

# **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

July 22, 2014

Chairman Danny Williams called the meeting of the Chautauqua County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, July 22, 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.

Annie Blankinship, Health Department Administrator joined the meeting to discuss the Health Department 2015 budget request. Commissioners request to use Health Department Reserve Cash for bridge construction rather than raise the mill levy. Blankinship agrees for commissioners to use \$100,000.00 from Health Department Cash Reserve to help pay for the bridge project. Health Department will probably need to replace the vaccine refrigerator in their office. Commissioner's asked Blankinship her opinion of the Hazardous Mitigation Plan.

Minute's approval: Jack Carpenter made a motion to accept the minutes of July 15, 2014 as presented. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Minute's approval: Jack Carpenter made a motion to accept the minutes of July 17, 2014 as presented. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Joel Haden, Road & Bridge Supervisor, presented his weekly report. Gravel has been hauled to: Rd 31 and Valley, Dalton and Rd 26 going east, Independence Rd and Lariat going northeasterly. Rd 32 will be worked because of road issues. Haden is still reviewing applications and will bring candidate information to the next meeting. Haden was researching interest rates from local banks for the dump truck purchase. Haden requested a resolution for the bank for purchase approval. Jack Carpenter made a motion to adopt resolution 2014-06 for the purchase of the dump truck through the Sedan State Bank (Howard State Bank). Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner's requested Haden to review issues: Eagle Rd needs to be reviewed, the bridge south of Cedar Vale needs to be reviewed for safety and the hornet spray purchase for \$200.00 needs to be reviewed. Haden will check on all requested. Rd 25 west off the highway there is a water hole that needs to be drained. Large rocks have been offered to Haden from the pipeline project. There was discussion on where it can be stored until there is a need. Haden will go back to see what they have and determine next steps.

Lisa Hudson, Treasurer joined the meeting as observer.

Tyler Linden joined the meeting to discuss issues. Linden worked for the Jail for 1 and ½ years and was fired recently. He believes he was let go inappropriately. Sheriff asked Linden, while on duty, if there was anything in the kitchen to eat and found doors unlocked. Sheriff asked a group of people in dispatch who left the doors open. Another individual acknowledged they left the doors open while Sheriff was verbally blaming Linden. Linden later approached Sheriff to let him know he didn't appreciate being yelled and cussed at for something he did not do. Linden's position was jailer. Linden was written up a week after the incident. He was called in and fired the next week or so. Jack Carpenter asked if Linden had read the handbook and if he tried to follow the procedures from that document. Commissioners asked if food was being served only to inmates and Linden offered that many sheriff employees are eating meals on a regular basis as it is considered an open buffet. Linden indicates that he does not wish his job back as it is very stressful and employees do not know from day to day if they have a job. Goff Searl stated if commissioners know of a situation they should have some liability to tax payers. King offered that putting this information in the minutes informs the public of the situation but commissioners

do not yet have any authority over the sheriff's budget. Commissioners are very frustrated with the situation and want to correct the situation as it is not in the best interest of Chautauqua County. Linden stated the Sheriff is allowing a specific employee to use county vehicles for personal use on a regular basis. Commissioners appreciate Linden's openness regarding the situation.

Crystal Wade, Sedan City Council Member, joined the meeting to give an update regarding the Animal Shelter Policy and Procedures Manual. Wade asks the commissioners to approve the policy and procedures updates since we have a vested interest in the Animal Shelter. Commissioners approve. There was discussion regarding at large domestic animals and what the procedure to have them removed would be.

Sheriff Perry Russell brought Renatta Kubit, Emergency Manager, for introductions to commissioners. Sheriff had brought a dismissal letter regarding Tyler Linden's dismissal and wanted to make sure commissioners were provided with a copy.

Janice Fine County Clerk brought the following to commissioners: 1) Ask for any objection to placing the commission agenda on the website the day before the meeting, when time allows, for citizen convenience. The agenda would clearly state it can and will change as business presents itself. Approved. 2) Ask if Rodger Green could assist with moving election equipment to poll sites this year. Approved. 3) Ask commissioners to change the current meal reimbursement for employees when traveling to a flat \$30.00 maximum daily rather than per meal. Jack Carpenter made a motion to set meal reimbursements for employees when traveling to a maximum of \$30.00 with receipts. Danny Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners discussed the possibility of putting the question to a public vote on the Hazardous Mitigation Plan. County Counselor Larry King advised commissioners that according to a couple of Attorney General opinions, advisory elections must be called and held independent of any statutorily required or authorized election, such as a primary or general election.

Larry King, County Counselor notified commissioners that in January 2015 commission districts need to be reviewed.

Goff Searl made a motion to adjourn at 10:59 a.m. Jack Carpenter 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