

The Allen County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. with Chairperson Thomas R Williams, Commissioner Jerry Daniels, Commissioner John F. Brocker and Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk.

Robert Johnson, Iola Register, Sheriff Bryan J. Murphy, Allen County Sheriff, Roy Smith, Allen County Undersheriff, and Larry Walden, citizen was present to observe the meeting.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the regular meeting on April 3, 2018.

Kay Lewis, USD #258 Superintendent, and Staci Hudlin, USD #258 principal, discussed school safety:

**School safety is one of the most important issues in education today. Preventing violence on school grounds not only is important for students' physical safety, but for teacher and administrator well-being and retention as well.**

**Keeping schools safe allows children to look forward to being in an encouraging environment that promotes social and creative learning. When their basic safety needs aren't met, children are at risk for not feeling comfortable at school and may stop showing up, or they may remain on edge throughout the day. Promoting school safety creates an open space for kids to explore, learn and grow. A safe learning environment is essential for students of all ages. Without it they are unable to focus on learning the skills needed for a successful education and future. When violence is part of the educational setting, all students are affected in some way. Even though your child may not be the actual victim of violence in school, there is a very good chance that he or she will witness violent acts throughout the educational years. Research continues to illustrate children who feel unsafe at school perform worse academically and are more at risk for getting involved in drugs and delinquency.**

**When we think of crime and violence in our schools, many think of the terrible acts of violence that have been flooding the media in recent years. Naturally, we think Columbine High School. We think of Virginia Tech and Sandy Hook. We think of all the children and families who were hurt by these horrific acts. We think of our children and youth and the ways in which we can protect them.**

**There is an undeniable, increasing prevalence of emergency situations in schools. There is also an increasing severity of school violence. Since Columbine occurred in 1999, there have been over 275 school shootings. The aforementioned incidences are perhaps the most alarming and worst cases of violence in the U.S. school system to date. But we must not let them overshadow the everyday reality that violent, hurtful acts are still happening regularly within the school system. These include:**

- Fighting and assault
- Bullying
- Victimization
- Sexual attacks
- Theft or robbery
- Classroom disorder
- Use of weapons
- Violent crime

**About 25 percent of teenagers are exposed to hate-related graffiti within school grounds. And during the school year, nearly one out of every four students report being bullied – physically, emotionally, verbally, even online. Yet the majority of youth bullied in our**

school systems do not report it at all. Many stay silent. Many need trusted adults – parents, educators, officers – to confide in and to help.

## The Need for School Safety

The following are a few of the many incidents that exemplify the need for school safety.

- A first grader from Michigan shot and killed another first grade child.
- A 14-year-old student attending a school in Ohio for high achieving students shot and killed two students and two teachers and then himself. The day before he had been suspended because of a fight with another student.
- A Philadelphia kindergartner repeatedly punched his pregnant teacher in the stomach during an attack.
- A teen from Milwaukee physically assaulted his teacher during class.
- A California high school student threatened to shoot students at their school and was later taken into custody.
- A pregnant teacher in Ohio was brutally attacked by a student.
- In Texas, a ten year old boy was set on fire in the school playground by a group of kids.
- Within two years of the Columbine High School shootings there were eight similar school attacks, each resulting in severe injuries and death.

The crisis of violence in schools has devastating effects. Children and youth need our help.



## Humboldt Elementary School

Learners Today – Leaders Tomorrow

As administrators, we have a commitment to ensure that every person who enters our buildings enter the safest environment as possible. We truly believe "not if, but when" it happens, we want to know we have done everything possible to prevent, prepare and protect our students, staff and patrons.

### What we have done so far:

- Continually updating our district crisis plan
- Security cameras at high school middle school that are tied to local PD and 911 Center.
- Security cameras at Sports Complex
- Installed additional door at preschool to stop access to main building. Also installed a video doorbell so doors can be locked at all times.
- Night-lock lock down bars installed on every door in district
- Safety ladders for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor classroom at the high school
- Emergency buckets for every classroom with enough supplies to sustain a class for 48 hours in the event of a disaster.
- Police radios with access to 911 Emergency Services in all buildings
- Lockdown App for district employee phones for quick notification of an emergency. Looking at switching to Crisis Go
- AED devices in all buildings
- Mental health grant for full-time therapist and case work for district
- Full time district nurse-trained in crisis management
- Elementary staff are required to wear badges to identify them as building employees

