

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 31, 2018

Chairman Rodney Shaw called the regular meeting to order on July 31, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. in the commission room of the Court House. Commissioner Jack Carpenter, Commissioner Goff Searl, County Counselor Zoe Newton, Clerk Niki Collier, and Deputy Clerk Becky Smilko were all present. Commissioner Goff Searl opened the meeting with prayer.

Commissioner Carpenter moved to approve the minutes of July 23, 2018. Commissioner Searl gave the second and the motion passed 3-0.

Road & Bridge Superintendent Joel Haden reported that rock has been hauled to several locations and culverts have been installed in three locations. Mr. Haden advised that he has met with the engineer regarding the bridge design and it was suggested that a second location be submitted in the event the original request was denied.

Billy Goode presented a weekly report regarding areas sprayed for noxious weed control and stated a repair was made to fix the sprayer on the truck. Mr. Goode further stated that he continues to review inventory. Commissioner Searl stated he received a complaint from a citizen that observed two employees in the truck spraying weeds and felt that was not efficient. Mr. Goode told the Commissioners that was for training purposes and in the future, only one employee at a time would be needed to spray. Commissioner Searl advised Mr. Goode to ensure weeds under the bridges were sprayed to maintain control of brush.

Richard Hambleton was advised that if he has anyone help with lawn care they must sign a waiver before volunteering. The Board requested that Mrs. Newton draft a detailed waiver. Commissioner Carpenter asked about progress being made to clean out the old jail. Mr. Hambleton reported that Mr. Carter is still removing metal and there is the need for plumbing to be removed.

Annie Blankinship, Health Department Administrator presented a contract for review regarding services provided to local school districts. Mrs. Newton advised Mrs. Blankinship that by signing the contract an interlocal agreement was being made and had to be submitted to the Attorney General for approval and filed with the Register of Deeds and Secretary of State. Mrs. Newton and Mrs. Blankinship feel that a county approved price list for the same services would avoid the need of a contract. The Commissioners agreed and approved that the Health Department provide the school with a price list for services. Mrs. Blankinship also presented monthly deposit report and asked if the Board made a decision regarding raises for her staff. Commissioner Shaw stated that until the Board knew exactly what the cost of health insurance would be and reviewed all budgets there would be no decision made regarding pay raises.

Deputy Clerk Becky Smilko provided an update to the Board regarding Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) program. Commissioner Shaw requested she obtain more information and present it to the Board in two weeks.

Jeremy Hendren, Appraiser stated he has two applicants he would like to have the Board to meet next week. Mr. Hendren stated this position requires three years of training classes.

Chairman Shaw recessed the meeting for 5 minutes at 9:55 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:00 a.m.

HR Administrator Crystal Wade advised that if the Board chooses to use USI for health insurance benefits there was a business user agreement and provided it for Counsel to review. Ms. Wade state she had received an open records request regarding all county employees pay information and the company also requested fees for providing the information be waived. Counselor Newton stated she would advise against waiving the fees since the request would require extensive time to process.

County Counselor Zoe Newton presented a letter from KDHE regarding the ongoing discussion about waste water. Mrs. Newton stated she would respond and clarify some of the matters addressed in the letter. The Board agreed and directed her to address the matter.

Commissioner Searl motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Carpenter, motion passed 3-0.

Goff Searl, First District Commissioner

Rodney Shaw, Chairman, Second District Commissioner

Jack Carpenter, Third District Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rebecca Smilko, Deputy County Clerk