

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, Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, Mitchell Garner, Public Works Director, Darolyn "Crickett" Maley, Allen County Treasurer, Chelsie Angleton, 911 Communications Director, Jason Trego, Emergency Manager, Rick Aiello, employee, Jared Wheeler, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director, Patrick Zirjacks, Thrive Allen County, Jessica Thompson, Thrive Allen County, Jeff Keithly, Allen Regional Transit Director, Terry Johnson, citizen, and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Jessica Thompson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the regular meetings on February 6, 2024.

Chairman Symes asked for public comment, there was none.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported on the conference call with Caleb yesterday. The project should start on March 5, 2024 to install the new PAPI lights, AWOS System. The funding for this project is from grant money, covering 90% of the cost, and we are responsible for 10%. IT is estimated to take about 60 days to complete, runway will close periodically throughout the project. Discussion followed.

Mitch stated all the barrels are out and ready for recycling. The notices will be in the paper beginning next week. Cardboard recycling is still in the works. Discussion followed.

Mitch stated Schwab Eaton is still working on the plans for the area for fire disposal.

Commissioner Lee asked about progress on the new landfill cell. Mitch stated they are moving forward with the weather being nice. Looks to still be on time.

Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, reported he is having all the trucks going to the same district to fix the roads and by doing so he is hoping they get fixed a little quicker.

Mark reported that they will be putting in culverts for the Blackberry transmission line project. NextEra will be paying for all items; culverts, machine, labor., etc.

Mark reported on an item he investigated after attending some of the community conversations Thrive hosted. Sidewalks have been an issue that has been discussed by several communities. He has found a grant through Kansas Department of Transportation called the Alternative Transportation Grant. This will allow for the construction of sidewalks, pathways, etc. This grant is an 80%-20% match. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Daniels suggested Mark start looking into seasonal help to add to the crew to help with the upcoming projects. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Lee asked about the John Deere tractors. Mark stated they should be on their way. Mark said he will get the cost estimate of purchasing after the lease, just for future reference.

Commissioner Lee asked Mitch what the plan is for Noxious Weed this year. Mitch stated he is already getting the season help and the chemical has been ordered. He plans to start in March again. Discussion followed.

Jeff Keithly, Allen Regional Transit Director, and Jessica Thompson, Thrive Allen County, reported Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) has reached out to them regarding 5310 services. They can only fund one 5310 service in the county. Commissioner Lee asked about which services they provide. Jessica stated they are doing 5311 currently and then when they get a vehicle, they will begin the 5310. Commissioner Lee stated he has had seniors contact him with concerns about costs. Jeff stated they would continue to make the 5310 services free. Chairman Symes asked if we continue our services and not merge, will this create an issue for A.R.T. sustaining operations. Jeff stated no; they currently are not using the 5310 so it will not hurt them to not get it. If a changeover happens, it could be as early as April but no later than July. Chairman Symes asked what would happen if A.R.T. ceases operations, what happens to the service then? Discussion followed.

Marcia Davis, Thrive Allen County, joined the meeting.

John Terry, KWIKOM, following up on his proposal from a couple weeks ago. He reported the City of Humboldt has agreed to co-invest on the project. To recap, KWIKOM will be responsible for 50% of the 1.8-million-dollar project. Chairman Symes asked if other providers could potentially come forward with this type of request. Terry stated yes. Commissioner Daniels stated is agreeable to a letter of support. Chairman Symes stated he is agreeable to \$1,000 and letter of support. Discussion followed. Chairman Symes moved to approve a letter of support and \$1,000 co-investment in the project. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 2-0-1. Commissioner Lee abstained.

Darren Booth, Theel Insurance, and Julie Yarmer, Freedom Claims, joined the meeting.

Julie Yarmer and Darren Booth, introduced themselves. Julie presented information on cost information for possible insurance coverage. Freedom Claims can do the partially self-funded plans but they also offer fully self-funded plans. Discussion followed.

Marcia Davis, Thrive Allen County, reported on the Carlyle Community Conversation. 10 residents attended the event, along with Commissioner Lee and Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director. Carlyle residents stated they are very happy with their community. Some improvement items they mentioned were mud holes and pot holes, roads, speeding through town, signs being down (Mark has put back up). They wondered if they can they get a stop sign on Texas Road and Adams Street. Another area of concern is where the spirit trail crosses Texas. The trail has stop signs for the trail users, but could we put yield signs up for the motorists. Another item they are interested in is solar lighting along a certain route to help create a safe walking area. They are trying to put in a playground at the trail head. The next community conversation will be at Humboldt High School cafeteria on March 26, 2024. Commissioner Lee moved to approve putting in two stop signs at the intersection of Texas and Adams Street in Carlyle, creating a four way stop. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

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 10:14 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:19 a.m. No action taken.

Chairman Symes moved to go back into executive session for 10 minutes for non-elected personnel. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 10:20 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Chelsie Decker, 911 Communications Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:30 a.m. No action taken.

Chairman Symes moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 10:31 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:41 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Blackberry Culvert Estimates
- b) January monthly reports from District Court, County Clerk's office
- c) January report for Solid Waste Financial Assurance Agency
- d) Letter regarding Iola Theatre Association from the Kansas Historical Society
- e) Bankruptcy notice in re Endo International plc, et al
- f) Fair board minutes and financials

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers - \$516,080.40
- b) Payroll – change forms for Levi Lampe, William Salava, Ashley Haney, Rhegan Fischer
- c) Payroll – Reimbursements for Terry Call, Levi Seilonen, Chris Craft
- d) Clerk's Journal Entries – #7

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 10:44 a.m. until Tuesday, February 20, 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