

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.

Vicky Moss, Iola Register, Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, Mitchell Garner, Public Works Director, Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Foreman, Rick Aiello, employee, Jared Wheeler, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director, Jessica Thompson, Thrive Allen County, J Keltner, Thrive Allen County, 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 March 19, 2024.

Chairman Symes asked for public comment. Jessica Thompson, Thrive Allen County, and J Keltner, Thrive Allen County. Jessica reported they have 3 letters of support they are requesting signatures on. One is for a mural on the side of Mildred Store, one is for a mural on the side of the storm shelter in Carlyle and the final letter is for upgrades needed at the Elsmore Community Building. They will put it out to bid for the murals. J explained the need for the Elsmore letter. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the signatures on all three letters. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, reported that Thursday will be his last day with Allen County Road and Bridge. He thanked the commissioners and the citizens of Allen County for their support during his time here.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported they would like to extend the taxiway to the end. It would be adding 1500 feet to length and about 300-400 feet to the west. They are still working on the runway lighting. Discussion followed.

Mitch stated he spoke with Heartland about moving the electric poles and they said they needed the money upfront. The payment will be going out this week and then they will be able to begin on that.

Mitch reported they are about halfway done with the dirt work before they can put the liner down in the new landfill cell.

Mitch stated the new tin has been ordered for the damaged hangar. He also said that Caleb said the bids for the new hangars are almost ready and will be coming in soon.

Chairman Symes asked if we were still on track with timeline on the new cell. The bentonite issue pushed us a little behind but after adjusting timeline we are good now.

Commissioners stated Jeremy Hopkins will be the Interim Road & Bridge Director. Jeremy Hopkins, presented a bid for a mini excavator, through Sourcewell. It would be similar to one we rented during storm damage. The plan is to trade in the Case backhoe. Discussion followed. It would be purchased out of the special equipment fund. The quote came in at \$107,350.20 minus the trade in value of \$36,000.00, for a total cost of \$71,350.20. Commissioner Lee moved to accept the bid and purchase the mini-excavator. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Jeremy reported dust controls for blackberry route will be about 35 residents. The county will cover this cost and NextEra will reimburse us. This was an item listed in the road agreement. Discussion followed.

Jeremy stated they have a 2011 truck with 300,000 miles. This truck would need a new flatbed, the original bed was taken off and not any good. He is getting some bids on this. He was just wanting the commissioner's okay to move forward with getting the bids. Commissioners approved for Jeremy to get the bids.

Bruce Boetcher, BG Consultants, joined the meeting.

Jeremy stated they are finishing up the last cross drains today. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Daniels thanked Jeremy for being here. He did state that roads seem to be the biggest concern of our citizens right now. Discussion followed.

Bruce Boetcher, BG Consultants, presented the bid information for the Airport Industrial Park Improvements. There were two bidders and BG provided a base bid value (Engineers Operational Probable Cost). Bruce explained the options we have at this point. Bruce recommends the County delay the awarding or rejection of the bids for two weeks. Bids are valid for 60 days. Bruce would like to research and see if we can delay the project to allow for better bidding opportunity. He is asking for a little extra time to dig into these bids. Jared Wheeler, Thrive, stated he believes we can rebid. Commerce is willing to working with us on extension and letting contractors give an estimated timeline. Discussion followed.

Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk, presented the KWORCC 2022 Exceptional Loss Ratio Award. Allen County received 1st place in the \$50,000 - \$100,000 contribution category.

Commissioner Lee stated he attended the event on Saturday hosted by Farm Bureau. He shared with the group his thoughts on the sales tax. Discussion followed.

Commissioners began the Canvass of the 2024 Presidential Preference Primary at 9:30 a.m. There were 11 provision ballots total. Shannon explained the reasons for the provisional ballots, and out of the 11, 5 of them were accepted and counted. The commissioners certified the election results.

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers - \$253,742.87
- b) Payroll – Enrollment for Dylan Blachard
- c) Payroll – Vacation Carryover of 72.5 hours for Marion W Carson

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 9:40 a.m. until Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

Bruce Symes, Chairperson

David Lee, Commissioner

Shannon Patterson, County Clerk

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner