

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 17, 2017

Chairman Jack Carpenter called the regular meeting to order on Monday, July 17, 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 and Deputy Clerk Becky Smilko were all present. Commissioner Goff Searl opened the meeting with prayer.

Commissioner Shaw made a motion to approve minutes from Monday 10, 2017. Commissioner Searl gave the second. Motion passed 3-0.

Joel Haden, Road & Bridge Superintendent, crews have added rock to the following areas, Rd. 2 & Quivira, Roads 8 & 9 at Union, Rd. 26 & Independence Shortcut, and Rd. 8 & Marshall. Joel updated the Commission about replacing a bridge; he is meeting with the engineer later this week. Mr. Haden presented information regarding a road magnet. Commissioner Searl made a motion to purchase a road magnet from Road & Bridge funds. Commissioner Shaw gave the second, motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Searl and Commissioner Shaw have heard from Ms. Kirchner about the condition of Rd. 5 around her home. They request that Joel take a look at the area.

Jack Warren, Janice Fine, Amy Goode and Amber Prince joined the meeting.

Human Resource Director Crystal Wade read a statement regarding a gender based discrimination allegation. She stated that as commissioners they had a great responsibility and stewardship to the citizens of Chautauqua County. As an employer it is imperative they follow all federal and state employment laws and the county handbook. Crystal stated as an administrator she has taken several steps to ensure the board is aware of ongoing issues and harassment, she feels the warnings have not been taken seriously. Should the matter result in legal action it could cost the tax payers a substantial amount. She requested that Commissioner Searl be required to complete training in the areas of Kansas Open Meeting Act and Harassment in the Workplace. Crystal further requested a 30 minute executive session to discuss non-elected personnel, to protect the privacy of an employee.

Commissioner Shaw offered Commissioner Searl an opportunity to respond.

Commissioner Searl stated there are people in the courthouse & public that will twist words around so they mean something different. Crystal Wade stated she had a recording of the incident and asked Commissioner Searl; do you feel that the words that were said to me last week about my body were appropriate? Commissioner Searl stated it was a compliment and not derogatory. She provided a transcript of what was said at the Commissioner's meeting July 10, 2017 and read it aloud. County Counselor Ruth Ritthaler stated if discussion was going to continue she would suggest an executive session to allow privacy

for nonelected personnel. Commissioner Shaw suggested a five minute recess to allow everyone to cool off. Commissioner Searl and Crystal Wade agreed that was not necessary. Commissioner Carpenter made a motion to go into executive session for 15 minutes regarding non elect personnel for privacy at 9:12 a.m. with Crystal Wade and County Counselor Ruth Ritthaler, Commissioner Shaw gave the second and the motion carried 3-0. At 9:27 a.m. the regular meeting resumed, no action was taken.

Commissioner Carpenter moved for a 5 minute executive session with County Counselor Ruth Ritthaler for Attorney Client Privilege at 9:29. Commissioner Shaw gave the second motion passed 3-0. Regular meeting resumed at 9:34 with no action taken.

Joe O'Rourke and Tara Cunningham with New Beginnings Enterprises talked to the Commission about the work that they do, and requested that they to continue with funding at the current level.

Linda Kline from the Solid Waste Department answered questions about opening a new landfill for construction and demolition. Commissioner Shaw motioned to fill out the application to open a new solid waste landfill for construction and demolition debris. Commissioner Searl gave the second, motion passed 3-0.

Reta Pipher continued the fence discussion from last week. She stated that she has just been made aware that the fence has not been maintained properly. Commissioner Shaw offered to facilitate and agreement with both parties outside of the meeting. Ms. Pipher agreed to talk to him later in the week.

Rodney Burns answered questions about the proposed budget for the Commission. He will attend the meeting on the 24th of July, for further discussion.

Discussion continued about Human Resource Director Crystal Wade's address to the Commission. She was asked to rejoin the meeting and the Commission inquired about her request of action from the Board. Crystal stated again, that for the good of the County she thought it best to for the Board to answer her request so that it may be reflected in the official minutes of the County.

Commissioner Carpenter moved for a 15 minute executive session at for non-elect personnel for privacy of the personnel. Commissioner Shaw gave the second. Motion passed 3-0 Regular meeting resumed at 11:10 with no action taken.

Commissioners reviewed and approved the expenditures as follows:

General Fund	\$9374.10
Equipment Reserve	\$924.00
Appraiser	\$280.00
Health	\$506.61
Noxious Weed	\$8547.68
Road & Bridge	\$64,480.59

County 911	\$749.06
Solid Waste	\$8206.51
Total	\$93068.55

Commissioner Shaw stated that he intends to call the State about Highway 99 at mile marker 20. He has observed that the painted centerline is about a foot off of actual center, and this is the same location that several wrecks have happened.

Commissioner Shaw motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Searl, 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