

The Allen County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. with Chairman Bruce Symes, Jerry Daniels, Commissioner, David E. Lee, Commissioner, and Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk.

Richard Luken, Iola Register, Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor, Terry Call, Allen County EMS Financial Director, Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Chelsie Angleton, 911 Director, Breail Thompson, Deputy 911 Director, Roy Smith, Undersheriff, Winona English, Floyd Thompson and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Terry Call led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the regular meeting on August 10, 2021.

Winona English, City of LaHarpe landowner at 302 and 402 Monroe Street, requested to have it put back into the county; to de-annex from the City of LaHarpe. She stated it is mainly a field she owns; septic keeps overflowing. Winona commented that street is a lot of problems, lots of county trucks and trash trucks. She was advised to come to the commission by the City of LaHarpe. Discussion followed. Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, said if she is within 400' they have to be hooked up to city sewer. No decision was made by the commission. Commissioners will have Terry look into it.

Charles Apt, III, attorney, and Justin Jenkins, AMR, joined the meeting.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Attorney Client Privilege, negotiations. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Those in the room will be Chairman Symes, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Daniels, Charles Apt, III, Attorney, and Terry Call, EMS Financial Director/Zoning Administrator. The time is now 8:40 a.m. Commissioners reconvened at 8:55 a.m. No action was taken.

Lon Hale, Steve Kyser, Rural Water District #2 Board members, Amanda Kyser, RWD #2 Secretary/Treasurer, Craig Kirkpatrick, RWD#2 Operator, was present to request ARPA funding to update the RWD#2 lines.

Arlyn Briggs, landowner, addressed the commission, asking about the Special meeting held last week and notification. Sherrie stated she contacts the both newspapers. Arlyn stated it gives the impression of conflict of interest. Discussion followed. Commissioner Lee stated he offered to review the proposed County Communications Tower. Arlyn stated the grants are not free money, tax payers pay for all of it. Chairman Symes stated yes, it is true but if any entity requested a meeting with them that is on a time constraint they would take under consideration.

Arlyn asked about the tractor purchased by Heartland. Mitch reported the cost was as much as the repairs, so it was bid out. Discussion followed.

Arlyn pointed out and wanted to go on record that it has been 4 weeks since he asked the sheriff for list of names and has yet to receive the information.

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, reported one of the 10 wheelers that had been ordered will be here Friday. He stated the old 10 wheelers were replaced because they had over 500,000 miles and are wore out.

Mitch reported the crews are still chip and sealing around Elsmore, and will be the rest of the week.

Mitch mentioned two seasonal workers are gone; mowers. One of the 10' mower deck is down. He still has positions open a mower and a mechanic. Crews are still cutting and mowing; are at Nebraska Road and 2400 Street mowing, trimming tree limbs and cleaning ditches.

Mitch reported Crusher is up and running. Discussion followed. Murphy is working on the remote controls still. Not making pea rock yet. They are daily completing the maintenance plan.

Commissioner Lee discussed bridges and ditches; can the weight limit be reviewed. Mitch stated it depends on the classification and axels. Discussion followed.

Mitch discussed Noxious Weed and services provided.

Harry Lee, Sr., LaHarpe Telephone, joined the meeting.

Lon Hale, Steve Kyser, Rural Water District #2 Board members, Amanda Kyser, RWD #2 Secretary/Treasurer, Craig Kirkpatrick, RWD#2 Operator, was present to request ARPA funding to upgrade the RWD#2 lines. Commissioners will take under consideration. A worth while cost, invest it back into the water district. Lon reviewed and explained the letter. A letter was presented for the request:

Rural Water District #2 Neosho-Allen P.O. Box 35 Stark, KS 66775

To Allen County Commissioners

RWD #2 currently serves Allen, Bourbon and Neosho Counties with water we purchase from Public Wholesale #5 in Iola, Kansas. We currently serve 540 active benefit units with 229 located in Allen County. This water system was put into service in 1964.

Situation:

In the last 12 months our average water "loss" was 1.6 million gallons per month. This apparent loss is about 47% of the total water purchased that is not reflected in the total of the customer readings and charges. We estimate that 20-30% of this loss comes from the older meters not reporting accurately because of wear on their parts and the type of meter that they are. Other loss is from leaks in the system.

- We manually read each meter monthly which takes up to 3 days with 2 employees.
- We have isolation valves that are currently not functional and we lack enough valves in the county to be able to isolate a leak to determine the location or to repair a leak without shutting down a large group of households.
- We need a place to store pipe and other materials that is out of the sunlight and more secure.
- We need to replace 1 fire hydrant in Allen County so we can flush the system correctly.

Proposal Solution:

1. Purchase and install digital readers and equipment for Allen County Benefit Units- \$78,083.04
2. Purchase and install 25 isolation valves in Allen County- \$19,800.00
3. Purchase storage container which will be located in Stark- \$3,266.66
4. Purchase and install a fire hydrant in Allen County- \$2,076.91

Total proposal cost for Allen County = \$103,226.61

Benefits:

1. Digital readers will help us conserve water loss. It will save time and money by reading the meters in one day instead of 3 days and importing the readings into the computer instead of by manual entry. Also if a customer has an increased usage of water, an employee can investigate the situation in a much timelier manner.
2. Installing more valves and replacing bad valves throughout the county will allow us to isolate a water leak without inconveniencing numerous customers while we locate and repair a leak.
3. Purchasing a storage container for our pipe and material will allow our meters and other material to be stored in a secure area. Protecting the pipe from ultraviolet light will preserve the integrity of the material.
4. Purchasing a new Fire Hydrant will allow us to better flush the system after Wholesale 5 does a burnout.

This proposal meets the guidelines for funding under the infrastructure and the green water infrastructure due to our current water loss in our district. This would help prevent future water loss and improve efficiency.