### What we still need:

- Better tornado shelter for elementary school. We have applied for a FEMA grant to build a shelter west of the school. This will also include space for community members to take shelter. If awarded, the district will be responsible for 25% of the cost which will be around \$160,000.
- Security cameras at the elementary school. We have a camera at our front door to verify who is entering the building. Cameras at other entrances and outside will allow for additional security measures. This will also allow administration to monitor behavior that may go unnoticed in hallways and on the playgrounds.
- Eyewash stations for tech building (purchasing this year)
- Tornado kits for each building (purchasing this year)
- Stop the Bleed-first aid kits
- Cameras for buses
- Starting a SRO program (discussions have started with Chief of Police and administration)

**1<sup>st</sup> Priority is cameras at the elementary school. Because of the impending FEMA grant and lack of legislative decisions in regard to funding, money isn't available to add the much needed security to the building.**

Staci discussed safety and mental health for students. They had partnered with Southeast Kansas Mental Health and have a full-time therapist as well as a full-time councilor available for USD #258. Kay explained they are looking at the future and what they can do each year (listed above). She discussed invoices totaling \$17,898.69 would purchase what they need for

immediate solutions. Kay stated they have been in contact with the City of Humboldt and Humboldt Police as well. Discussion followed. Commissioner Daniels discussed solutions for USD #258. Commissioner Brocker stated they would need to make sure monies were earmarked for safety. Commissioner Daniels discussed the in-lieu of tax that will be coming from the windfarms in 2020 which will probably be around \$50,000 per district, but he would like to see the county help solve issues now. Terry Call, EMS Billing Director, discussed a system called ALERTUS which offers a security notice program totally free to the school systems; it has safety buttons on computer, pre-programmed messages, computer or cell phone based. Commissioner Daniels stated it is good to attack the problems before they happen. Commissioners thanked Kay and Staci for their time and concerns for keeping kids safe.

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, reported the crusher and screen have been delivered, but still waiting on a belt for one side. Training will begin next week for employees. It will be easier to move around to the areas needed.

Mitch reported the man installing the hangar door has been ill so the doors are not up yet. Mitch is waiting on the state to see where the other hangar can be put. Commissioners and Mitch discussed plane sizes that can land at Allen County Regional Airport. The landing could be used for a large commercial plane in an emergency, would tear up the landing, but should be safe for landing.

Mitch explained his 2018 plans for roads schedule for some kind of roadwork. Commissioner Daniels stated he heard KDOT will be starting on US Hwy #169 on April 23, 2018. The counter has been put down on old US Hwy #169 between Humboldt and Iola.

Commissioner Brocker stated he had visited with Tony Thompson, Allen County Regional Hospital Executive Director; he requested Tony to visit with the commission at least once a month. Tony told him maybe someone on the board would be able, but probably not him.

Alan Weber, Allen County Counselor, Ron Holman, Allen County House and Grounds, Terry Call, EMS Financial Director, Mitch Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, and Jerry Hathaway, Allen County Attorney, joined the meeting.

Sheriff Murphy discussed the tower project he had presented a few months ago to the commission. He had visited with Linn County who put up a digital tower and Sheriff Murphy doesn't want to go digital as most radios in Allen County are not digital and the cost to replace radios would be prohibitive. Sheriff Murphy discussed tower proposals he had presented in 2017, location of property was discussed. He would like to see the tower at 2600 Street and Hawaii Road; where the county owns property. Discussion followed. He reported Crawford County is set up on a micro-wave system and he doesn't care for that either. He has visited with vendors about new towers. He believes in the saying "Build it and they will come" because people will want on it. He would like to build it large enough for the future needs. Sheriff Murphy stated the tower will probably pay itself off in 10 years.

Darolyn "Crickett" Maley, Allen County Treasurer, Angie Murphy, 911 Communications Director and Cara Barkdoll, Register of Deeds, joined the meeting

Sheriff Murphy discussed courthouse security and reported what was discussed at a department head meeting concerning such. Sheriff Murphy told the commission there is a vendor called ALERTUS services which could replace the current panic buttons. Costs are estimated around \$7,620.00 plus a \$3,450.00 annual cost after year one. He is still looking to make sure it runs on pcs with other programs. Angie stated it would all be tied into 911 communications. Current system has only one panic button in an office and this program would be on all computers and would be able to alert all offices. This is the same vendor that gives the software to schools free. Discussion followed. Terry will visit with sales representative for demonstration for commissioners and department heads to see.

