

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 28, 2019

Chairman Rodney Shaw called the regular meeting to order and opened with prayer on February 28, 2019, at 8:30 a.m. in the commission room of the Court House.

Commissioner Jack Carpenter, Commissioner Parker Massey, Clerk Niki Collier, Deputy Clerk Becky Smilko, and County Counselor Zoe Newton were all present.

Commissioner Shaw moved to approve the minutes of February 18, 2019, Commissioner Massey gave the second and the motion passed 3-0.

Road & Bridge Superintendent Joel Haden stated rock had been applied to multiple locations and repaired a guard rail located at Road 22 and Quivera. Mr. Haden stated the crew located and marked all of the test stations at the landfill and cleared the brush from around them. Discussion was held regarding bids for concrete wings and tractor options and pricing.

Jennifer McNown presented a letter from Rural Water District #3 regarding payment options and stated she would continue paying the bill monthly instead of quarterly.

County Counselor Zoe Newton provided a draft resolution for review as previously requested. Commissioner Shaw moved to approve resolution 2019-03 allowing certain judgements that have become uncollectable to become dormant. Commissioner Massey gave the second, and the motion passed 3-0.

Health Department Administrator Annie Blankinship joined the meeting with Misti Byers. Mrs. Blankinship reported that all the grants have been completed and submitted with a total amount of \$28,000. Commissioner Shaw asked Mrs. Byers if she was prepared to take over or needed any further information. Mrs. Byers stated she felt she had all needed information and Mrs. Blankinship stated she took sufficient notes and has done well while training.

Mrs. Collier inquired if the Board wanted resolution 2019-03 published and the Board declined as the resolution is administrative in nature and not required to be published.

Emily Powell of Solid Waste joined the meeting and reported she has been in contact with ARSI Collection Agency, they have other local accounts and also work with Kansas Setoff Program. Discussion was held and Mrs. Powell was directed to obtain a contract for legal counsel to review. Mrs. Powell stated she would like to discuss an employee matter. At 9:25 a.m. Commissioner Shaw moved for a 15 minute executive session to discuss non-elect personnel. Commissioner Massey gave the second and the motion passed 3-0. The open meeting resumed at 9:39 a.m.

Commissioner Shaw moved for a 15 minutes executive session for non-elected personnel, Commissioner Carpenter gave the second and the motion passed 3-0. The executive session was extended 15 minutes and the open meeting resumed at 10:08 a.m.

Treasurer Amy Goode requested an executive session for banking and Counselor Newton clarified that it was for security measures. At 10:12 a.m. Commissioner Shaw moved 15 minutes executive session for security concerns, Commissioner Massey gave the second and the motion passed 3-0. The open meeting resumed at 10:19 a.m. Commissioner Massey moved to remove his name from all bank accounts and signature cards. Commissioner Shaw gave the second and the motion passed 3-0.

Counselor Newton reported to the Board that other area counties had been visited by individuals walking around recording. Mrs. Newton has sent an email to department heads regarding public areas and appropriate procedures. Mrs. Newton stated that at least two counties had received open records requests for tax rolls from a company that apparently sells tax preparation services. While such records are subject to KORA, they may not for marketing purposes. Lastly Mrs. Newton reported that there continues to be toner scam phone calls to counties and reminded county offices not to give any information out by phone and if a bill is received there are laws protecting the county from paying an expenses it did not incur.

County Clerk Niki Collier reported that her office was officially notified on Friday, February 22, 2019 that USD 286 would be holding a bond election on May 7, 2019. Commissioner Shaw stated he had been contacted by concerned citizens, upset with the suggested increase in property tax. Crystal Wade joined the meeting and stated she had went on the school tour to observe suggested improvements and had spoken to the County Appraiser regarding the possible property tax increase for herself and other citizens. Mrs. Goode stated she is concerned with the accuracy of levy numbers provided on the schools website and that the school calculator came up with a different amount than the County Appraisers property tax calculator. Commissioner Shaw conference called County Appraiser Jeremy Hendren and asked him to report his findings. Mr. Hendren explained he did a little research on Tuesday that showed rural property tax mill levy could go up approximately 10% and 7% within city limits. Mr. Hendren also pointed out that some of his initial math computes the mill increase to be possibly higher than the suggested 16 mills. Commissioner Shaw asked Mr. Hendren if rural areas might see an 18 mill increase. Mr. Hendren stated from his early review that appeared to be correct. Discussion was held regarding the school anticipating getting 5 mills from the State of Kansas, if funds were awarded or available. Mr. Hendren stated all Chautauqua County Departments have worked hard to reduce their budgets, cut spending and utilize equipment reserve funds as an effort to minimize tax increases and he feels if passed this increase would undo all the progress made toward lowering taxes. Becky Smilko voiced concern that school chose to hold a special election that would cost an estimated \$10,000.00 instead of putting the bond question on a November ballot and felt that was a waste of money that could be used to make some of the suggested improvements. Mrs. Collier stated that she attended the last school board meeting to inform USD286 of their options and explained the cost difference of having a special election that would indeed cost around \$10,000.00 or at no additional cost if placed on the fall City/School Election ballots. She said the school advised her they already accounted for the cost of a special election in their budgeting. Mrs. Collier further reported that she has requested the school communicate directly with her office regarding the upcoming election to ensure election deadlines and dates are accurately reported to the voters.

Commissioner Shaw stated he would like to try to utilize current employees to spray roadways and sell chemicals. Commissioner Massey agreed with that plan. Commissioner Carpenter stated something needed to be done even if the County hired a seasonal employee for 3-6 months a year.

Commissioner Shaw motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Massey, motion passed 3-0.

/s/ Parker Massey

Parker Massey, First District Commissioner

/s/ Rodney Shaw

Rodney Shaw, Chairman, Second District Commissioner

/s/ Jack Carpenter

Jack Carpenter, Third District Commissioner

ATTEST:

/s/ Niki Collier

Niki Collier, County Clerk