We are also approaching Bourbon and Neosho Counties in assistance with funds for replacing meters, hydrants, valves and for assistance with purchasing a storage container.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

RWD #2 Neosho-Allen-Bourbon

Chairman Symes asked about the leg work to get the detail on the request. Lon stated it has been done by Craig earlier. Lon stated the numbers presented are specifically for Allen County. Amanda has prorated the costs from the different counties; total cost is over \$225,000. This is all grant monies, immediate need for meters. Commissioner Lee asked about what happens if they don't get the grant. Discussion followed on ARPA funding requests. Amanda reported they estimated Bourbon County at 1/3, Allen and Neosho County at 2/3 each for software costs and the materials are cost prorated at Allen County homes. Commissioner Daniels discussed making it a positive response. Chairman Symes requested to review it. Commissioner Lee stated signal battery operated. Craig reported the remotes are supposed to have a 25-year battery life. Commissioners stated they will take under consideration.

Floyd Thompson, Biblesta Committee representative, requested monies for the Biblesta Parade; it's 63rd year. They missed last year due to COVID since then the cost of everything has gone up. Commissioner Lee moved to participate at \$1,500. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Biblesta is the first Saturday in October.

Chelsie Angleton, 911 Director, National Crime Information Center (NCIC) audit yesterday, did really well on the she covered what was reviewed. Karen Kimball is the technical person for maintaining the records and does a great job.

Chelsie reported Jason Trego, Emergency Manager has reported there will be thunderstorms the rest of this week but nothing serious.

Sherrie requested on behalf of Donna Houser, Iola Reads Representative, request to use the south side of the square to set up chairs and water; they will be marching around the square starting at 8:00 a.m. and announcing names every 7 minutes for victims of 911; this will be the 20th anniversary. Commissioners approved the use of the courtyard.

Sherrie reported John Brocker, Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission – Allen County representative, is requesting Mike Walman be appointed to serve an unexpired term of Andy Dunlap on the SEKRPC Revolving Loan Advisory Committee. Andy has recently resigned. Commissioner Daniels moved to appoint Mike Walman to serve on the SEKRPC Revolving Loan Advisory Committee. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Sherrie gave a brief update on the Southeast Kansas Regional meeting to be held on September 23, 2021. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes to non-elected personnel. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Those in the room will be Chairman Symes, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Daniels, Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk and Robert Johnson, II, Allen County Counselor. The time is now 9:47 a.m. Commissioners reconvened at 9:57 a.m. No action was taken.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes to non-elected personnel. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Those in the room will be Chairman Symes, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Daniels, Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk and Robert Johnson, II, Allen County Counselor. The time is now 9:58 a.m. Commissioners reconvened at 10:08 a.m. No action was taken.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes to Attorney Client. Chairman Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Those in the room will be Chairman Symes, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Daniels, and Robert Johnson, II, Allen County Counselor. The time is now 10:10 a.m. Commissioners reconvened at 10:25 p.m. No action was taken.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes to Attorney Client. Chairman Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Those in the room will be Chairman Symes, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Daniels, and Robert Johnson, II, Allen County Counselor. The time is now 10:27 a.m. Commissioners reconvened at 10:32 p.m. No action was taken.

Chairman Symes moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes to Attorney Client. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Those in the room will be Chairman Symes, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Daniels, Terry Call, EMS/Zoning Administrator, Jason Jenkins, AMR and Charles Apt, III, Attorney. The time is now 10:35 a.m. Commissioners reconvened at 10:50 p.m. No action was taken.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes to Attorney Client. Chairman Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Those in the room will be Chairman Symes, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Daniels, Terry Call, EMS/Zoning Administrator, Jason Jenkins, AMR and Charles Apt, III, Attorney. The time is now 10:52 a.m. Commissioners reconvened at 11:02 p.m. No action was taken.

Chairman Symes discussed the Allen County Ambulance contracts. Commissioner Lee moved to pursue a contract with AMR for ambulance services starting January 1, 2022. Commissioner Daniels seconded. Discussion followed. Chairman Symes wanted to thank all involved on the committee, City of Iola and AMR but would like to state he respected the thought and work put in by all parties. New agreement with continued the best services for Allen County residents. Commissioner Lee was not taken lightly, a lot of sleepless nights but at the end of the day the contract they are pursuing will be better. Motion passed 2-1-0 Commissioner Daniels and Commissioner Lee voted yeah. Chairman Symes voted nay.

Commissioner Lee reported on Farm Bureau meeting he had attended. A visit with a person at the meeting stated the City of Humboldt is using Conex shipping containers for storm shelters; and reported he would mention it. Discussion followed.

Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, discussed a letter of statement drafted for Marsha Burris. Terry explained all the ways that was checked to see if the 31 acres were zoned commercial but there is nothing to verify it except for 2.8 acres that shows it going from commercial to residential. Terry requested the Commission to affirm the property was commercial before 1978. Discussion followed. Commissioner Daniels moved to affirm and send the letter. Chairman Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chairman Symes discussed the each of ARPA fund requests. Discussion followed. Chairman Symes commented the time and possible need for administering ARPA funding. Commissioners requested to have the requesters present their proposals and request for an administrator. Discussion followed. Commissioner Daniels discussed the courtroom expansion and future of it.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Notice of KWORCC annual meeting
- b) Letter from Concerned Bourbon County Citizens of Property Rights

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$145,542.38
- b) Payroll – Process Servers pay out.
- c) Payroll – New hire Hunter J. Mittelmeier for Public Works

With no further business to come before the board, Chairman Symes moved to adjourn, Commissioner Lee seconded, and motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 11:36 p.m. until Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly's Room of the courthouse.

Bruce Symes, Chairperson

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner

Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk

David Lee, Commissioner