

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 23, 2017

Chairman Jack Carpenter called the regular meeting to order on Monday, October 23, 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 October 16, 2017 as amended. Commissioner Shaw gave the second, motion passed 3-0.

Road & Bridge Superintendent Joel Haden provided the weekly update on road maintenance. Rock was hauled to several locations, a culvert was reset at Road 23 & Lariat and a bridge located at Rd 30 and Overland was repaired. Commissioner Searl stated that the stop sign at Marshal & Road 6 is missing and asked questions regarding the rock picker and bush hog. Commissioner Searl also asked about what the outcome of the previously submitted grant for road signs, Joel reported the first submission was not approved and recently another application was submitted for the grant. Commissioner Shaw stated the rain has washed some roads out, however he has had no complaints this week concerning the roads.

Commissioner Searl reported that the Treasurer called him this past week and asked him to call the bank and authorize the bank to release information to the auditor, he stated he contacted the bank and gave the authorization in order for Mr. Burns to complete the audit.

HR Administrator Crystal Wade inquired if the commission was ready to review the updated employee handbook and Commissioner Searl stated he would like more time to review the purposed handbook. Crystal advised the commission that she has spoken to the company that provides the drug testing and should they decide to drug test all new hires, they are able to negotiate a better rate. The commission directed Ms. Wade to advertise the County Counselor position.

Maintenance Supervisor Rodger Green joined the meeting and invited the commissioners to tour the basement shop with him. At 9:15 a.m. Commissioner Carpenter motioned to recess the meeting for 30 minutes to allow for the tour of the basement. Commissioner Shaw gave the second and the motion passed 3-0. At 9:40 a.m. Commissioner Searl made a motion to resume the meeting, Commissioner Shaw gave the second. Motion passed 3-0.

Gary Cude joined the meeting and expressed concern about the request that was made by Blain Burn to close a portion of the road located near Heritage Rd & Road 21. He stated that road gives him direct access to his property and he was opposed to the road being closed. County Clerk Niki Collier reminded the commission that County Counselor Ritthaler was gone to a training course today. She also stated that Jamie Walker came in last week and stated she also objected to the road being closed.

Mrs. Collier scheduled the election canvas with the commission for November 13, 2017. Niki stated the medical kits previously discussed would be covered by the Risk Avoidance Grant through KCAMP. Commissioner Searl stated he would like to also see about updating the fire extinguishers throughout the courthouse. Commissioner Carpenter questioned if all the employees were aware of where the fire extinguishers were located and knew how to use them in the event of a fire.

Commissioner Searl stated he received some concerns that Cedar Vale election workers had to travel to Sedan without pay. County Clerk/Election Officer Niki Collier stated that was not accurate. She stated each election worker will be paid \$20.00 for the training day and \$120.00 for election day, and they were no longer being paid for mileage because the base pay has been increased. In years past workers have been paid hourly plus mileage for an average of \$120.00 total for training, election day and mileage, however now workers are making a total of \$140.00. Mrs. Collier stated Chautauqua County election workers pay is competitive with larger counties such as Sedgewick and Johnson county. Election training is mandatory per K.S.A. 25-2806 and by training the week before it allows all workers to practice with training data. Commissioner Searl asked if she had enough workers in the Cedar Vale area? Niki stated each polling location had a good balance of experienced and new workers, with people from each location traveling up to 20 miles to attend training. Additionally there are substitute workers that will attend training in case they were needed on election day.

Emergency Manager Cody Collier joined the meeting and the commission approved the Emergency Action Plan for county employees in the event of an emergency and advised him to proceed with giving a copy to the Department Heads. Commissioner Carpenter requested that he make sure people in the building knew how to work the fire extinguishers and he stated he would contact the local Fire Chief to set up some training for employees.

Clerk Collier presented a letter from Sheriff Newby requesting that \$3,000.00 from Dispatch Capital Outlay to Dispatch Personnel line and \$6,000 from Sheriff Capital Outlay be moved to Sheriff Personnel line. The commission approved this request.

Commissioner Carpenter motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:33 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