Sheriff Murphy discussed cameras for the courthouse within each office, outside and hallways. He stated it could be considered as a Phase 1 of security plan. He had walked through with Steve Prasko of Advantage Computer. There would need to be 24 indoor cameras (\$75,500.00) and 4 outdoor cameras (\$38,600.00) and will need fiber Optic backbone and cabling (\$22,500.00) for a total cost of \$136,600. Sheriff Murphy said it was not a matter of if it is going to happen but when. Sheriff Murphy stated Phase 2 would be barrier walls within each office. Phase 3 would be limiting to one entrance to the courthouse. Chairman Williams asked about a courthouse security officer?? Sheriff Murphy stated he had some costs for school Security Resource Officers (SRO); if in every school they would need 9 SRO's, this does include tech center, one for USD #256, five for USD #257 and two for USD #258. Full time salaries, benefits, equipment and vehicles would cost around \$832,000 for all. Part-time would depend on schools and benefits. Sheriff Murphy commented he would hate to have a part time, as an accident will happen when they are not working! Discussion followed on his thought as to who should cover schools; county vs. cities. Grants were discussed, but reported they are delayed at this time.

Crickett stated she has no problem with cameras in her office, but not excited about barriers. Sheriff Murphy discussed the cameras would be rotated on a 30-day or 15-day loop; depending on the office and the need. Discussion followed.

Cara stated she felt the new panic buttons will do the most good as the current buttons are not located in ideal locations within the offices.

Jerry stated after dealing with a small town in Allen County, he is concerned about safety. He would like to see the barriers within each office or one entrance or both. Sheriff Murphy discussed an incident that happened a couple of weeks ago that made a difference when he appeared; his presence was needed to defuse the situation. Jerry stated commissioners need to take action to protect the people working here!

Sheriff Murphy discussed making the door at the North West entrance a Proxy card reader entrance. Discussion followed on safety. Chairman Williams stated he feels the employees need to be protected to the degree the commission can do. Commissioners approved more research to be done.

Jerry stated an immediate fix would be the key pad and SRO walking the floors in schools and courthouse, and the cameras. Angie stated when alert goes off, 911 sends out notice to all officers; whether county and/or city. Mitch asked about his employees at the landfill, airport, quarry, and shop. Discussion followed on options.

Sheriff Murphy discussed safety film for windows. Discussion followed. Cara asked about the offices that aren't county offices within the courthouse, would they be involved in getting cameras. Sheriff Murphy stated yes, they were included if they are within the building. Chairman Williams stated his slogan is "Do the right thing for the right reason!"

Sheriff Murphy asked about going ahead with the cameras at this time. Discussion followed. Chairman Williams moved to purchase the cameras for the courthouse at a cost of \$136,600 from Advantage Computers and to pay USD #258 for \$20,000 earmarked for security cameras. Commissioner Daniels seconded, motion passed 3-0-0.

Susan Raines, Bowlus Executive Director, Dan Willis & Jen Taylor, USD #257 Board members/Trustees of Bowlus, Karen and Dick Works, Van Thompson, Diana Asher, David Lee, Tom Strickler, Friends of the Bowlus, Sid Fleming, City of Iola Administrator, joined the meeting to discuss 2019 Budget. Susan stated they all support the Bowlus and wanted to request the commission to continue their support for the Bowlus. Susan presented 3 options for the commission: dedicate 1st whole mill each year to the Bowlus, 2<sup>nd</sup> dedicate on \$32,000 (which really isn't enough for maintaining, 3<sup>rd</sup> do nothing, which they all hope does not happen.

Jen stated they would all appreciate the county dedicating 1 mill like USD #257 has committed to. USD #257 Board has committed to 1 mill of taxes, no classes in the Bowlus/covers all use of

auditorium, recital hall and etc. Susan explained looking at the Bowlus needs as a four legged stool: 1st being the school, 2nd city, 3rd Friends of the Bowlus (donations), 4th leg would be the county- fourth leg of a four legged stool. This makes the Bowlus finances solid.

Susan reported the Board met last evening; they need some commitments before hiring to replace Susan. Susan is leaving and the Bowlus needs to hire a new person; no opening at 7 a.m. closing at 10 p.m. When they hire they need tell the new person what they are expected to do. A commitment from the commission would help the decisions to move forward on the job opening.

