

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 19, 2017

Chairman Jack Carpenter called the regular meeting to order on Monday, June 19, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. in the commission room of the Court House. Commissioner Goff Searl, Commissioner Rodney Shaw, County Clerk Niki Collier and County Counselor Ruth Ritthaler were all present. Commissioner Goff Searl opened the meeting with prayer.

Commissioner Searl made a motion to approve minutes from Monday June 12, 2017. Commissioner Shaw gave the second. Motion passed 3-0.

Joel Haden, Road & Bridge Superintendent, crews has added rock to the following areas, Peru Shortcut & Indian, Rd 16 & Gallop, Rd 23 & Lariat, Rd 26 & Lariat, Rd 31 & Bronco. Commissioner Searl was approached by a citizen concerned about seeing a county employee fishing during the day. Joel stated that the employee may have been on his lunch break and he will look into the matter. Commissioner Shaw readdressed the conditions of ditches. Joel suggested that the department could work on it in between grading the roads this summer.

Human Resources Crystal Wade, informed the Commission that in order for the employees to receive the free \$7500 Life Insurance benefit, Aflac requires 11 more employees to attend a 15 minute presentation or those that have signed up will not receive the benefit. Ms. Wade had scheduled with Mr. Haden for the Aflac representative to be at the county barn, upon arrival, no one was available for the presentation. Mr. Haden has been offered a third appointment for Road & Bridge employees. Commissioner Shaw noted that this is not mandatory, it will be up to the employees if they want to attend.

Human Resources Crystal Wade, gave the Commission the requested information about changing the Counties employment standard from "for cause" to "at will" This change would make the County policy reflect the existing State of Kansas employment law. After some discussion about the changes and how it would impact the employee handbook, Commissioner Shaw moved to approve Resolution 17-05 to become an "at will" employer. Commissioner Searl gave the second. Motion passed 3-0.

The county has received a letter from Direct TV regarding the request to have Kansas news channels available in this area. The letter stated that Direct TV would need direction from the FCC to proceed. The FCC has previously closed the counties case, wherein the original request was made.

Mrs. Stevenson inquired about State of Kansas fencing requirements. She then expressed concerns regarding the spraying of chemicals on adjacent properties. She believes it killed some of her livestock. The Commission advised her that anything other than the fence viewing is a civil matter, she should contact the State of Kansas or a lawyer for legal advice.

Rolling Prairie Extension Director Jenny McDaniel inquired about statutory requirements as to how budgeted monies may spent by the fair board. County Counselor Ruth Ritthaler will follow up with her, so that bills submitted will comply with state statute.

Emergency Manager Cody Collier discussed with the Commission the need for a drill to test the response of area agencies. It will be scheduled in the fall.

Solid Waste Office Manager Linda Kline, presented monthly reports and requested that the Commissioners consider adding a magnet to the road grader in an effort to pick up objects that lead to tire damage.

County Counselor Ruth Ritthaler requested an executive session to discuss personnel. Commissioner Carpenter made a motion at 10:15 A.M. to go into an executive session for 45 minutes for attorney-client privilege to discuss personnel, the open meeting shall resume at 11:00 A.M. Commissioner Searl gave the second. Motion passed 3-0. Open meeting resumed at 10:58 with no action taken.

Commissioner Carpenter made a motion at 11:01 A.M. to go into an executive session for 5 minutes for attorney-client privilege to discuss personnel, the open meeting shall resume at 11:06 A.M. Commissioner Searl gave the second. Motion passed 3-0. Open meeting resumed at 11:06 with no action taken.

Human Resources Crystal Wade, has received a reimbursement check for the county, from the counties insurance company for training she has attended.

The Commission directed County Counselor Ruth Ritthaler to send the drafted response letter to Dr. Dean, clarifying the decision from the Board of County Commissions in regard to his tax relief request.

Motion from Commissioner Shaw to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Carpenter, 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