

# **CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**March 12, 2018**

Chairman Rodney Shaw called the regular meeting to order on Monday, March 12, 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 Monday, March 5, 2018. Commissioner Carpenter gave the second and the motion passed 3-0.

Road & Bridge Superintendent Joel Haden stated that rock had been hauled to the following locations; Rd. 11 & Nation, Rd. 6 & Trail, Rd. 2 north of Hwy 166, Rd. 11 & Lariat, Rd. 5 & Gallop, and Rd. 29 & south of Hwy 166. Commissioner Carpenter stated the landfill has to be addressed. A discussion was had on different ways to lay down the vegetation. Joel stated he knows where the problem areas are and could have crews walk it and fill in the problem areas in order to prepare the land for brush hogging. Commissioner Carpenter stated that the Indian shortcut needs to be repaired. Commissioner Searl stated that most roads have enough gravel they just need some maintenance and asked that a hole on Marshall between roads 5 & 6 be addressed. Commissioner Shaw asked if the Road & Bridge Department is currently cross-training employees on various equipment and giving them the opportunity for advancement to prepare for the possibility of pay for performance. Mr. Haden advised that he has approximately three employees that are trained on the heavy equipment.

HR Administrator Crystal Wade presented longevity raise for approval. Ms. Wade informed the Board that she was having difficulty receiving one of the Blue Cross Blue Shield invoices in time to pay with regular bills and requested approval for a Treasurer's check to pay. She further stated after discussion with the Clerk's office they have figured a way to resolve this matter in the future. Counselor Zoe Newton advised that she had not been able to train on the payroll process as planned and she discussed the situation with Crystal Wade. Mrs. Newton suggests since payroll was previously handled in the Clerk's office and many other counties continue that practice it would seem reasonable to have the Clerk trained as the emergency backup. Commissioner Searl asked in the event Ms. Wade was temporarily unavailable who would complete payroll? Commissioner Carpenter suggested that it would fall to the Clerk to complete payroll. Mrs. Collier stated that she has previous payroll experience and would welcome the training. After discussion, the Board directed Ms. Wade to train Mrs. Collier as the backup for payroll.

Annie Blankinship and Jeanie Beason joined the meeting. Commissioner Searl stated that he would be attending a meeting with Meals on Wheels and The Peoples Place in Cedar Vale after the Board meeting and asked Mrs. Blankinship if she had any information about the two entities. Mrs. Blankinship stated the Health Department did not directly deal with either of them and she was not aware of any matters between the two organization.

Annie Blankinship informed the Board that in the past the Health Department has allowed some emergency preparedness equipment such as tables and a canopy to be borrowed by the public. The condition of the equipment has declined in the last few years causing Mrs.

Blankinship to deny a resent request. The Commissioners agreed with Mrs. Blankenship that the equipment needed to be preserved.

County Clerk Niki Collier presented property valuations for the county-owned properties. Commissioners requested that the Appraiser Jeremy Hendren join the meeting. Mr. Hendren joined the meeting and was asked to provide maps of each property. Mrs. Collier provided the Board with a letter for review that requested Bank of Sedan to provide financial statements to the Clerk as they do for the Treasurer for monthly reconciliation of accounts.

The Board wishes to acknowledge April 3, 2018, as National Service Recognition Day and expressed their appreciation to the many volunteers who serve their fellow citizens in Chautauqua County. The Board encourages residents to continue to find ways to strengthen their communities and serve each other.

Treasurer Amy Goode joined the meeting and provided information regarding delinquent properties that would qualify for a tax sale if taxes are not paid. The Board stated that they wish to continue with a sale this year if the properties are not redeemed and will continue with the same law firm.

Appraiser Jeremy Hendren rejoined the meeting and provided maps and information on the location of the County owned properties. Mrs. Blankinship rejoined the meeting and provided information regarding a previous discussion regarding The Peoples Place and Meals on Wheels in Cedar Vale.

Commissioner Carpenter motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 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