

The Allen County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. with Chairman David Lee, Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Symes and Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk.

Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Robert Johnson, II, County Counselor, Mitchell Garner, Public Works Director, Jeremy Hopkins, Interim Road & Bridge Director, Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, Rick Aiello, employee, Jared Wheeler, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director, Marcia Davis, Thrive Allen County, Carl Slaugh, citizen, and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Chairman Bruce Symes led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the regular meetings on April 9, 2024.

Chairman Symes asked for public comment. Carl Slaugh presented information from the Veteran's Committee. He reported they will be doing updates to the pictures on the memorial wall. He would like to make an appeal to anyone that would like to add a family member, or themselves, to the wall. They will also be putting up banners of the veterans around the square this summer. They will be able to place about 30 banners, cost of these will be \$110. The deadline to submit for a banner is May 20<sup>th</sup>. Discussion followed.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported that once the new AWOS system is installed, it will take the FAA 6 months to certify. It will be operational; just not certified.

Mitch stated Friday afternoon they had a small fire at the landfill. They were able to handle it themselves with the water truck.

Commissioner Lee asked when a contractor does concrete work, who decided on the vendor for the concrete? The contractor that is awarded the project will choose their own vendors. Discussion followed.

Jeremy Hopkins, Interim Road & Bridge Director, reported they will be putting down dust control for the NextEra project this week.

Jeremy reported the mower max down due to faulty brake switch. Discussion followed.

The company that was hauling contaminated dirt will be back around this area this summer. Commissioners asked we can put down dust control that area? Jeremy stated yes. Commissioners then asked if Jeremy could ask the main company to contribute towards the dust control. Jeremy stated it would be the middle of May when the residential dust control is put down; this week is just the haul routes for NextEra. Discussion followed.

Marcia Davis, Thrive Allen County, reported on the LaHarpe Community Conversation. The items that LaHarpe residents' thought is good is the park, storm shelters, LaHarpe Days celebration, Easter Egg hunt (233 kids signed up), fitness center & gym, health and wellness coordinator. Items they feel need some improvement would be housing, communications, need a small gas station or store, snow plowing of the streets, more community involvement, cleaning up homes/yards. Their top three priorities would be business and housing and then communication within the city. Tonight is the next community meeting in Moran.

Chairman Symes moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes for Non-Elected Personnel. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 8:52 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Jeremy Hopkins, Interim Road and Bridge Director,

and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 8:57 a.m. No action taken.

Chairman Symes moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 8:59 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:09 a.m. No action taken.

Chairman Symes moved to go into executive session for 20 minutes for Trade Secrets. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:11 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Jared Wheeler, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:31 a.m. No action taken.

Chairman Symes moved to go back into executive session for 20 minutes for Trade Secrets. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:33 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Jared Wheeler, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:53 a.m. No action taken.

Chairman Symes moved to go back into executive session for 15 minutes for Trade Secrets. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:55 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Jared Wheeler, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:10 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioners discussed our wellness program and the aspect of it that was pass/fail. Commissioners have asked to waive the \$25.00 fee to those that did not meet the requirements as it was not clear enough in the program guide. Future discussion with CHC Wellbeing will be had to be clearer on the steps to take to be in compliance.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) March monthly report from District Court
- b) March financials from Larry Peterson for Hospital Bond

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – 4/11/24-\$450,576.94 & 4/15/24-\$158,520.00

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Lee moved to adjourn, Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. until Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

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Bruce Symes, Chairperson

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David Lee, Commissioner

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Shannon Patterson, County Clerk

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Jerry Daniels, Commissioner