

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

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Mark Griffith, Allen County Road & Bridge Director, Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, Bryan Murphy, Allen County Sheriff, Ron Holman, House & Grounds Director, Robert Johnson, County Counselor, Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Rickie Aiello, Allen County employee, Vince Hill, Black Horse, Clint Davis, Black Horse, Carl Slaugh, citizen, and Paul Zirjacks, citizens, was present to observe the meeting.

Terry Johnson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the March 7, 2024 meeting.

Chairman Symes asked for public comment. Vince Hill, Black Horse, suggested being able to fund a portion of two additional hangars. He explained how they would carry the payment. With this thought, he is just trying to help the county with building more hangars quicker. Discussion followed.

Ron Holman, House & Grounds Director, reported he spoke with Pastor Neely and they have scheduled an open house for April 18, 2024 from 2 pm to 4 pm for the Humboldt Food Pantry.

Commissioner Lee asked Ron about one of his employees reducing their hours. Discussion followed.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, presented information on the FY 2025 Kansas Airport Improvement Program (KAIP). This is to build a parallel taxiway. This is for next year but they will begin the work on bids and surveys in July of 2024. Commissioner Daniels explained that legislature increased the spending allotment from 5 million to 15 million to disperse for projects submitted. This is a KDOT Aviation grant, 25-30 airports were awarded funds.

Mitch reported he did speak with the FAA and they are fine with the proposal from Vince and they just need to look over the wording of the lease.

Michael Burnett, EMS Director, joined the meeting.

Mitch presented two documents for Noxious Weed that need the commissioners' signatures; the 2023 Products Disbursed and the Noxious Weed Management Plan. These will be submitted to the state.

Mitch reported on he will be holding the 5 Year Solid Waste Management Plan hearing on April 2 at 9:00.

Chairman Symes asked about the tire disposal and how the new policy is working with the new limits. Commissioners also asked about the recycling efforts with the batteries and milk jugs. Discussion followed.

Mitch reported on 1600 – 1650 on Nebraska Rd. Lots of people have been reported speeding. Bryan Murphy, Allen County Sheriff, stated he would like to see it go to 25 MPH and add no parking signs. The current speed limit is 55 MPH. They are working on making the parking lots bigger. Discussion followed on the process to lower the speed limits.

Commissioner Daniels mentioned needing to lower the speed limit from Industrial Rd (north of Humboldt city limits) into Humboldt to 30 MPH for the Last Mile Trail. They estimating the trail to be open by May.

Mitch stated they are trenching and putting wiring in the ground at the airport. Some of the lights are out. They are working on the ones in the runway. Discussion followed.

Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, presented quotes for concrete work at 2200 and Us Hwy 54. The county would do the demo and disposal of existing road, provide and compact AB-3 to grade. Then Hammerson will form, pour, finish concrete to match existing crown of county rd. The quote of \$12,074.98 is for Hammerson's portion of the work. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the quote for concrete work pending KDOT approval. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioner Daniels reported that BG Consultants reached out about the sewer line. They are going to close one lane of traffic and they will provide the flagging crew. Only closed during construction hours.

Michael Burnett, EMS Director, reported on some of the ambulances that are having issues. The new chassis is in North Carolina but switching off the box is a couple years out. Commissioners asked Bob to check on insurance for the new chassis. Discussion followed on the items that would be considered normal maintenance. There are currently 4 ambulances still running in the county. Discussion was had on state legislature looking into passing a bill that would allow for non-certified people to drive.

Jared Wheeler, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director, joined the meeting.

Bryan Murphy, Allen County Sheriff, reported the HVAC is completed at the jail. \$36,133 is left on the bill after using funds from the jail board and inmate trust. Water softening system needed replaced as well and that is being taken out of the inmate trust. Commissioner Lee asked why "facility maintenance" isn't fully taken out of the county general fund and general department instead of tracking it under the sheriffs department. Discussion followed.

Jared Wheeler reported Midwest will begin submitting the pay requests next month, not this month as previously thought.

Chairman Symes asked Jared to pass along that we approved speed limit change and no parking signs along Nebraska. Also speed limit change for Last Mile Trail project.

Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk, reported on a request from Troy Smith to reappoint Eric Thomason as the Mental Health representative to the 31st Judicial District Community Corrections & Juvenile Services Advisory Board. Commissioner Lee moved to reappoint Eric Thomason to the Advisory Board. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Shannon asked on behalf of Robin Schallie, Iola Area Chamber of Commerce, to use the bandstand and adjacent area (southwest corner) for their annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 30, 2024. Commissioners approved the request.

Shannon asked on behalf of Cara Walden to host movies on the square again this summer. Discussion followed on how they went last summer. Commissioners approved the request.

Chairman Symes asked for thoughts on the three insurance options for our April 1, 2024 plan year. Commissioner Daniels is concerned with if we choose to change options will we have enough time make the change without disruption in coverage. Discussion

followed on the possibility of savings. Commissioner Lee moved to accept the bid from RPS. Motion was tabled by Commissioner Lee.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for non-elected personnel. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:37 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:47 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:50 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:00 a.m. No action taken.

Ron Holman reported he received the quote of \$826.00 for paint for the Iola Seniors Inc Thrift Store. Chairman Symes moved to purchase the paint out of the elderly fund. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, presented a map from 1976 to show the original zoning for the county. Terry has been recreating the map with all the changes since. Terry explained the process he has had to do to get the updated mapping. Discussion followed.

Terry reported there will be a conditional use permit hearing on April 25, 2024 for a tower.

Commissioner Daniels still feels very strongly that there is not enough time to change to a different system with the insurance. Chairman Symes states he like the idea of having a local vendor however he is pleased with Bukaty, enough that he wishes to stay with Bukaty. Commissioner Lee's motion to approve RPS died due to lack of a second. Chairman Symes moved to renew with Bukaty Companies. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 2-1-0. Commissioner Lee opposed.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Email from Michael Burnett regarding needed repairs to ambulances
- b) February 2024 Hospital Board Financials from Larry Peterson
- c) February Monthly reports from District Court, Noxious Weed, Register of Deeds
- d) Adds – TR, Value 611, \$108.82, Year 2023
Oil, Value 27,161, \$3729.14, Year 2023

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$125,957.39
- b) Payroll – Enrollment for Roy Smith
- c) Payroll – Vacation Carryover for Ron Holman, Jill Allen – to be used in 6 months
- d) Clerks Journal Entries - #9, 10
- e) Abatements – RE, Value 7786, \$1226.34, Year 2023
TR, Value 0, \$126.78, Year 2023
Oil, Value 27,161, \$ 3729.14, Year 2023

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 10:14 a.m. until Tuesday, March 19 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly's Room of the courthouse.

Bruce Symes, Chairperson

David Lee, Commissioner

Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner