

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 6, 2013

Chairman Jack Carpenter called the meeting of the Chautauqua County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, August 6, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. in the commission room of the courthouse. Commissioner Goff Searl was present as was County Counselor Larry King and County Clerk Janice A. Fine. Commissioner Danny Williams was absent. Amy Goode, Deputy Treasurer, attended the meeting as observer.

Joel Haden, Road & Bridge Supervisor, provided the commission with his weekly report. They discussed KWORCC requested corrections which was completed. Crews are hauling gravel on Rd. 10 and Heritage at washout areas; Junction 12 west and Lariat west; Rd. 11 north of Prairie; at Rd. 14 crews skipped to the other end and working their way back (Trail and Rd. 14); Rd. 21 and Dalton; Frontier and Rd. 21. Crews patrol roads on rainy days and take care of road maintenance and identify washout areas. Crews replaced a plank on bridge 70. A reflector has been installed on a bridge on Rd. 7 and further repairs to that bridge are being scheduled. Commissioners asked if during wet weather if the sledge-hammer could be used. Haden replied that he needs to keep heavy equipment off the roads when they are wet. Searl informed Haden he had received word that at Belknap (around the church) has been messed up again and it needs to be reviewed. Jack identified some trees in the right of way that need to be looked at.

Commissioners asked the Clerk's Office to remind KDOT that they would mow the Chautauqua County Gem (the rock) when they were in the area. KDOT stored their mowing equipment in that area last week but did not mow.

Crystal Wade, Human Resource Manager, joined the meeting to discuss the employee handbook update. Anti-nepotism section of the handbook was reviewed for necessary updates. All department personnel files must be maintained in the department that prepares payroll, which is in the Clerk's Office. Confidential materials can be sealed but must reside in the official county employee file. The Longevity pay policy may need to be reviewed as Department heads feel it is outdated. Department heads also requested that all employees report any driving incidents to BOCC even on their own time. Another issue to address is the policy that states an employee can take up to 2 weeks off without commissioner's approval. There was discussion among Department Heads regarding concerns about the use of county vehicles. Ride-along individuals was discussed and the impact to our liability insurance. Commissioners believe the county should comply with our insurance for liability. The Sexual Harassment policy wording has been modified. Wade will bring all wording updates to next week's meeting.

Jonathan Cude, Sedan Floral, joined the meeting to discuss his future business plans. Fire damaged a part of their facility in Independence and they are looking at future possibilities. Sedan Floral is reviewing rebuilding in Sedan versus Independence. Cude seeks some exemption that would favor one location over the

other. Electricity cost is high in Chautauqua County. Water costs are high but only needed when their pond is low. Cude stated that Property taxes are high in Chautauqua County. Commissioners and Cude spent time discussing options and possibilities. Greenhouse structures are assessed at a very high rate state wide. Cude will need to reach a decision within the next 60 days. Montgomery County will offer basically the same thing regarding abatement of new construction property taxes. Cude offered that Sedan Floral hires 40-43 employees during the peak season in Sedan. If all operations moved to Sedan that employment number would increase as would management and office staff numbers. Cude offered there is opportunity for growth in his industry.

Ken Shull, Contractor, and Rodger Green, Maintenance Department Head, joined the meeting to discuss the scrap metal in the old jail. They discussed how the county wants the metal removal process to be. Shull believes he would need to be paid for some expenses and all the income from the scrap metal. Shull will provide a cost estimate and present it to the commissioners. All plumbing accessories need to be removed as well. Building safety must be of the greatest importance.

Crystal Wade, Human Resources Manager, rejoined the meeting to discuss the drug screen policy. Wade received a call from TMHE regarding last week's drug screen testing results where one specimen was recorded as a negative dilute. Your option is to retest or accept the negative dilute. An amendment will be made to the current drug testing policy as recommended by the County Counselor and Board of County Commissioners.

Goff Searl made a motion to amend the drug testing policy to include disciplinary action to be taken when results of any kind come back less than negative. Jack seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Goff Searl made a motion to approve the minutes of July 31, 2013. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Goff Searl made a motion to go into executive session at 10:35 a.m. with Crystal Wade, HR Manager and Larry King, County Counselor, for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0. Jack Carpenter called the regular meeting back into session at 10:50 a.m. As a result of the executive session commissioners requested a retest of a prior drug test be scheduled.

Commissioners reviewed the expense spreadsheet. They discussed departments that are over budget for the month of July. Lisa Hudson, Treasurer, joined the meeting to discuss cash on hand versus budget funding.

Chautauqua County participates in the Public Health Preparedness. A meeting was held in Chanute, Kansas on August 2, 2013 for Part IV: Vision for the Future of a Healthy Region. Those attending the meeting were: Commissioner Goff Searl, Health Department Administrator Annie Blankinship, Registered Health Nurse Jeannie Beason and Sedan Chamber President Sue Kill.

Goff Searl made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Goff Searl, First District Commissioner

Absent

Danny D. Williams, Second District Commissioner

Jack Carpenter, Chairman, Third District Commissioner

ATTEST:

Janice A. Fine, County Clerk