

The Allen County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. with Chairman David Lee, Commissioner Jerry Daniels, Commissioner John F. Brocker, and Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk.

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Jeremy Hopkins, Allen County Road & Bridge Director, Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, Robert Johnson, County Counselor, Christia Hill, Service to Elderly van driver, Rick Aiello, employee, Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Anthony Maness, Allen County Sheriff, Nate Jackson, Undersheriff, Ken Olsen, Enterprise Fleet, Dan Davis, Allen County Recycling, Karen Gilpin, Allen County Recycling, Steve Strickler, Allen County Recycling, Robert Franklin, citizen, Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Paul Zirjacks led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the April 14, 2026, meeting.

Chairman Lee asked for public comment. Steve Strickler, Allen County Recycling, reminded the commissioners that they are still waiting on a plan. He also reminded them of the proposed plans he presented.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported last week the landfill employee went to training. He has already used some of what he learned and saved having to call in someone to work on the pumps.

Mitch reported there were 7 bidders for the taxi way project.

Mitch stated that they have received one inquiry about the hangar. Commissioner Daniels asked Mitch if he had gotten anywhere with a shed to house the items in the T-hanger.

Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, presented bids for 8 ½ miles of striping. Two bids were received, Straightline Stripping for \$17,050.00 and Road Safe for \$37,300.00. Cillessen & Son's did not bid however they said they would honor their previous bid of \$31,000.00. Discussion followed. Straightline could possibly start in June. Commissioner Brocker moved to approve Straightline Stripping for \$17,050.00. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Jeremy reported they are pouring concrete at 1600 and Delaware.

Jeremy stated his crews were out this weekend working on washouts.

Jeremy reported USD 258 is asking if we can chip seal the parking at the sports complex. Discussion followed.

Jeremy asked if the commission is okay with getting bids for porta potties at his outlying county barns for his crews. Commissioner Daniels asked about putting a permanent bathroom in the barns versus porta potties, long term.

Chairman Lee asked Jeremy about the CDL training. Jeremy explained what the process will be moving forward.

Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, presented his proposed 2027 budget. Terry stated he increased postage slightly and a wage increase was approved after the 2026 budget was set, so that is why salary line looks like a large increase.

Ken Olsen, Enterprise Fleet, discussed the proposed plan for vehicle maintenance and replacement. Ken stated they went on a little more aggressive model. He explained. The proposed plan is to replace 40 vehicles. Commissioner Daniels asked if the other counties he works with have their law enforcement participate. Commissioners asked Sheriff Maness if it would matter one way or the other to him if we participate. Commissioner Daniels stated he feels that the initial cost is a little too steep for him. Could Ken present information on a smaller grouping? Chairman Daniels would like to know what our annual costs are versus what the program would cost. Ken gave a few entities that he is currently working with. Discussion followed.

Mitch Garner presented the airport and solid waste proposed 2027 budgets. Mitch explained the salary line in the airport budget includes a second full time person. Discussion on why a second person could be needed. Gas and oil increased due to raising costs. Capital outlay was increased.

Jeff Keithly, Allen Regional Transit, joined the meeting.

Mitch explained the increase for solid waste is in the salary line, adding a full-time mechanic. Added costs to part time to include recycling. Discussion on the need for a full-time mechanic, this person could also be an equipment operator when not needed.

Arlyn Briggs, by phone call, reported he has tried to make an appointment with the county counselor, and has been unsuccessful. He spoke again about owner names on properties and possible mistakes. It was explained that once an error is reported, the offices do their best to correct it and make it right. Discussion followed.

Jeff Keithly, Allen Regional Transit (ART) and Christia Hill, Allen County Elderly Van Driver, came to discuss the 5310 grant from KDOT. Chairman Lee explained that we heard ART is wanting to take over the 5310 services. Jeff explained that yes they are applying and he was told that if a non-profit is readily available to provide the service, they would be awarded the \$10,000 funding along with the new vehicle. Chairman Lee asked Jeff if awarded, would they have to charge the riders. Jeff stated yes they would probably have to. Chairman Lee stated he has issue with that. Chairman Lee asked why ART would want to take over this service when they will have to charge and the County is able to provide free rides. Jeff stated it is a service they are already providing, so this is additional funding and a new vehicle. Commissioner Daniels asked Jeff if he knew of other non-profits that provide the 5310 service. Jeff stated yes several do and Allen County is the only entity that he knows of that does not charge. Jeff stated KDOT highly recommends them to charge. Commissioner Daniels stated his concern is that it is a federal funded grant through KDOT, paid by tax dollars, and then ART to ask users to pay a fare. Jeff stated it would not make sense for them to turn it down as this would be more funding, a new vehicle for them. Jeff explained the fares are \$3.00 per destination if you live in town; \$5.00 per destination for out of town. Chairman Lee asked if they are looking at the betterment of the county or the betterment of ART. Jeff stated he is looking at the betterment of ART. Commissioner Daniels asked Christia if she has anything to say. Christia stated we need to be mindful that some of the seniors are surviving on a very low amount of funds. She is having riders come back to our service as they cannot afford to ride with ART. Chairman Lee said he is not comfortable putting our seniors in a position that the service will cost them more money than it currently is. Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk, read from an email sent by Rene Hart, KDOT, on how the county can continue independently from KDOT regulation should ART receive the funding.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) March financials for hospital board
- b) 1st quarter fair board

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$564,565.92

- b) Payroll – Enrollment: Paul Ornelas
- c) Payroll – Vacation Carryover: Daren Kellerman 29 hrs
- d) Payroll – Reimbursement: Kay Shults, Donna Kovacic
- e) Payroll – March Process Service: B Plumlee, M Nelson, P Cash
- f) Clerks Journal Entries - #13, 14

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Brocker moved to adjourn, Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m. until Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

David Lee, Chairperson

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner

Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk

John F. Brocker, Commissioner