

# **CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

January 22, 2018

Chairman Rodney Shaw called the regular meeting to order on January 22, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. in the commission room of the Court House. Commissioner Jack Carpenter, Commissioner Goff Searl, Clerk Niki Collier, Deputy Clerk Becky Smilko and County Counselor Zoe Newton were all present. Commissioner Goff Searl opened the meeting with prayer.

Commissioner Searl moved to approve the minutes of Tuesday, January 16, 2018. Commissioner Carpenter gave the second and the motion passed 3-0.

Road & Bridge Superintendent Joel Haden stated that inclement weather had delayed most road repairs for the week. Crews were able to spread rock near Rd. 27 and Overland and complete some projects in the shop. Commissioner Searl requested that rocks on Lariat between Rd. 4 & Rd. 6 be tended to.

After reviewing Kansas Statutes regarding unattended deaths, Counselor Newton reported they are very broad and the County is financially responsible for autopsies and related transportation when deemed appropriate by the County Coroner.

HR Administrator Crystal Wade brought health department travel requests for approval. Ms. Wade requested direction from the Board regarding requests made for payroll information by employees' spouses. Ms. Wade informed them that, the current procedure is that information is only provided to employees for privacy purposes. Ms. Wade stated after visiting with Counselor Newton if the Board wished to change that procedure she would propose using a waiver for the employees to sign for a one time release in order to maintain the employee's confidentiality and comply with privacy laws. No decision was made at this time.

Ms. Wade is expecting payroll software updates for the new tax tables to be complete in time for February payroll. Sheriff office has filled the dispatch position.

Courthouse Maintenance Richard Hambleton stated that installation of the Health Department door was completed as planned. The Board approved the purchase of cordless tools for the maintenance department.

County Clerk Niki Collier informed the Board that Four County Mental Health Board had approved Sheriff Richard Newby to sit on their board.

The Board was presented with a bid from The Cedar Vale Lookout and reviewed bids from both newspapers. The Lookout reports that 220 Chautauqua County residents subscribe or purchase the weekly paper, while Prairie Star reports 980 Chautauqua County residents subscribe to the weekly paper. After a discussion regarding price comparison and coverage Commissioner Shaw moved to appoint Prairie Star the official county newspaper for the year 2018. Commissioner Carpenter gave the second, motion passed 2-1.

County Counselor Zoe Newton provided a written document outlining the responsibilities of the Federal Compliance Officer for the Board to review. Commissioner Shaw moved to

appoint Zoe Newton as Federal Compliance Officer. Commissioner Carpenter gave the second, motion passed 3-0.

Mrs. Newton then brought information about redistricting requirements for discussion. She will continue to review the subject and present her findings to the Board.

At 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Searl moved for an executive session to last no longer than 15 minutes for attorney-client privilege with Mrs. Newton. Commissioner Carpenter gave the second, motion passed 3-0.

The open meeting resumed at 10:05 a.m. with no action taken.

The Board approved a letter to be sent to Mrs. Ritthaler requesting the transfer of any and all files to Mrs. Newton regarding Board business.

Commissioner Carpenter moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 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, Chairman, Second District Commissioner

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Jack Carpenter, Third District Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Niki Collier, County Clerk