

The Allen County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. with Chairperson William H. "Bill" King, Commissioner Jerry Daniels, Commissioner Bruce Symes and Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk, in the Commissioner's room at the courthouse.

Nick Reynolds, Humboldt Union, Trevor Hoag, Iola Register, Bryan J. Murphy, Allen County Sheriff Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor, and Larry Walden, citizen was present to observe the meeting.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the regular meeting on February 11, 2020.

Chairman King led the flag salute.

Sherrie introduced Donald Leapheart as the new Senior Citizen Van Driver. Isabelle Piler retired as of January 31, 2020. Donald expressed his appreciation of the opportunity to drive the van. He enjoyed working at the jail because they are doing good work. Donald commented waking up every morning, looking forward to your job and enjoying your job is great.

Debbie Bearden, LaHarpe Days Committee, explained LaHarpe Days was reinstated in 2019. It will be hosted on June 27, 2020 at LaHarpe City Park. They are requesting \$500 for three bounce houses which they will be renting from Pittsburg. The budget for this year is \$2,200. They have gotten confirmation for a Vintage baseball game. Other highlights of the game will be food trucks, vendors and a parade. They will continue to raise monies for the rest of the LaHarpe Days. Commissioners will take under consideration.

Cole Herder, City of Humboldt Administrator, and Mr. Randy Stanley, joined the meeting.

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director reported they are out patching holes, grading roads and putting rock on them. The crusher is still down as the parts ordered were wrong.

Mitch reported he is still getting bids for the two fuel pumps at the shop and one and the landfill. He has one bid and is waiting on the other.

Commissioner Symes discussed working in the plan filling pot holes 1800 Street by Nebraska for this year.

Shannon Moore, City of Humboldt Police Chief and Darrel Baughn, joined the meeting.

Randy Stanley, resident at 1631 California Road, requested the commissioners lower the speed limit on all the roads the county maintains due to the wet weather and heavy traffic (when US Hwy #169 was being worked on). He mentioned a few in particular; Delaware Road east of Monarch has over the years been overly used, a lot of materials being left on the road especially in wet weather. Mr. Stanley thinks the speed limit on these roads should be lowered to 45 miles and in turn would help carbon usage, less gas and other item. He suggested this would maybe save repair to which they could use the funding towards better roads which starts by lowering the speed limits. Mr. Stanley stated anyone living in or close to the county hears traffic noises and the deer can't get of the way fast enough at 55 miles per hour. Sheriff Murphy stated he agrees Delaware Road it is in a mess. Mr. Stanley asked if there is or should be an inclement

weather clause. Mr. Stanley stated if a road isn't posted could the commissioners could say it is 45 miles per hour unless otherwise posted? Several in the room stated the 55 miles per hour is by Kansas Statute. Commissioners will take under consideration.

Loren Korte, Allen County Regional Hospital Trustee Chairman, joined the meeting to discuss sales tax election. Loren explained as part of the lease agreement the county will be responsible for maintaining the hospital. They will be doing advertisement for sales tax so that it doesn't go on the property tax. Discussion followed. The hospital plans on doing an education planning thing to explain what the sales tax will be and what property tax would do. Commissioner Symes stated he would like to see the trustees take a stand. Discussion followed on plans for educating citizens. Loren stated it is just continuing a sun setting sales tax so it will not be increasing anything on sales tax, just continuing the current. Chairman King expressed the commissioner's appreciation for all the work the Trustees do. Loren stated he appreciates all the commissioners and their support. Counselor Johnson stated Loren has been an immaculate board member.

Mitch requested commissioners to sign the Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report for 2019 and the Allen County Annual Noxious Weed Management Plan for 2020. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve commissioner's sign the 2019 report and the 2020 report. Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Commissioners all signed.

Commissioner Symes moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss Attorney-Client Privilege. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Those in the room will be Chairman King, Commissioner Symes, Commissioner Daniels, Darolyn "Crickett" Maley, Allen County Treasurer and Robert Johnson, II, Allen County Counselor. The time is now 9:00 a.m. Commissioners reconvened at 9:05 a.m. No action was taken.

Commissioner Symes moved to go into executive session for 2 minutes to discuss Attorney-Client Privilege. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Those in the room will be Chairman King, Commissioner Symes, Commissioner Daniels, and Robert Johnson, II, Allen County Counselor. The time is now 9:05 a.m. Commissioners reconvened at 9:07 a.m. No action was taken.

Commissioner Symes reported Iola Industries is planning another trip to Topeka on March 30, to visit with different offices at the State House.

Commissioner Daniels reported he and Commissioner Symes attended a Town Hall meeting at the Allen County Community College. The college is wanting help to build from the City of Iola and Allen County. Commissioner Daniels stated he would not be raising the tax levy for anybody. He wants to alleviate any question about his concerns to raise the county levy. Discussion followed. Other commissioners concur.

Cole discussed their current repeaters. The county (911) can't hear the police's calls.

Steve Hall, Jerry Hall's Communications, David Blaha, Hayden Tower Service, Inc., Shane Smith, City of Moran Police Chief, Terry Call, EMS Financial Director, Angela Murphy, 911 Communications Director, joined the meeting. Sheriff Murphy stated he had started two years ago on getting communications towers; the proposal at the time was for four towers or one centrally located. The commission at that time decided to go to one tower at a central location. They have spent around \$55,000 at the central location prepping it for the tower. Chairman King asked about steel tariff's increasing, if costs have gone up. David stated they haven't seen any increases at this time. David explained some of the due diligence's they (Jerry Hall's Communications) have taken so far with the FFA and tower, Geo Tech reports, Guide tower with 6 guy lines and anchors, and paid Westar/Evergy to the site to bring the electric to the site, watching for seasonal melder milk weed (not sufficient documentation to make sure it

isn't there), they have had the environmental work done last year, they are valid for about a year so, if it could be funded this year it would be best. There are several persons in the county that this would address their concerns for communications. Sheriff Murphy stated the tower is projected at 300 feet now but 500 feet would be better to reach the southeast and the northwest areas of Allen County. Commissioner Daniels stated this would also fix the Public Works Department lack of communications not just the law enforcement. The tower could come down at the courthouse. Discussion followed on battery backup and generators that would be attached to the tower. This would be Allen County's tower and they would not have to pay rent; they could actually rent a couple of parts out to other vendors. Sheriff Murphy stated there is a request next week is for 100-foot tower by US Cellular, which they could put on the county's tower for a cost. All the cities would benefit. Commissioner Daniels stated he feels the county should do it but the question is how to pay for it. Bob stated they could do an RFP to find out costs. Commissioner Daniels moved to proceed with the project and get RFP's for the communications tower. Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Larry asked about the monies being allocated for this year's budget for the tower. Commissioners stated if there are not monies the county could look at lease purchase for the tower.

Trevor asked about the county leasing space on the tower. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Daniels had to leave the meeting for a funeral.

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$22,060.29
- b) Payroll Changes for Lisa Sears, Patrick Cash, Steve Womack, and new hires Jeanne Cason, Dalton Altis and Jordan Thompson
- c) Payroll – Reimbursement for FMLA report.
- d) Treasurer's Monthly report
- e) Annual Inventory reports from Iola Senior Center and Sheriff Office
- f) Annual receipts and expenditures reports from
- g) Journal vouchers – 2020 - #7
- h) Abatements: RE Value 5235, \$900.74, Yr 2019

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Symes moved to adjourn, Chairman King seconded, and motion passed 2-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m. until February 25, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commission room of the courthouse.

William H. King, Chairperson

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner

Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk

Bruce Symes, Commissioner