

# **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

July 9, 2013

Chairman Jack Carpenter called the meeting of the Chautauqua County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, July 9, 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. Amy Goode, Deputy Treasurer, joined the meeting as observer.

Joel Haden, Road & Bridge Supervisor, provided the commission with his weekly report. Crews are hauling gravel on the following roads: Rd 14, Rd 12 for 2 miles south, Rd 18, and Rd 19. Crews have been spraying brush. Crews are still working at Indian Springs. Jack Carpenter identified a road issue north of Peru. Danny Williams mentioned an area that needs to be reviewed. Goff Searl shared positive citizen comments regarding the ditch and road work being done where the fiber optic line was buried.

Cathy Rinck, Road & Bridge Office Manager, joined the meeting to offer her opinion regarding the request the Clerk made at the prior meeting to promote her HR Manager to Deputy Election Officer. Rinck feels that their office has been held back from providing their staff with raises because the commissioners have always said if everyone cannot receive the raise then no one should and it is insulting to other departments that one would get a raise and others have to wait. The commission responded that a decision had not been made.

Sheriff Russell sent a letter to the Commissioners requesting an increase in the mileage reimbursement to individuals for the transport of prisoners. The commission tabled this item for now.

Janice Fine, County Clerk requested to speak with commissioners regarding department business. KCAMP sent a letter revising their by-laws for the commissioners to review and voice any objections. No objections were voiced. An email had been received from the State, Property Valuation Division, asking if Chautauqua County had appointed an Appraiser. County Clerk responded to PVD that the Commissioners were reviewing options on July 9, 2013 and the Clerk would let them know the outcome. The County Clerk wished to review her request from the previous meeting regarding a position change. She offered a reduced option and provided the commission with the cost to benefits for both options. She also volunteered to personally reimburse the employee benefit fund for the additional costs. The County Clerk asked commissioners to define their expectations for Elected Officials in the hiring process. There was discussion and the Clerk asked that standards be included in the Employee Handbook so that the standard would be applied across the board where appropriate. It is very clear that the standard acceptable in the past is not the standard that is applied to the County Clerk. The County Clerk cannot abide by the rules if there aren't any in place and compliance is the Clerk's desire. The County Clerk asked to address the issue of "dues". It has

been said on numerous occasions that the County Clerk has not paid her "dues", AKA, been employed with the organization for years. Your County Clerk, Janice A. Fine, does not equate paying your "dues" by time on the job, but by performance. Clerk's staff performs their core duties very well, no one is perfect, they accept and demonstrate exceptional skills when asked to take on added responsibilities, they have a positive attitude towards the county and staff and they are team oriented. Those are the qualities the County Clerk will judge performance "dues".

Commissioners discussed 2014 budget requests they have received. Employee cost of living opportunity was discussed. Combination of service opportunities was briefly discussed. Department budget reductions may be necessary. The County Auditor, Rodney Burns, will be here July 23, 2013 and commissioners will discuss budget with him. Goff Searl asked the County Clerk if she was responsible for the Election Office budget and the answer was yes. Goff Searl stated that the Clerks budget was cut but the Election budget was increased. The County Clerk explained that a larger election will take place in 2014. Offices that impact Kansas residents will be on the ballot, Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Senator to name a few. There will be a primary and a general election and elections are not a cheap process.

Danny Williams made a motion to accept the meeting minutes for July 2, 2013 with one correction. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Jeremy Hendren, Deputy Appraiser, joined the meeting with Terry Henning with McCully & Associates, to discuss the requirement to appoint an Appraiser. William and Jeremy McCully were also present. William McCulley discussed the opportunity to represent Chautauqua County until they are in a position to hire an appraiser. Mr. Henning indicated that he represents several counties on a permanent basis. He stated that McCully & Associates began to help represent small counties that find it difficult to hire a certified appraiser. This group is headed to Topeka tomorrow, to visit with PVD regarding the entities they represent. Commission asked what the costs might be for their company to represent Chautauqua County. Mr. Henning indicated approximately \$30,000.00 (total cost) range for the size of Chautauqua County. William McCully stated they are not in the market to overcharge for services, but to maintain efficiencies. Mr. Henning indicated we were lucky that we have a qualified deputy appraiser who can manage the responsibilities until he becomes certified. Chautauqua County needs to continue to contract with Elk County for Oil and Gas appraisals. Length of contract was discussed. Mr. Henning stated that all Appraiser contracts are for a four year term which can be terminated by either party. Commissioners requested Larry King, County Counselor, to prepare the contract for Mr. Henning to sign. A resolution will be prepared to provide to the State, Property Valuation Division so Chautauqua County is in compliance.

Danny Williams made a motion to sign a four year contract with Mr. Terry Henning, McCully & Associates, to represent Chautauqua County as the appointed appraiser as required by state law. Contract would be July 9, 2013 until June 30, 2017 for \$30,000.00 per year. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Danny Williams made a motion to sign resolution 13-05, appointing Mr. Terry Henning as the Chautauqua County Appraiser. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Richard Potter presented a check from Post 141, American Legion, to reimburse the county for the recent veteran grave marker acquisition. Commissioners wished to express their appreciation for the reimbursement.

Danny Williams requested to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel at 10:40 a.m. for 15 minutes. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Jack Carpenter called the regular meeting back in session at 10:55 a.m. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Danny Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 a.m. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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Goff Searl, First District Commissioner

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Danny D. Williams, Second District Commissioner

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Jack Carpenter, Chairman, Third District Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Janice A. Fine, County Clerk