

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 11, 2013

Chairman Jack Carpenter called the meeting of the Chautauqua County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, June 11, 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 Deputy County Clerk Helen Matthews. Danny Williams gave prayer.

Joel Haden, Road & Bridge Supervisor, updated Commissioners on department business. Rock has been put on Road 14 & Highway 166 going North. Crews are working on Kansas and Road 14. Rock has been applied at Road 27 and Overland Road to the bottom and Road 22 & Quivira Road from top of hill down to bridge. Rock was also applied at Stony Point (Road 11 & Cowboy Road). The bridge at Dalton Road and Road 31 needed more rock. Road 11 & Marshall Road had culvert washed out—it needs to be dug out and refilled. Last Friday Joel checked Union Road and Road 32 and fixed a problem while there. When Joel is spraying brush he will ask grader operator to help occasionally. On Road 6 and Cowboy Road where cross country pipe line crosses road, a drilling company is building a 1.5 mile long road west of this crossing. Joel is proposing to use the Road Use Agreement the county has to protect county's infrastructure. Carpenter suggested a \$200,000 bond for this project.

Searl presented concerns from JC McKenzie: 1) Work the road in front of his driveway because water runs into his yard. 2) Road to Merz Place needs grading (if it's still a county road). 3) Stop sign has been removed south of Cedar Vale at Eagle & Road 3. 4) Metal bridge at Road 3 & Dalton has hole in it that needs to be addressed. 5) Low water crossing east of Mangan's on Dalton Road has water backing up when it rains. Many years ago County had removed "berm"; he would like it rebuilt. 6) Bridges don't have markers. Joel handed in his department's Job Descriptions. He showed he was hired as Road & Bridge Superintendent and he would like his job description to retain that name.

Searl moved to let out bids to salvage metal in "old" courthouse jail. Williams seconded. Motion carried.

Rodger Green had informed Williams that AC units will be installed atop building today.

Annie Blankinship joined Commissioners to inquire who will attend the morning meeting on June 21 (Friday) for Community Health Assessment. Searl indicated he would; meeting is held in the Chicago Room in Chanute. The Kansas Association of Counties meeting on Public Health Awareness training in Chanute on

June 27 (Thursday) is in the evening. Blankinship is trying to get Dr. McDermott to attend this meeting as well. Williams said he would attend.

Job Descriptions and Pay Grade Schedule: Crystal Wade, Human Resource Manager joined meeting at 9:15. Wade spoke of the new Human Resource page on the County's website and invited everyone to view it and familiarize themselves with its features. Wade informed the Commissioners the County Attorney's office was the only department not to provide any input on this process. Jim Duncan, Laura Beeson, Perry Russell and Amy Goode also joined the meeting to discuss job descriptions and pay grade schedules. Commissioners and those attending then reviewed job descriptions and discussed where to place those positions on the Pay Grade Schedule.

Before leaving the meeting, Russell informed the group the bottom mechanism on one of the District Court Room doors was broken by a defendant in a recent case. Those doors should probably be replaced. Russell suggested talking with Rodger Green and Judge Casement about a possible solution. There will be a jury trial on June 24 and the doors need to be working by that time.

Jim Duncan informed the group the bill for the 911 signs needed for the roads has been discounted by the National Sign Company to just under \$2,000. Road & Bridge has paid the bill and has applied for a grant to recover these expenses.

Kim Jellison joined meeting at 10:35. She wants to file misconduct report, assault report and sexual harassment complaint against sheriff's officer who stopped her on Sunday 05/26/13 for speeding. Larry King, County counselor, advised her under current KS law the Commissioners have no authority over employees of an elected official. She will need to contact Kansas Attorney General if Sheriff won't take report. A copy of the ticket should be available from the Clerk of District Court.

Reta Pipher joined meeting at 10:50. She is seeking a permanent solution to low water crossing at DeBush Cemetery near Road 11 and Cowboy Road. She informed the Commissioners it was getting too expensive for her to use her hired men to maintain this area after a rain. She would like a cement culvert installed.

At the invitation of the Commissioners Annie Blankinship and Karen Spencer joined meeting at 11:13 to discuss a possible hiring freeze. The Healthy Start Home Visitor grant begins July1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 and requires the county to hire a person. No benefits are associated with the job but the county's matching portion of Social Security and Medicare would impact employee benefits which Wade has projected to be over budget by \$70,000 at the end of the year. Spencer suggested placing a hold on the position needed to be filled in her department. Discussion was held on part time benefits and how they should be funded.

Spencer informed the Commissioners she is not seeking reappointment; she will finish out this term which ends June 30, 2013. She has an opportunity to move to western Kansas to be nearer family and she has accepted a position there. Commissioners thanked Spencer for the services she had provided the county and wished her well in her new job.

Lisa Hudson, Treasurer, and Amy Goode, Deputy Treasurer, joined meeting at 11:22. Hudson explained why the 2012 protest taxes were not distributed properly. Thomson Reuters (TR), the vendor who manages the financial software, was called because those taxes were distributed correctly earlier in 2012, but then in later distributions the protested taxes were reversed. TR fixed the problem and the protested taxes were redistributed correctly in January 2013 to the correct taxing units. \$27,000 was distributed to general fund and \$24,000 employee benefits fund. Discussion was held on delinquent taxes.

Hudson reported that her last radiation treatment was today, June 11, 2013. She indicated she was looking forward to not having to come in evenings and week-ends to make up for being gone.

Russell rejoined meeting at 11:45 to clarify pay grades on Jail Administrator and Chief Deputy. Discussion was also held on employee turn-over within the Sheriff's departments, particularly Dispatch and Correction Officers (jailors).

Linda Chase joined the meeting at 11:55. She inquired as to what punishment, if any, was given to Spencer. Counselor King indicated Chase had left employment before the Commissioners had an opportunity to let the grievance process, as stated in the handbook, work. She left at 12:02.

Goff Searl moved to accept the minutes for the June 4, 2013 meeting as written. Danny Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners reviewed and approved the Warrants Payable mid-month expenditures as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Totals</u>
General Fund	34,355.58
Appraiser	80.63
Health	957.03
Noxious Weed	5.45
Road and Bridge	19,988.72
County 911	1,003.00
<u>Solid Waste</u>	<u>7,509.23</u>

Total All Funds 63,899.64

Commissioners were presented with a spreadsheet showing utility costs for jail building.

Danny Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 p.m. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Goff Searl, First District Commissioner

Danny D. Williams, Second District Commissioner

Jack Carpenter, Chairman, Third District Commissioner

ATTEST:

Helen Matthews, Deputy County Clerk