

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

May 6, 2014

Chairman Danny Williams called the meeting of the Chautauqua County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, May 6, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in the commission room of the courthouse. Commissioners Goff Searl and Jack Carpenter were present as was County Counselor Larry King and County Clerk Janice A. Fine. Chairman Danny Williams opened the meeting with prayer.

Jeremy Hendren, Deputy Appraiser, joined the meeting as observer.

Minute's approval: Jack Carpenter made a motion to approve the minutes of April 30, 2014 as presented. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Jack Carpenter made a motion to accept the minutes of May 1, 2014 as presented. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Amy Goode, Deputy Treasurer, joined the meeting as observer.

Joel Haden, Road & Bridge Supervisor, presented his weekly report. Crews hauled rock on Rd 28 south of Highway 166, Marshall going west, Rd 19 a few miles south of Quivera, Rd 21 and Eagle going south and north, Rd 10 and Heritage south. Crews worked a culvert on the Peru Shortcut. Screenings were hauled for Sedan Rural Fire. Crews worked a gate replacement at Cowboy and Rd 32. Cathy Rinck joined the meeting to discuss a few issues. A letter was received from the bridge engineer indicating KDOT needs approval and authorization that Chautauqua County is aware and will find funding for our portion, \$160,000.00, for the Cook Bridge. Bid will be let in October 2015 and KDOT will expect those funds at that time. Funds will be appropriated for the project. Commissioners approve the Cook Bridge Project and understand that \$160,000.00 is the expected cost to Chautauqua County. \$800,000.00 is the total expected construction cost for the bridge. It is most cost effective to work with KDOT.

Rinck talked about the master bridge report the office has received and requires signatures. KDOT will pick up 80% of the costs for bridge inspection and Chautauqua County will pay 20%. This is a different process from previous years. Commissioners asked to review the document and bring it back to next week's meeting for discussion and signature.

Commissioners talked with Haden about road issues for his review. Rd 18 issue was brought to Haden's attention.

Adam Wilson joined the meeting to discuss an employment opportunity. Wilson offered to accept \$25,000.00 a year and full benefits. He has another job opportunity and Wilson wanted to give Chautauqua County the first opportunity to secure his services as Appraiser if the time was right. Wilson wants to live in Chautauqua County. Commissioners would discuss his offer. Wilson left the

meeting. Hendren indicates that the appraisal office is very satisfied with the current Appraiser and things are working well. Hendren left the meeting.

Amy Lampson, Rodney Dickens, Jason Black and Terri Coates joined the meeting to discuss revitalization. Lampson's family moved back to Chautauqua County and wants to know the situation of the county and planned future. Commissioners offered they are trying to implement programs to help the citizens. Lampson asked if we have missed opportunities from the past. Lampson asked if Wal-Mart was planning a distribution in our area, the scenic byway project, meeting was put on hold. Lisa Hudson, Treasurer, joined the meeting as observer.

Linda Kline joined the meeting to provide commissioners department information. Sherry Johnson fell and broke her knee. Johnson will be out for several weeks. SW is doing well. Land monitoring well at the landfill report was provided. They are waiting for results from the State to make sure we comply.

Commission began conversation again with Amy Lampson and group. Lampson asked again if we have lost any opportunities. Searl offered that the obstacles for business to move in are high taxes and high utilities. Government moves slow and we are working to better our county. Chautauqua County has offered an incentive package to allow new or expansion of business with 100% abatement of taxes. Lampson's concern is that if we aren't aggressive in bringing in new business this town won't exist. Lampson believes that partnering with all cities could help. Lampson believes that we need more commissioners. Districts for Board of commissioners are by population. Brett Dickens joined the meeting. Lampson asked commissioners to define the Paragon Group. Amy Goode offered that the Paragon Group has most to do with property rights. Lampson asked about Tim Nordell and if he is the grant writer for the county. City of Sedan is looking at grant opportunities. Chautauqua County does not have a Mitigation Plan. Lampson is asking why we don't have a mitigation plan. Emergency relief is not tied to a mitigation plan. A mitigation plan is a basic tool for grants. Commissioners asked if anyone had read the mitigation plan that was presented and rejected many years ago. Lampson is sad that Chautauqua County lacks opportunities. Searl offered that the casino was an opportunity and hog farming was voted down so they are opportunities lost. R. Dickens offered that the roads are less than what they were 10 years ago. Lampson asked if all the commissioners discussed was road and bridges. Carpenter offered that housing (lack of) is an issue. Black asked whose responsibility it was to get business into this county. The state must approve all programs offered and Larry King, County Counselor, is trying to jump start many programs to assist the citizens of Chautauqua County. Black asked if we are seriously trying to grow our community. Lampson offered that the government and government grants are available and should be used. The Health Department uses grants to help the services they provide. All citizens need to be involved in every aspect of government. Citizens should attend meetings, ask questions and show their pride in our community to improve our current situation. Small community's young people tend to migrate to urban areas. We have good schools but nothing for the kids to do after school. Hunting industry helps minimally and is seasonal. Black says we must do something to improve this county and grow our future. King offered there are things the commissioners can and cannot do. The Industrial Park

idea is a good one. It might take time before someone would take advantage of it but it is a good start. Commissioners could initiate an Industrial District.

Commissioner Searl asked Lampson if scheduling a brainstorming meeting to gather ideas to better our county would help get things moving. Lampson asked if the county needed to be involved and the answer is yes. Involve all citizens of Chautauqua County. Lisa Hudson left the meeting.

Annetta Kelley joined the meeting to bring aging projects information to commissioners. Kelley has been attending meetings regularly. Kelley informed commissioners on topics that are being discussed and any project movement.

Jack Carpenter made a motion to go into executive session for 10 minutes at 10:15 a.m. and asked Kelley to remain. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Danny Williams called the regular meeting back into session at 10:25 a.m. Action: Commissioners requested to ask Charlie Reed to attend the next meeting to provide information regarding his HUD position.

Jack Carpenter made a motion to recognize Teacher Appreciation Day. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Amy Goode asked if commissioners would approve use of the water at the courthouse for a sprinkler party for Little Scholar Preschool students. Commissioners approve the use.

Amy Goode and commissioners commented that the courthouse lawn is looking good.

Larry King, County Counselor, advised commissioners that a fence viewing date needs to be set. All three commissioners will be in attendance. Date has been set for May 30, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. King will send letters to all land owners advising them of the fence viewing.

Janice Fine, County Clerk, advised commissioners that Crystal Wade was given oath of office on Monday, May 5, 2014 as Deputy County Clerk and Deputy Election Officer. Wade and Fine will be attending the Clerk's annual conference May 6 – 9, 2014 in Wichita, KS. The landfill ground water inspection bill was indicated by Linda Kline that the commissioners would pay. Commissioners only agreed to cover the cost of mowing not the ground water inspection. Linda Kline, SW Department Head, rejoined the meeting to discuss the budget that should pay for the inspection. After the discussion, commissioners decided that the current inspection bill will be paid with Solid Waste budget. Commissioners will assist with repairs needed at the landfill.

Danny Williams made a motion to adjourn at 11:04 p.m. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Goff Searl, First District Commissioner

Danny D. Williams, Chairman, Second District Commissioner

Jack Carpenter, Third District Commissioner

ATTEST:

County Clerk, Janice A. Fine