

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

Commissioners approved the minutes of the regular meeting on July 11, 2017.

Bob Johnson, Iola Register, Cole Herder, City of Humboldt Administrator, and Bryan J. Murphy, Allen County Sheriff, was present to observe the meeting.

Joe Hess, President of Iola Senior Center, Inc., updated the commission on activities at the Senior Center. Joe stated he wanted to give the commission a first-hand report on recent activities at the Senior Citizens Center. He reported after his visit to the commission in January, Larry Walden came by the center to offer his help to improve things. Joe stated the first thing he learned was that Larry had arranged for the county to purchase a metal storage shed for \$2,000. Joe went on to explain that when they make changes at the center, they discuss and vote on them first, but the shed was just suddenly there. He stated it is nice and they had decided it will be very useful. In the next 2-3 weeks Larry completed 15 more projects in the center. Joe stated he discovered most of them when he saw them. They voted on the 15 at the next board meeting, rejecting 4 and accepting the rest.

Joe stated Larry has a genuine desire to help charitable organizations, but in the senior center's case he does what he thinks is needed and then they find out about it later. Joe mentioned they are a low key organization – not a lot of rules and each day workers take care of things on their day, but Larry's pace was a little hard for Joe to keep up with. Joe went on to say Larry seems to have an obsessive compulsive need to reorganize organizations the way he thinks they should be ran. Joe has had many conversations with Larry and felt they had developed a great friendship, even when they disagreed on what he wanted to do. Joe presented a card Larry had given to him and his wife that really touched him and his wife; he said he liked Larry even though he told Larry he thought he was rather pushy. Larry told him "I've been that way ever since I was a little kid".

Joe began asking Larry to slow things down and talk with him before he started something, but his pace has picked up, working evenings as late as 11:00 p.m. Joe reported he went up Saturday evening at 8:30 to lock their drop box and found Larry rearranging things in the center. Joe said they sat down to discuss what was going on and Larry told Joe he had just purchased 4 women's mannequins to better display women's clothing, the latest in about 8 dozen projects that Joe knows about. Joe stated it is hard to keep up with all the changes. Joe said Larry then told him he was going to remove the 2 large tables that the center use to carry out most of their business on to make more room in the center. Joe said no you're not and Larry said they are going. Joe stated after having Larry tell him in no uncertain terms that the tables were going, Joe got up and left.

Joe explained he didn't sleep much Saturday evening after coming to the realization that someone he thought was a best friend was going to tell him what he could and could not do. Joe stated he depends on the Lord to guide him and this is what he put together to give Larry when he saw him at the center at noon on Sunday. Joe informed him in writing that Larry is not to be on the property at any time except 10:00 Wednesday when Joe is usually there. Joe stated he is leaving the door open for him to continue doing projects, but it will be after the board has discussed and agreed upon what is to be done, then he will give Larry a written authorization to proceed.

Joe stated he still believes Larry has valuable contributions to make, but they must be accompanied with doing them at their direction and they would discuss on Wednesdays.

Joe would still like to have projects done, but Larry has to have written permission. Discussion followed on whether Larry using a key lock set to gain access is illegal or not. Commissioner Daniels stated he wasn't sure if the commission could accept Larry on the property since there was an incident that happened where the police were called. Joe stated Larry says he is right and that's that, but he is not allowed at the Iola Senior Center, Inc. without written permission.

Sherrie reported on a call from Cindy Lane, Area Agency on Aging concerning the same incident. Commissioners asked that she state her concerns in a letter or email addressed to them.

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, reported the Bettis Construction will start August 7, 2017 tearing up 9th Street and Bridge Street, in Humboldt. Cole stated he will need to work with businesses such as Monarch Cement and other heavy truck use. Commissioner Daniels asked if any businesses will have a Grand Opening during that time. Cole stated he will let the owners know.

Mitch stated if the core doesn't own the bridge, they don't do anything about it. Mitch stated some engineers say the debris around the bridge base doesn't hurt it and some say it does. Discussion followed. Cole expressed his concerns about a cottonwood tree blocking the other trees and causing flooding. Mitch said they will be corresponding when the core opens the gates at John Redmond. Discussion followed on companies interested in brush removal. No action was taken at this time. Cole stated there is a pipe line at the Neosho River bank that will need to be watched! Mitch stated they would be careful. Cole stated he could work with the landowner that is against the county working on his property to get to the brush pile and thought he could get permission to get on his land to do the work.

Chairman Talkington asked where the county is at on Geneva Bridge along the way to Neosho Falls. Mitch will check on it.

Chairman Talkington asked about the ditch along Dillow's property. Mitch stated due to the rain last week, Dillow did not want someone working the ditch.

Commissioner Daniels asked about concrete work at the Allen County Regional Airport. Mitch reported some of the concrete had shifted. They will be fixing it.

Cole asked if the striping is on the street construction project. Mitch said the stripe down the middle is, but not the parking spots. Discussion followed.

Alan Weber, Allen County Counselor discussed a Nuisance Hearing on Kenneth Wright, a resident at 505 Park, Iola which is in the county. Alan reported Mr. Wright was served the 13th of June with the Notice of Nuisance Violation. He stated Mr. Wright requested a hearing after receiving the issued violation. Alan presented several concerns along with pictures. Mr. Wright stated most of the trash washed down from the flood. He strongly stated he pays taxes on that land and can park his vehicles where ever he wants. Mr. Wright stated he wants to know "whose opinion that they are in-operable trailers". A heated discussion followed. Sheriff Murphy requested Mr. Wright realize Alan is only doing his job. Commissioner Daniels granted 60 days to Kenneth Wright for clean-up which will be September 18, 2017. Chairman Talkington seconded, motion passed 2-0-0.

Alan reported the Sheep Barn is complete and looks very nice. Some of the wood end parts were not replaced and there is an issue on payment to the workers. Alan discussed they are waiting on lien releases. He reported the Fair Board will be reviewing the Sheep Barn. Commissioners discussed future projects.

Chairman Talkington asked about the mammograms at the Allen County Regional Hospital. Discussion followed. The hospital will not be able to do mammograms until possibly September 2017. Alan stated it is totally independent of the county, so concerns should be addressed with the Allen County Regional Hospital Administrator.

Alan reported the hospital has been cash flowing this year but with cuts on Medicaid and Medicare it always hurts. Chairman Talkington asked about the City of lola renewing their sales tax for the hospital. Bob Johnson asked if the county is ultimately responsible for the hospital bonds. Alan stated yes they are. Discussion followed. Commissioner Daniels asked about budgeting for hospital. Currently there are 1.8 million of annual payments made. Discussion followed. HCA contract is up next year.

Commissioner Daniels asked Alan about EDP (Wind Farm) in the Moran area. Alan stated they have purchased land and will be applying for building permit and wind farm permit one of these days, but there are a few items to get in order first.

Sherrie swore Jerry Daniels in to serve on the Kansas State 911 Coordinating Council.



Sherrie asked if the commission wanted to move the Law Enforcement out of the General Fund into its own fund for 2018 budget year. Commissioner Daniels stated he wasn't concerned about issues. Discussion followed.

Sherrie discussed longevity with Commissioners. Discussion continued on vacation leave and personal time. No action was taken.

Cole reported on some projects the City of Humboldt has going on.

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerks Vouchers – \$266,247.79

- b) Payroll Changes
- c) Clerks Journal Entries: # 41

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned until July 25, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commission room of the courthouse.

Jim Talkington, Chairperson

_____absent_____
Thomas R. Williams, Commissioner

Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner