

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 7, 2017

Chairman Jack Carpenter called the regular meeting to order on Monday, August 7, 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 Searl made a motion to approve minutes from Monday, July 31, 2017. Commissioner Shaw gave the second. Motion passed 3-0.

Joel Haden, Road & Bridge Superintendent, reported that rock has been spread in the following areas; Rd. 26 & Independence shortcut, Rd. 19 & Quivira, and Rd. 2 north of HWY 166. The right of way has been cleared at Rd. 10 & Saddle.

Commissioner Carpenter expressed appreciation for the work done on Indian Rd. and stated that a sign to mark a low water crossing a Steinberger's has been gone and needing replaced for some time now. Commissioner Searl stated the work previously completed at Steinbach's looked good after the heavy rain over the weekend. Both Commissioners suggested new areas to work on.

Commissioners Searl and Shaw have been contacted by Mike & Connie Kirchner about Rd. 4 & 5 near Lariat. Joel Haden asked Commissioner Shaw to observe the location with him, and Commissioner Shaw agreed. Additionally Commissioner Shaw asked Mr. Haden to review Rd. 30 south of HWY 166 because it is rough and has wash boards.

Commissioner Shaw inquired about the use of a county truck by a contract worker. Mr. Shaw stated he has been contacted by concerned citizens regarding the individual driving the county's truck home. Mr. Haden explained this has always been the arrangement as far as he was aware and Commissioner Carpenter confirmed it has been the practice for approximately 25 years. County Counselor Ruth Ritthaler confirmed that previously this individual was an employee, however has retired and provides contract work for the County. She questioned what the policy was for county vehicles and how this practice might impact his status as a contractor. The Commission asked Ruth Ritthaler to meet with Crystal Wade of Human Resources and research this matter and present it at the next meeting. The commission stated for now the contractor should pick up and return the truck at the County Barn daily.

Cody Collier, Emergency Manager invited the Commissioners and County Attorney to attend a presentation given by Harvey County EM Director Gary Denny in Independence KS on August 17, 2017. The presentation will address the challenges of a multi-agency response to a mass casualty incident. Topics will include the importance of pre-planning,

communication during an incident, impact of social media, logistics of dealing with a large number of responders in a small town and mental health effects.

Leslie Talley followed up on his inquiry regarding a fence viewing order and questioned if he needed to apply for a new viewing. Commissioner Shaw stated he has been in contact with all parties and will continue to work with them to get this matter resolved. Ruth Ritthaler, County Counselor stated she would review the former fence viewing order and statutes and advise the proper procedures at the next meeting.

Tim Nordell addressed the Commission regarding the previous discussion about possibly opening a new construction & demolition landfill. He stated he was on the committee to close the old landfill and it is his opinion that opening a new landfill is a bad idea. Mr. Nordell is concerned about disturbing the former site, the overall expense of the project and the counties liability to maintain a new landfill. Mr. Nordell stated that the cities can use G & G for the removals and contended that it is not the County's responsibility. Commissioner Shaw stated he would like to find a way for the county to assist the cities in the clean-up efforts. He continued and stated it is his responsibility to represent the constituents who elected him and that District #2 includes Sedan residents that pay city and county taxes. Commissioners expressed concerned about the expense as well. Discussion continued regarding other options to make clean-up efforts more affordable for the cities.

Human Resource Administrator Crystal Wade has received one application for the internal job posting listed. She requested a 30-minute executive session for non-elect personnel regarding discussing the status of an employee to protect their privacy. Commissioner Carpenter so moved, Commissioner Searl gave the second. Motion passed 3-0 Open meeting will resume at 10:00 A.M. The open meeting resumed at 10:00 A.M. with no action taken.

County Counselor Ruth Ritthaler presented a corrected Resolution 17-07 regarding the Cattle Guard. Clerical corrections were made to the section number in the top portion and on item #6 a section number was added with the wording "and/or".

County Clerk Niki Collier reported making corrections to the previously entered amounts on the software system to reflect the departments adopted budgets. She also provided a report detailing the cost of the courthouse lawn care expense per the request of Commissioner Searl last week.

Commissioner Searl stated he feels the Commission should give support to the Cedar Vale Labor Day event this year, as they will have a rodeo as well as other events. After discussion Commissioner Searl motioned to pay \$750.00 out of the Economic Development fund to the Cedar Vale Labor Day Association, Commissioner Shaw gave the second and motion passed 3-0.

Reta Pipher joined the meeting and stated she was working on completing the fence in question. She further stated she was frustrated with the cancelation of the rodeo and other county events due to lack of participation and felt there was also a lack of appreciation for those who attempt to participate.

Treasurer Amy Goode reported that she has submitted the delinquent tax list to the newspaper for publishing and the delinquent tax rate for the county is down to 5%.

A date for the tax sale has not been set yet, however things are progressing and a date will be established soon.

Commissioner Shaw motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 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