

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 18, 2017

Chairman Jack Carpenter called the regular meeting to order on Tuesday, September 18, 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 Deputy Clerk Becky Smilko were all present. Commissioner Goff Searl opened the meeting with prayer.

Commissioner Searl motioned to approve the minutes of September 11, 2017 as presented. Commissioner Shaw gave the second, motion passed 3-0.

Road & Bridge Superintendent Joel Haden provided the weekly update on road maintenance. Richard Hambleton joined the meeting and Commissioner Carpenter motioned for a 15 minute executive session at 8:45 a.m. for non-elect personnel, to protect privacy of the personnel. Commissioner Searl gave the second. Motion passed 3-0. The regular meeting resumed at 9:00 a.m. with no action taken from the executive session.

Mike Steinback joined the meeting and advised the Commission he had plans on retiring and wanted to formally submit a two week notice. The Commission thanked him for his service and asked if he had any questions regarding retirement. He stated that HR Administrator Crystal Wade had answered all his questions, however he did want to confirm how the remainder of his vacation and sick time would be paid. HR Administrator Crystal Wade joined the meeting and confirmed that upon retirement Mr. Steinback would receive any unpaid vacation time and half of sick pay.

Linda Kline of Solid Waste joined the meeting and requested the Commissioners sign the letter for delinquent trash letters and reported the hearing has been scheduled for Monday, October 2, 2017.

Commissioner Shaw requested that Crystal Wade allow Shelly Buck present to the Board first. Mrs. Buck requested that Angel Tree be allowed to set up a Christmas tree on the first floor as they have previously done. The Commission granted permission for the Angel Tree project to use the courthouse.

HR Administrator Crystal Wade then provided travel request and asked if the Commission made a decision on the Sheriff's request regarding the Emergency Manager receiving a pay raise. Clerk Niki Collier excused herself and Deputy Clerk Becky Smilko recorded the minutes regarding this discussion. Commissioner Searl questioned why the Sheriff requested the Commission approval for this raise and Ms. Wade stated she believed the Sheriff was being courteous since the Emergency Manager reports to the Sheriff per resolution however if that changed he would report to the Commissioners. Commissioner Carpenter stated they would address that matter later in the meeting. Crystal also stated that she would bring a revision of the employee handbook to the next meeting to allow the commissioners time to review it.

Clerk Niki Collier resumed recording the minutes. Mayor Jack Warren joined the meeting and stated he spoke to Bill Byden of Kansas Department on Health & Environment (KDHE) regarding a Construction & Demolition (C & D) landfill. He provided information and a phone number for Mr. Byden. Commissioner Searl called the number and held a conference call with Bill Byden of KDHE. Mr. Byden stated cost to build and operate a C & D landfill was minimal and explained benefits to having one, he also stated that Chautauqua County is one of only four or five counties in Kansas that does not have a C & D landfill.

Linda Kline of Solid Waste joined the meeting and gave the monthly report. She presented an aerial picture of the dumpster and land located in Cedar Vale. Commissioner Searl stated he was offered \$100.00 for all three lots and Linda suggested that closed bids be considered since there is more than one person interested in purchasing the land.

Steven Dale, Chief of Rural Fire District #1 stated he was present to make sure the Fire Department was in good standing with the Commission. Commissioner Shaw stated he was unaware of what Mr. Dale was speaking of and asked for more details. Commissioner Searl stated he believed this had to do with a standby that the Fire Department facilitated and that he was asked about it. Chief Dale explained a citizen called and requested a standby as they burned four food plots and he accommodated this for safety purposes, he was also told by a Fire Department Board Member that the Commission was not happy with this and upset. Commissioner Shaw stated the Commission has not discussed Rural Fire District #1 and has no concerns with them doing a standby as long as they properly respond to an emergency should one arise. Chief Dale stated that emergency calls always take priority, even when they are on a requested standby. County Counselor questioned if the Fire Department had a written policy as to what the procedures were regarding standbys or leaving a location to respond to an emergency call. Steven stated there was not a written policy as far as he knew and he thought it would be a good idea. Chief Dale invited Commissioner Searl to a Fire Department meeting that was scheduled that evening at 7:00 pm.

Clerk Niki Collier reminded the Commission that the entrance door to the Health Department was still in need of repair. Niki also stated that Butler County was a victim of ransomware attack and Cloud County was also hacked but damage was minimal. The water leak in the courtyard has been repaired and the Clerk's office will submit the request to City of Sedan asking for the sewer fees to be waived.

Commissioner Searl stated the Treasurer was unavailable, however she did update him that there was approximately only one hundred parcels left on the tax sale list. County Counselor Ruth Ritthaler stated originally approximately 179 parcels listed and many properties have been redeemed.

Commissioner Carpenter motioned for a 15 minute executive session at 10:40 am for non-elect personnel, to protect privacy of the personnel. Commissioner Searl gave the second. Motion passed 3-0. The regular meeting resumed at 10:55 a.m. with no action taken from the executive session.

Emergency Manager Cody Collier joined the meeting by telephone and gave a report on the recent storm damage. He stated that the Road & Bridge Department and Caney Valley Electric did a great job working together to clear fallen trees and limbs. Mr. Collier also stated that all local fire departments and emergency responders are willing to try eDispatch,

a service that will allow all members to be contacted by dispatch utilizing their cell phones. The cost is \$3,516.00 and Emergency Management would like to purchase the system, pay \$1,000.00 and have the fire departments reimburse him their portion. Commissioner Searl made a motion to allow the Emergency Manager to purchase the eDispatch system, at the cost of \$3,516.00, to be paid for with a Treasurers check, and allow the other emergency departments to reimburse the Emergency Manager. Commissioner Carpenter second, and the motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Searl thanked the Clerk's Office for organizing Senior Civics Day for Sedan High School students and complemented them on their information pamphlet that they created to educate the students on the rolls of local government.

Commissioner Carpenter requested that HR Administrator Crystal Wade join the meeting to conclude the discussion regarding the pay raise for Emergency Manager. Clerk Niki Collier excused herself and Deputy Clerk Becky Smilko recorded the minutes regarding this matter. Commissioner Carpenter stated that at this time the Commission was not going to act on the pay raise request for the Emergency Manager. Commissioner Shaw questioned why the other Commissioners felt that this matter needed to be postponed and Commissioner Carpenter stated he would like to review it in December.

Commissioner Carpenter motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 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