Searl seconded. 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