

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, Bryan Murphy, Allen County Sheriff, Ron Holman, House & Grounds Director, Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, Rick Aiello, employee, Jared Wheeler, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director, Lisse Regehr, Thrive Allen County, Cole Herder, Humboldt City Administrator, Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Rick Aiello led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the regular meetings on February 27, 2024.

Chairman Symes asked for public comment, there was none.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, presented a map of where the tire disposal site will be located, along with a new C&D cell. Discussion followed on cell life.

Mitch reported he will be having to complete a solid waste 5-year plan. He will have to advertise to hold a hearing to approve the plan. The wording will change slightly with the addition of the new cell and recycling.

Mitch stated chemical is here and he has the seasonal employees starting.

Commissioner Daniels stated B&G is doing core samples, with the hope that it will show no rock so digging will be easier for the airport project, may be able to keep bid costs down. They have moved the bid opening back a back a week to March 19, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Commissioners asked about the water district project. Discussion followed.

Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, reported on the complaints of rebar on 3400th Rd. He said our crusher is made to crush concrete as it has a magnet to pull out the metal. He removed the rock off the affected road, ran a magnet up and down the road to catch any remaining metal, then put all new rock down. He believes that one road was the only one that had this issue.

Mark stated, weather permitting, April 1 is when he is going to start chip sealing. The new chipper should arrive today. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Lee asked about the conference Mark attended in Texas. He stated it was very good. Mark reported on a few take aways that caught his attention.

Marcia Davis, Thrive Allen County, Brigham Folk, Thrive Intern, Shelby Peters, Thrive Intern, joined the meeting.

Dimity Lowell, Joe Hess, Joyce Adair, Robin Iola Seniors Inc. joined the meeting.

Lisse Regehr, Thrive Allen County, presented Thrive's Economic Development Year in Review 2023. She discussed how the agreement with the four funding entities includes three main components: An economic development advisory committee, participation among members, and countywide efforts. In 2023 Thrive applied for 58 grants totaling \$15,564,223. As of today, they were awarded 27 of those grants for \$5,000,344. Thrive is also continuing their workforce development and labor analysis. Lisse reported on the 16

lots in the Cedarbrook addition that were purchased by Lakeview Investment Properties to build additional housing there. Also, Shane Lamb began converting the buildings previously used for the Arkhaven nursing home into apartments. Do so this would create an estimated 50 apartments. Lisse also reported on Kandy Rushing purchasing the former Kids Kingdom and changing that daycare center over to Grow at Eden lola. She then reported on the new small businesses that came to Allen County in 2023. Another topic she covered was the Lehigh Portland State Park. Chairman Symes asked Lisse how can the public know that things are happening at the Lehigh Portland State Park. Lisse stated you can see where trees have been cleared for the camping sites, stakes in ground marking these as well. They are working on additional parking for the trails as well. Visitor center design is done and then they will go out for construction bid. Thrive will be the groundskeepers so they will be the point of contact if there is a problem, they are the connection to the state. Discussion followed.

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

Dimity Lowell, Joe Hess, Joyce Adair, Robin Towne, came to thank the commission for approving the heat/ac unit. Their two new buildings are done so they are inviting the commission to come visit. Commissioner Lee asked about the fashion show. Dimity explained they had some baskets for a silent auction, models chose all of the clothing and accessories from the thrift store. Dimity is asking permission to paint the original building. She is asking the commission to purchase the paint and the thrift store will take care of the labor to paint. Commissioners have asked Dimity to inform Ron Holman of the amount of paint needed and the associated cost before they can make the decision.

Joe Hess reported he has been volunteering for 25 years at the Seniors Inc. Joe explained how the Seniors Inc conducts business. The new buildings are complete and they will now sign the new buildings over to the county. The commissioners thanked the Senior Inc for everything they do for the county.

Chairman Symes moved to take a 5-minute break beginning at 9:33. Commissioners came back to resume the meeting at 9:38, however livestream capabilities were halted so no video was able to be streamed. The commission waited another 10 minutes before resuming the meeting.

Harry Lee, LaHarpe Communications, joined the meeting.

Commissioner Lee 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.

Shelby Peters and Brigham Folk, Thrive Interns, reported they held the Humboldt youth community conversation. They added a couple new questions with this group. A few things that the Humboldt youth would like to see more men's clothing options, a community service club, a program similar to SafeBase for USD 258, and a school community farm. Shelby stated they are still working on the time capsule and the scheduled date to bury it is April 4th and then they will dig it back up and open it in 40 years.

Darren Booth, Theel Insurance, and Julie Yarmer, Freedom Claims, presented updated information for insurance renewal. Julie explained the difference in plans if Allen County should go fully insured versus staying self-funded. Julie explained the two-card system should the county go with the fully insured medical plan. Cole Herder, City of Humboldt, spoke about using the two cards. Discussion followed.

Harry Lee, LaHarpe Communications, requesting a letter of support and a \$1,000.00 co-investment for the Kansas Broadband Acceleration 4.0 Grant. This project will take fiber

from North East Iola to Carlyle and eventually into Neosho Falls. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve Chairman Symes' signature on the letter of support and the \$1,000.00 co-investment. Chairman Symes seconded; motion passed 2-0-1. Commissioner Lee abstained.

Commissioner Lee reported that the Farm Bureau has invited the commissioners to attend a legislative update at 8:30 a.m. on March 23rd, located at the Iola Public Library.

Commissioner Lee reported on some research he has done regarding doing a sales tax for EMS services. We are allowed up to 1% for medical services. He would like to consider a .5% sales tax for EMS services. Commissioner Daniels explained that options like have been discussed previously for funding. Discussion followed.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Payment Remittance from Kansas Housing Resources Corp for ESG-FFY2023
- b) February 2024 Solid Waste Assurance Agency monthly report
- c) February 2024 Fund Status Report
- d) February monthly reports for Appraiser's office, Attorney's office, County Clerk's office, Public Works office, Treasurer's office

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers - \$193,515.80
- b) Payroll – Enrollment form for Chase Kellogg
- c) Payroll – Change form for Teena Solander, Bill Wilson
- d) Clerk's Journal Entries – #8
- e) Deer Creek Township Annual Report 2023
- f) Abatement – PP, Value 1506, \$285.40, 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 11:09 a.m. until Tuesday, March 12, 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