

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

Commissioners approved the minutes of the January 9, 2018 meeting.

Robert Johnson, Iola Register, Darrell Baughn Allen County Rural Volunteers Fire Department Chief, Travis Baughn, Allen County Rural Volunteers Fire Department representative, and Larry Walden, citizen, joined the meeting.

Travis discussed needing a fire station building for Allen County Rural Volunteers Fire Department. He reminded the commission have been in a storage unit since September 23, 2003. They pay \$500 per month for a total of \$6,000 annually, \$64,000 has been paid in rent in the last 14 years. They pay a high utility bill since the building is not designed for heat enclosure. Travis discussed previous opportunities being they didn't qualify for. He reported they have received a donation of land for a future fire station. The location is 1400 Street and Oregon Road, north of Iola. He stated the benefits of this location: closer to the fire district, minimize possible hazards of driving through town, its location is at the crossroads for multiple directional travel, water meter already located on property, provide location for advanced hands on training, opportunity to spend money on safer more effective equipment. Travis explained he had acquired a rough estimate of \$243,000 for turnkey project. He stated the cost could be reduced if the county helped clear the site, haul dirt and provide rock. Travis explained their annual budget, revenue and expenses. Discussion followed. Commissioners asked about the time frame of the property being listed in their name.

Commissioner Talkington joined the meeting.

Darrell reported they still have a three year lease on the current rental property. Commissioners asked Travis to visit with Alan Weber, Allen County Counselor about getting out of the contract. Commissioner Daniels stated he was happy to have Mitch's department help on clearing the site for a building. Commissioners stated the rest would probably depend on clear title and getting out of the contract but to please let them know once it is owned by the Allen County Rural Volunteers Fire Department.

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, visited with the commission. Chairman Williams asked Mitch not to tear down the green house next to G & W.

Mitch stated LaHarpe is doing an electrical update and needing rock in the alleys. Mitch stated he doesn't have enough at this time. Normally if he has it he helps the third class cities by providing rock.

Mitch stated the crusher is still down and he doesn't have enough monies to outright purchase a crusher. Bids will be going out very soon; some of the bidders do have lease plans. Chairman Williams stated he did get a call last evening from someone at LaHarpe requesting rock. Mitch reported they had received 270 tons of road rock and some pea rock in 2017. Discussion followed on current crusher. Mitch stated he has to keep enough for the jobs he does. A new crusher will cost anywhere from \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 but will pay for itself soon enough. Bottom line is Mitch doesn't have enough with the current crusher down. Discussion followed. Commissioners approved Mitch to get bids and get back soon.

Commissioner Talkington asked if he has plenty of salt. Mitch stated yes. Commissioner Talkington mentioned he had a person who lives on US 169 north of Iola. He had employees out on Martin Luther

King Day due to the ice and snow and frigid temperatures. Discussion followed on what was done with rock and salt.

Commissioner Talkington asked about Oregon Road and chip and seal. Mitch stated it is only 3 miles. Commissioner Daniels stated he is all in favor of improving roads in Allen County. Discussion followed on whether it is a need or whether one wants it. Chairman Williams stated he was concerned about it turning into a freeway. Mitch stated he didn't put down counters due to the weather and did not want his crews to tear them up while cleaning roads. Discussion followed on current conditions of the road and what all would be needed to be done.

Commissioner Talkington discussed a low water bridge located on Oregon Road.

Chairman Williams explained why Jerry Hathaway, Allen County Attorney, couldn't join the meeting. Discussion followed. Jacqui Spradling, Allen County Assistant Attorney, is now being sworn in as Bourbon County Attorney. She will still be Allen County's Assistant Attorney.

Larry Walden asked about mutual aid on Fire Departments and Ambulance between Allen County and Bourbon County. Commissioner Talkington asked about legality about fire departments working on a fire and it jumping boundaries. Alan stated they are under the tort legality and fire departments are not buying in to county wide.

Alan Weber, Allen County Counselor, discussed a fire meeting with all the fire chiefs in Allen County.

Commissioners reviewed the request for reissuance for Humboldt Speedway. Commissioners approved.

Commissioner Daniels stated he was all in for evaluations for Department Heads but doesn't feel it is going to happen this year. Discussion followed. Commissioner Talkington stated they have been working

Commissioner Daniels discussed all department heads and elected officials to get 2% merit raise. Discussion followed.

Larry asked if anyone had heard from KDOT and he stated it was announced on the radio about US Hwy 169 being closed for one year. Discussion followed.

Chairman Williams asked what to do with the Department heads and Elected officials on clarification of action taken on December 29, 2017. Commissioner Daniels moved to clarify raises of 2% COLA for all employees and 2% Merits for all department heads and elected officials and up to 2% for regular employees based upon a merit evaluation from department heads. Commissioner Talkington seconded, motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioners reviewed annual reports from LaHarpe/Elm Cemetery.

Commissioners reviewed the inventory reports from LaHarpe Senior Center and Allen County Register of Deeds office.

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$715,414.23
- b) Payroll Changes- Raymond Bonnett, Tanner Odell, Misty Rice
- c) Clerk's Journal Entries: #2

d) Abatements: PP Value 2367, \$431.04, Year 2017

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned until January 23, 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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Jim Talkington, Commissioner

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Sherrie L. Riebel, County Clerk

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Jerry Daniels, Commissioner