

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 2, 2013

Chairman Jack Carpenter called the meeting of the Chautauqua County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, July 2, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. in the commission room of the courthouse. Commissioners Goff Searl and Danny Williams were present as was County Counselor Larry King and County Clerk Janice A. Fine. Danny Williams gave prayer. Lisa Hudson, Treasurer, joined the meeting as observer.

Larry Brown joined the meeting to discuss an issue at Rd 29 off Union Rd. He stated he was informed by the Sheriff's department and Road and Bridge that the road in question was still a county road. Jack Carpenter believes it is no longer a county road. Mr. Elmore had called and talked with Jack Carpenter last week and that's when the research began. A road vacate is being researched by Road and Bridge. Joel Haden, Road and Bridge Supervisor, will provide Mr. Brown with determination. Mr. Brown doesn't want to cause problems but needs to know if that road belongs to the county or if it has been vacated. Commission suggested that Mr. Brown check with the Appraiser's Office to clearly identify the property in question.

Linda Kline, Solid Waste Office Manager, joined the meeting as did Dale Stone, Steve Filtenberger and Ed McClure. Linda believes the new hire pay plan is moot. Linda asked that the county get out of the hole before we start losing quality employees. Goff Searl offered that the only way we can get to a point where raises can be given is if we reduce the number of employees. Linda asked what the amount would be to each tax payer and business if taxes were raised so the county could function without no-fund warrants. It is a demotion to employees to pay more for their benefits. Every job in Chautauqua County is important. Linda requests that someone from each department come together to determine the beginning wage for the new hire pay plan.

Joel Haden, Road & Bridge Supervisor, updated commissioners on department business. Crews are hauling rock south of Highway 99 on Rd. 27 and Rd. 28, on Rd. 14 north of Highway 166, on the Independence shortcut, on Highway 99 and Trail. They continue reshaping Rd. 14 and there remains a small stretch of that road to fix. Crews hauled rock around Mr. Files place on Indian Rd (his culvert wasn't plugged), rock was also hauled to Dalton and Highway 99 to the cattle guard. Staff reshaped a driveway entrance on Peru shortcut. At Cascade cemetery crews worked the creek crossing to that cemetery. A culvert was installed at Rd. 22 and Quivera where a new home is being built. Indian Springs at Saddle and Rd. 18 the low water crossing washes out the road and that issue has been fixed. Crews hauled rock on Rd. 32 and Jack Carpenter complimented on a job well done. Rd. 32 needs to be looked at after it rains. The Sheriff's hand rail has been installed. The telephone poles have been removed from the courthouse lawn. Randy Steadham asked Haden if the road from Elk County to Rd. 28 south could be closed. There is another land owner who stated he would not have a problem with the road

closing. There are legal issues that must be satisfied before a road can be closed. Joel Haden has been asked to contact Mr. Steadham to meet with commissioners regarding a road closure. Jeremy Hendren believes that road in question was closed but Joel Haden believes the road is open. Joel provided the commissioners with an ATT contract to install lines from the Cedar Vale limits to Rd 3 and to the highway. The next contract with ATT to install lines is located at Sedan out Junction Rd to 166 business route. Joel is requesting signature on the contracts. Commissioners signed the contract.

Cathy Rinck joined the meeting to discuss a bridge project. The Federal government has a "Off Bridge Program" which is a competitive program. Cook bridge may qualify for this program with an 80/20 split. This is a truss bridge which gives it a good chance at the award of funds. Architect and easement will be the county's responsibility. Budget may be impacted in 2014 or 2015. Cost for the bridge would be more than \$600,000 but less than 800,000. Consultant charges would also be the responsibility of the county regarding design. Commission asked that they being the process.

Mr. Brown and Jeremy Hendren, Deputy Appraiser, joined the meeting to show county maps for the land in question. Discussion of land ownership was discussed.

Becky Gray and Dick Courtin with C-Can joined the meeting. They are touring and talking with all 12 counties that they serve. Some programs are being diminished because of federal budget cuts. State wants to spread their funds to include western Kansas which has 6% of the state population. Funds that are distributed to poverty areas are being moved to highly populated areas instead. Becky asked that the commissioners watch for a letter from legal counsel to help keep services in this area. They have reorganized and now are available to receive economic development funds for their services. Healthy food is another program which helps grocery stores remain open or a roving pantry where it goes to communities that do not have grocery stores. They have met with Allen Zadarozny and he is a great resource and potential partner regarding realistic economic development. Goff Searl asked if they are involved in building new homes. There is a program but it appears it would serve individuals with higher incomes. Transportation issues were discussed at the last visit. They did request their transportation manager to contact our transportation person to help determine the most appropriate funding stream. Building storm shelters is a need in our community. C-Can may be able to help financially. Contact the Cedar Vale City Hall to make contact with Mr. Cline. There is a good majority of individuals whose income is closer to 20,000 to 30,000 or less. Affordable housing is needed in our community. Becky is willing to look for housing opportunities and get back with commissioners.

Jeremy Hendren, Deputy Appraiser, joined the meeting to discuss department business. Hendren indicated he has received a few applications. A representative from McCully & Associates will be at our meeting on July 9, 2013. Hendren indicated McCully will be affordable. McCully member would be in the office one day a month. Charges would be fee based, so much for mileage and wage for each event. Hendren will follow-up on a couple of leads on qualified individuals to fill his vacancy. Hendren will be doing the work and McCully signing off on his process.

Hendren is making \$12.65 per hour as the Deputy Appraiser and he requested an increase. Hendren believes he has taken on more responsibility and will continue to do so until a permanent Appraiser has been appointed. Commissioners need to discuss his salary request and will let him know. Commissioners asked if Hendren could increase the hours he works. Hendren has a case in front of the Court of Tax Appeal that he will need to attend. Hendren had new tires put on the Appraisal vehicle.

Danny Williams called for an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel regarding the Appraiser's Office at 10:30 a.m. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Jack Carpenter called the regular meeting back into session at 10:45 a.m. Commission asked that Jeremy Hendren be called back to the meeting. Commissioners offered a pay increase to \$14.00 per hour for 60 days. Commissioners will review in 60 days. Hendren offered that Personal Property will be a new experience for the office but it will be managed professionally.

Larry King, County Counselor, brought to the commission a letter received from ATT regarding a class action suit that has been initiated for charges in excess. Larry recommends that we join that suit. The county has 55 active phone lines. Danny Williams made a motion to join that class action lawsuit. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Larry King, County Counselor, asked if the commissioners were interested in looking into the road issue. He recommends that we research for documentation and the commission asked the County Clerk to research the issue from 1985 forward.

Danny Williams made a motion to accept the meeting minutes for June 28, 2013. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Danny Williams made a motion to retire the pay plan with grades that has been worked on and go with the proposed New Hire Pay Plan brought to the commissioners today. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The County Clerk provided commissioners with a letter from Enbridge to attend an open house. Commissioners asked if a date had been set to meet with the auditor to review proposed 2014 budgets. The County Clerk will call the auditor and schedule. The County Clerk asked their consideration for her to name her HR Manager as her Deputy Election Officer and pay her accordingly. Commissioners stated they would not reach a decision on this matter today. The County Clerk stated her budget for 2014 was the only budget submitted with a voluntary reduction and that to date she has saved the county a bit more than \$25,000.00 overall.

Danny Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Goff Searl, First District Commissioner

Danny D. Williams, Second District Commissioner

Jack Carpenter, Chairman, Third District Commissioner

ATTEST:

Janice A. Fine, County Clerk