

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

Bob Johnson, Iola Register, Bryan Murphy, Allen County Sheriff, Sherrie L Riebel, Allen County Clerk, Larry Walden, county citizen and John Fewins, county citizen was present to observe the meeting.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the November 14, 2017 meeting.

Ron Holman, House & Grounds Director, joined the meeting. Commissioner Talkington asked Ron about the Christmas lights and who meters them. If the City pays for such, they don't want them to run 24 hours a day, so Tracy Keagle has asked about timers on the lights. \$637 from Home Depot was an amount for timers that Tracy told Commissioner Talkington about. Commissioner Williams reported on his discussion with Ron and Tracy on the timer and light subject. Commissioner Williams doesn't feel timers are needed. Commissioner Daniels stated if the City of Iola wants to request assistance paying the electric bill for lights, they can do so.

Commissioner Talkington asked about how much land the county owns behind the 911 center. He said there has been a request about placing recycling containers at such location. Commissioner Daniels asked if cardboard is being collected there now. Clerk Riebel said she thought that was the case. Commissioners asked Ron to look into the location.

Carla Nemecek, Southwind Extension Director, presented commissioners with an update. She discussed the Master Gardener program and what they've accomplished. Stay Strong, Stay Healthy is a program done by the Extension. 4H Officer Training is an asset as well. Carla reported Jerry Middendorf is in the process of soliciting bids for work on all the fair buildings, they will then select which one can actually be worked on first. It is a phase type of project, as they will have to save up for awhile to complete. Frontier Farm Credit donated money as to match grant money. Commissioner Daniels asked about bleachers. She said those are on the list as well. Summer 2018 will be the 125th year for the Allen County Fair.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, said he'd like to get a new grader at some point. He's thinking maybe a three year lease on one. This would be for a new grader. Commissioner Williams asked for some numbers on that. He said they currently have some graders that are 13-15 years old. He would trade one in that's 15 years old. Mitch explained the lease process; make two payments, the final payment would buy it.

Mr. Walden asked about gravel expected at the Senior Citizen lot on North Jefferson. Commissioner Williams said they may have talked about this, he asked Mitch to take care of it. Mr. Walden also asked about gravel for the North State Center. Alan said there are restrictions on the parking lot, boundaries need to be looked at. He has that information to check into.

Commissioner Daniels reported that one of the grader operators had a nice visit with him.

Alan Weber, County Counselor reported on the hospital bond finance. He attended a meeting at the hospital concerning this. The second half of the bond may have to be sold this year too and turned into "Cinderella" bonds. Hopefully save \$1.8 million on this. Congress is looking for revenue.

Alan discussed the agreement regarding the EDP. They'll show specifically the roads that will be used and what will need to be done to them. Mitch as Public Works Director is deemed the Road Manager in the agreement. The pilot payment will be due at the end of the year that the project starts. It's being proposed to pay it all in December.

Rorik Peterson and Steve Kennard joined the meeting. Rorik said phases are not currently their intention. The bulk of construction would be summer of 2018. Commissioner Talkington asked about when payments start. Alan passed out the agreement to commissioners. Commissioner Williams wants it in stone how this money should be used...educational purposes such as the vo-tech building in Allen County. He also stated the school districts should be able to come to the County and this money should be there if it's needed. Commissioner Talkington stated he felt the same way about education being the most important. Rorik said there has been initial discussion with vo-tech and school districts where this has been done before in Cloud County. Commissioner Daniels said we are fortunate to be able to tap into another resource in the county, with the EDP and wind farm. This will be a benefit to the tech center. Commissioner Williams asked that a Resolution be adopted to state the intent of this. Alan passed out papers to be signed today by commission. Commissioner Williams moved to accept and sign the proposal for the start up. Commissioner Daniels seconded, motion passed 3-0-0. The county will have signed. Rorik will take for their people to sign. Commissioner Daniels asked when landowners will see benefits. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Williams shared that Alan Weber won the coveted Donna Talkington award from Thrive for the shining example of how people volunteer and do good work for Allen County. The award is named after Commissioner Talkington's mother.

Rorik reported there will be 56-60 turbines. It's possible more would be added later, but currently there are no plans to expand. Due to the conditional use permit, they have boundaries in which to build turbines. Rorik said the turbines should operate every day, at least 98-99% of the time.

Rorik commented due to the tax bill, modifications to the tax credit, it was discussed how this could impact the project. That is why so much needs to get done yet this year to demonstrate physical effort. Steve stated a map has been given to all the landowners to get their input. Commissioner Daniels asked about concrete usage and the local sources. The general contractor will be given this information. Commissioner Talkington asked if local contractors can call Rorik and Steve. They stated yes definitely.

Clerk Riebel reported what was the city's electricity and what was the county's on the square; all the gray pedestal electric fixtures are metered through the City, as well as the clock and the bandstand. All other light fixtures that shine on the south side of the courthouse are metered through the County.

Commissioner Williams moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Commissioner Daniels seconded, motion passed 3-0-0. Those in the room will be Chairman Talkington, Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Williams, Alan Weber, Allen County Counselor and Jill Allen, Deputy County Clerk. The time is now 9:32 a.m. Commissioners reconvened at 9:42 a.m. No action was taken.

Commissioner Talkington reported on a phone call he received about Allen County contributing to the Coffey County Honor Flights. Commissioner Daniels moved to contribute \$1000, Commissioner Williams seconded. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioner Williams moved to give a bonus of \$200 to all employees, those with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 year anniversaries will get \$275, Commissioner Daniels seconded, and motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers -\$17,159.10
- b) Payroll Changes
- c) Clerks Journal Entry - #
- d) Abatements: RE Value 261, \$717.84, Year 2017
PP Value 90, \$17.34, Year 2015
PP Value 643,093, \$114,486.86, Year 2016
PP Value 124,134, \$22,605.96, Year 2017
TR Value 72, \$5.76, Year 2017
Oil Value 4506, \$648.94, Year 2017
Gas Value 4983, \$702.86, Year 2017
Special Assessment, \$276.42, Year 2017

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned until November 28, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commission room of the courthouse.

Jim Talkington, Chairperson

Thomas R. Williams, Commissioner

Jill Allen, Deputy County Clerk

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner