

# **CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**August 14, 2017**

Chairman Jack Carpenter called the regular meeting to order on Monday, August 14, 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, August 7, 2017. Commissioner Searl gave the second. Motion passed 3-0.

Joel Haden, Road & Bridge Superintendent, reported that rock has been applied to the following areas, Rd. 27 & Lariat, Rd. 22 & Cowboy, Rd. 24 & Junction, and Rd. 19 & Quivira. New signs have been posted to indicate areas prone to flooding near Rd. 29 & Cowboy. A culvert on Indian between Rd. 27 and 29 is washing out, the location has been closed until it can be repaired this week. Several roads had water damage from the weekend rain and crews will be making the repairs as quickly as possible. Mr. Haden and Commissioner Shaw met with Mike & Connie Kirchner to discuss concerns with Rd. 4 & 5 near Lariat.

Laura Beeson joined the meeting on behalf of a citizen with a question regarding burial on private property. Commission stated there are no county restrictions, Counselor Ruth Ritthaler will follow up with the family after checking with the state.

Maintenance Supervisor Rodger Green joined the meeting, Commissioner Carpenter moved for a 15 minute executive session at 8:50 am for non-elected personnel to protect the privacy of employee, Commissioner Searl made the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion carried. Regular session reconvened at 9:05 am, no action taken. Commissioners request Crystal Wade from HR join the meeting and she provided and intent to retire form and Mr. Green signed it.

Crystal presented employee travel request for approval and stated the KWOR audit was going well. She also presented information requested regarding the difference of a contracted worker and an employee working after retirement with KPERS. The Commission instructed her to change the classification of Jerry Blakesley from a contractor to an employee working after retirement with KPERS, complying with the Department of Labor regulations. Department Head Joel Haden and Jerry Blakesley are aware and agree to this change.

Kristen Schodorf of Sedan Library joined the meeting and stated the library was struck by lightning and needed to replace several pieces of equipment. She requested county funds to help replace equipment and assist with some renovation projects. Kristen stated the library is trying to raise \$4,500. Commissioner Carpenter asked if an insurance claim was submitted and Kristen stated there was not a claimed filed because the deductible was approximately \$2,000 and it's too high considering the cost to replace damaged property. Commissioner Shaw suggested that the county look into surplus computers that may be

available for donation and Clerk Collier suggested Kristen also contact USD 286 regarding surplus sale of computers and iPads. Kristen stated she would be in contact with the Clerk.

Council on Aging representatives Nina Campbell & Judi St. Clair joined the meeting. Mrs. Campbell requested clarification about this year's distributions. Clerk Niki Collier clarified that she had given the second half of the budgeted funds that were available, so they could use allocated funds throughout the year and not have to wait for a year end disbursement. Judi St. Clair asked the Commission for assistance in finding locations to store collected recyclables. Commissioner Searl suggested the basement as an option; Clerk Collier reminded the Commission that the basement houses equipment that should not be accessed by the public, as well as historical records. Commission Carpenter asked the Clerk to inquire with the Sheriff about possible storage.

Clerk Niki Collier stated there was a clerical error in the minutes previously printed on July 31, 2017. The content approved was accurate, however the signed copy had a sentence missing regarding a motion. The Commissioners signed a corrected copy that was previously approved. Mrs. Collier also informed the Commission she was contacted by USD 283 and there was an error in the mill levy that Elk County certified to the Chautauqua County last year and that the Treasurer would present more information on it.

Commissioner Carpenter moved to recess for 5 minutes for the scheduled budget hearing, Commissioner Searl gave the second. Motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Searl stated in the last two years the Commission has given employees and departments everything that they ask for and they should be thankful. Everyone complains their taxes are too high. He said it was suggested to him that the Commission should routinely reduce budget submissions by 5% regardless of the requested amount, yet there have been no suggestion as to which services should be cut. Commissioner Searl further stated due to the new tax lid requirements the county could not easily lower and then raise taxes without effecting the future budget years in an adverse way.

Commissioner Carpenter asked if there were any more comments on the proposed budget. Commissioner Shaw then moved to adopt the budget as published, Commissioner Carpenter gave the second. Motion passed 2-1, Commissioner Searl with the nay.

Commissioner Searl moved to conclude the budget hearing, Commissioner Shaw gave the second. Motion passed 3-0. Commissioner Searl moved to resume the regular meeting, Commissioner Shaw gave the second. Motion passed 3-0.

Treasurer Amy Goode joined the meeting and stated USD 283 certified 3 mills over the amount that was published and she was researching the process of refunds. So far she has determined there are 126 parcels involved and she is waiting for help from the software company to determine exactly how they were impacted. She estimates it will cost approximately \$2,000 in refunds. Amy also stated it is standard practice for the Treasurer not to issue a refund under the amount of \$5.00 and if the Commission wanted to do something different in this situation they may need to consider passing a resolution.

Clerk Niki Collier asked the Commissioners if they wanted to continue to participate in the ROZ program and they agreed. A new resolution would be prepared and presented at the next meeting.

Linda Kline from Solid Waste joined the meeting and presented the monthly report for the department. She also stated the two lots in Cedar Vale needed to be mowed and she received a quote for \$125.00 to bush hog since they were over grown. Commissioner Shaw stated that the county bush hog was working in Cedar Vale and should be able to do that. Joel Haden joined the meeting and confirmed the bush hog was already working in Cedar Vale and he would have him mow the lots.

Commissioners reviewed and approved the expenditures as follows:

General Fund	\$9474.15
Ambulance District #1	\$4091.00
Ambulance District #2	\$13860.00
Appraiser	\$44.70
Employee Benefit	\$211.50
Health	\$788.68
Noxious Weed	\$12.98
Road & Bridge	\$31764.22
Special Law Enforcement	\$599.00
County 911	\$749.06
Solid Waste	\$4752.73
<u>Treasurer's Auto</u>	<u>\$150.00</u>

TOTAL ALL FUNDS        \$66498.02

Commissioner Searl motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:47 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Shaw, 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