Tom Strickler stated the Bowlus is one of the gems of the county; the whole county and could easily say it expands to Southeast Kansas. Susan explained all areas the Bowlus brings into the county.

Dick Works stated the Bowlus is a jewel for Allen County and bringing more in. He doesn't use SEK Multi-County Health Department, SEK Mental Health or other entities the county levies taxes for services, but he uses Bowlus and that's what he uses for his mental health.

Karen Works serves on the Bowlus Commission and Friends of Bowlus, sees all things that are coming out of Bowlus. She comes to Allen County for Arts. Karen stated she also drives to Kansas City for arts but also to lola.

Van Thompson stated he couldn't believe Allen County has a facility like the Bowlus when he moved here 40 years ago. He was impressed.

Patty Boyd commented people need to see the county as a whole and not just a certain area. The Bowlus is an important part of Allen County and a great opportunity for citizens.

Susan stated the Bowlus needs stability for funding, it will never be a money maker, but they try to make it as affordable as possible. They are responsible to protect assets of the trust; trust funding alone wouldn't last.

David Lee named several great things to see at the Bowlus and commented it is recognized area wide. He echoes everyone's comments. The Bowlus needs to be preserved and keep it going.

Tom Strickler knows it has brought people to town and sees other people, it is a draw to the community; not only the ones that work here but draws from all around. Susan reported on all the people it is pulling from all over for just Saturday night's show. She gives tours for new persons interested in the Bowlus.

Diana Asher, Friends of the Bowlus Chair, said she was a junior college graduate at the Bowlus and a staunch supporter of the building.

Jeff Jorden, Bowlus Tech director, explained the Bowlus has state of the art sound system and event person always use the Bowlus, house lighting is professional style, and Friends of the Bowlus funded 1.25 million for new construction. Community Orchestra and choirs also use it. Dick stated the donations alone should show the support of not only the area but far reaching.

Commissioner Brocker commented if it is tied to a mill then it wouldn't have to be reviewed annually, but if you give a set amount that should be reviewed annually. Commissioner Daniels stated he is in support of the funding; it is a substantial increase. Bowlus Commission and Trustees will be overseeing the budget and will be available for review if the Allen County Commission would like to see it. Commissioner Brocker moved to approve 1 mill for the Bowlus for 2019 and forward, Commissioner Daniels seconded, motion passed 3-0-0.

Dick asked about 600 Road and when it might be scheduled for work. Discussion followed. Commissioners will visit with Mitch.

Alan Weber, Allen County Counselor, sent a copy of the utility extension for review to the City of Humboldt. Cole Herder, City of Humboldt Administrator, will be bringing it up at a later date; he needs to have the City of Humboldt Council review it. Alan reported there were some scheduled payments concerns. Commissioners had reviewed and approved what Alan had sent out.

Alan stated he had sent the same type of contract to the Rural Tech Center for the wind project for the \$100,000 the commission had approved to give them. The tech center is reviewing as well.

Alan reported there is a landowner who wants to purchase county property west of Rebel Works. He stated the property is the same as Rotary uses and the Rotary had reported they are working on a grant. Discussion followed. Since the county is a governmental agency then they have to advertise that the commission is contemplating selling property. Discussion followed on whether the county could do both. Alan will visit with Rotary. No action was taken at this time.

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$26,163.30
- b) Payroll Changes – Phone Cell allowance for Justin Thompson and Teena Solander
- c) Clerk's Journal Entries: # 23
- d) Abatements: RE Value 569, \$82.40, Year 2014  
RE Value 564, \$72.64, Year 2015  
RE Value 504, \$69.52, Year 2016  
PP Value 124, \$17.42, Year 2017  
TR Value 770, \$106.84, Year 2012  
TR Value 654, \$93.10, Year 2013  
TR Value 556, \$79.46, Year 2014  
TR Value 497, \$74.68, Year 2015  
TR Value 402, \$57.36, Year 2016  
TR Value 499, \$66.28, Year 2017

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Brocker moved to adjourned, Commissioner Daniels seconded, motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. until April 17, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commission room of the courthouse.

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Thomas R. Williams, Chairperson

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Jerry Daniels, Commissioner

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Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk

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John F. Brocker, Commissioner