

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 6, 2015

Chairman Danny Williams called the meeting of the Chautauqua County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. in the commission room of the courthouse. Commissioner Jack Carpenter and Goff Searl were present as was County Counselor Ruth Ritthaler and County Clerk Janice A. Fine. Chairman Danny Williams opened the meeting with prayer.

County Clerk, Janice A. Fine administered the Oath of Office to County Commissioner Goff Searl, First District.

Minute's approval: Jack Carpenter made a motion to approve the minutes of December 31, 2014 as presented. Goff Searl seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Joel Haden, Road & Bridge Supervisor, provided his weekly road report. Crews are hauling rock to the following: Gallop and Rd 4. The annual inventory is almost complete. Commissioners asked Haden to review several roads, the need for gravel, bridge issues and bridge reflectors. Haden discussed a specific bridge repair and the need to determine another solution.

Jim Duncan, Noxious Weed Supervisor informed commissioners that his Noxious Weed Organization offers scholarships to students. Duncan has been distributing scholarship applications to the local schools. Duncan discussed weed chemicals with commissioners.

Lisa Hudson, Treasurer joined the meeting as observer. Commissioners discussed the audit notation that the Treasurer provide a monthly report to commissioners regarding monthly bank statements.

Jenny McDaniels, Extension 4-H Agent joined the meeting to discuss the Extension office moves. Cathy Rinck, R&B Office Manager and Jennifer McNow, Office Clerk joined the meeting to advise commissioners that the third floor, south end would not be workable for Road & Bridge. McDaniels indicated that District Court wishes to have the offices on the north side and Extension could have the south end. Cindy Weaver, District Court Clerk joined the meeting to discuss the District Court office changes. Judge Gossard will be in the office on Wednesday and Weaver will ask the question if the current jury room can be used by our County Counselor. Commissioners offered moving help.

Independence Reporter, Greg Lower joined the meeting to let commissioners know they are wanting to expand their coverage. Lower wants to get information on official meetings and commissioners stated minutes are only available after commission approval. There was conversation with commissioners regarding where citizens might head if they plan to shop out of town and commissioners indicate all directions. Chautauqua County is underserved in Kansas news. Sheriff Richard Newby joined the meeting as observer.

Linda Kline, Solid Waste Department Head joined the meeting to provide commissioners with her monthly report. Diesel prices were discussed. Commissioners remarked that the report looked good.

Sheriff Newby stopped in to let commissioners know that a representative for the Kansas Department of Corrections would be here on Thursday to review our jail to possibly house their inmates. Commissioners discussed jail capacity and what would be maintained for Chautauqua County use only. Sheriff indicated that our population would not intermingle with out of county inmates housed in our jail. Sheriff asked about the upcoming tax sale.

Janice Fine, County Clerk brought the following: 1) Resolution 2015-01 GAAP Resolution (Generally Accepted Accounting Practices). Goff Searl made a motion to approve Resolution 2015-01. Danny Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. 2) Contract for a new postage machine was

brought for commissioner's approval. Commissioners approve. 3) Association dues for Ruth Ritthaler to the County Counselors Association. Commissioners approved. 4) 2015 Commissioner Appointments were reviewed and approved. A complete listing is available on our website and will be attached to the minutes for publishing. Jack Carpenter made a motion to name Goff Searl as Chairman for 2015. Danny Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. 5) Official documentation for local banks to create updated signature information for the County Clerk and Treasurer's Office. Amy Goode signs as Deputy County Clerk and Crystal Wade's name be removed. Amy Goode's name removed from the Treasurer's Office as a signer and Traci Ward, Deputy Treasurer be added to all accounts.

Lisa Hudson, Treasurer brought a travel approval form to commissioners for signature. Hudson identifies that 67% of taxes have been paid.

Goff Searl made a motion to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel to include Ruth Ritthaler, County Counselor and Crystal Wade, Human Resources Administrator at 9:55 a.m. for 10 minutes. Jack Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Chairman Goff Searl called the regular meeting back in session at 10:05 a.m. As a result of the executive session the commissioners agree to sign the employment agreement (memorandum of understanding) for County Counselor, Ruth Ritthaler.

Danny Williams made a motion to adjourn at 10:16 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:

Janice A. Fine, County Clerk