

# **CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

## **September 11, 2017**

Chairman Jack Carpenter called the regular meeting to order on Monday, September 11, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. in the commission room of the Court House. Commissioner Goff Searl, Commissioner Rodney Shaw, County Clerk Niki Collier, Deputy Clerk Becky Smilko and Counselor Ruth Ritthaler were all present. Commissioner Goff Searl opened the meeting with prayer.

Commissioner Shaw motioned to approve the minutes of September 5, 2017 as presented. Commissioner Searl gave the second, motion passed 3-0.

Road & Bridge Superintendent Joel Haden provided the weekly update on road maintenance. He reported repairs to bridges and a road grader. Commissioner Searl questioned how the Caterpillar grader was holding up, Joel reported that the Operator is pleased with it. Commissioner Shaw reported that the signs on Road 11 were turned backwards and needed to be fixed. Commissioner Shaw discussed some possible solutions for the ditches on the Dead End Rally Road.

Commissioner Shaw stated he went out to observe the current landfill and the seven acres in question regarding a possible construction and demolition landfill. Discussion was held about the land.

HR Administrator Crystal Wade provided a letter to the Commission from Sheriff Newby, in which he submitted raises for four employees and a request that the Commission consider giving the Emergency Manager a raise. Discussion was held regarding the Emergency Manager's raise and the matter was tabled for 1 week.

Ms. Wade stated that some possible applicants have inquired about the county pay schedule and have declined applying for the open position due to the county only paying once a month. She has contacted county employees and asked their opinions on bi-monthly or monthly pay period. At this time she feels the responses did not support changing the way employees are paid, however the Commission may want to consider it at a later date. Becky Smilko asked the Commission to also consider the policy regarding paid vacation time for newly hired employees when they have their annual review of the employee handbook. According to the handbook an employee earns vacation time, but cannot use it until after a year of employment. Commissioner Searl stated he was not aware that employees had to wait that long to use their vacation time and Crystal Wade stated employees do have access to two personal days and sick time during the first year.

Becky Smilko updated the Commission on the continued difficulties with the AT&T accounts. Several request have been made with the company to receive statements in a timely fashion, and they have not been accommodating. She stated two statements were received on Wednesday, September 6, 2017 and due on Sunday, September 10, 2017. She advised she has spoken with county auditor Rodney Burns and presented an email to the Commission for review. The clerk's office requested approval for the AT&T payments to be paid by credit card to avoid late fees in the future. Commissioner Searl moved to allow the AT&T bill to be paid by credit card to avoid late fees, Commissioner Carpenter gave the second, motion passed 3-0.

County Clerk Niki Collier advised the Commissioners that on Friday, September 15, 2017 Sedan High School Senior Class will be visiting the Courthouse for Senior Civics Day. The Clerk's office has contacted all county departments and organized a schedule for the event.

Niki also reported she spoke to the Appraiser and there indeed were four lots that the County owns in Cedar Vale. The dumpster sits on one lot, leaving the other three lots for sale as previously discussed.

Commissioner Searl stated there was a new KDHE grant available in 2018 for recycling in small communities.

A discussion regarding property tax and tax exemptions was held and Appraiser Jeremy Hendren joined the meeting. He answered some questions regarding tax exempt properties and qualifications.

Commissioners reviewed and approved the mid-month expenditures for September 2017 as follows:

General Fund	\$8,211.66
Equipment Reserve	\$4,529.62
Ambulance Dist #1	\$4,091.00
Ambulance Dist #2	\$13,860.00
Appraiser	\$1,128.37
Election	\$120.25
Health	\$1,589.62
Noxious Weed	\$4,217.78
Road & Bridge	\$50,075.22
Special Law Enforcement	\$599.00
County 911	\$749.06
Solid Waste	\$5,715.28

**TOTAL Expenditures                \$94,886.86**

Commissioner Shaw motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Searl, 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