

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.

Trevor Hoag, Iola Register, Terry Call, Allen County EMS Financial Director, Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Robert Johnson, II, County Counselor, Jessica Thompson, Johnathon Goering, Becky Voorhies, Thrive Allen County, Bufford Stewart, Tom Nevans, Dick Zajic, and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Tom Nevans led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the regular meeting on August 24, 2021.

Tom Nevans, reported they are doing something with the tile on the Veterans Wall, maybe with bricks. They are also requesting funds to purchase flags for the Iola Cemeteries. \$800 for the flags. The flags include the embalms and the school will help put them up.

Larry Macha joined the meeting.

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, reported the chip and seal is done in the Elmore/Savonburg area. They will be starting chip and seal on 1800 St. and US 54 south to Nebraska Rd., then Nebraska Rd. and 1800 St. to 2000 St., then 2000 St. to 2400 St., then Nebraska and 2000 ½ mile north. They are trying to get to the tore up roads first. Cres are cold patching W. Virginia Rd. Commissioner Daniels requested Mitch visit with KDOT on the Nebraska Road shoulders.

Mitch reported he has two mowers down, but he is down to three crew mowing.

The crusher is up and crushing but has everyday wear and tear; having to replace some nuts and bolts.

Bryan J. Murphy, Allen County Sheriff, joined the meeting.

Johnathon Goering, Thrive Allen County, reported today is the last day for the RFQ's for the airport layout plan. The choice must be made before September 21, 2021. Garver will be discussing reimbursement from COVID grants.

Johnathon said they have found the annual economic impact for Allen County Regional Airport is nearly \$768,000 over five years; just revenue, not expenses figured in.

Johnathon reported on the Labor Study; he has scheduled all three interested parties back-to-back to visit with them. Commissioner Lee and he will be listening to them. He believes ARPA will pay for it under the economic development section.

Tim Henry, Twin Motors, Kevin Cole, and Crickett Maley, joined the meeting.

Sherrie asked for permission to sign off on a temporary liquor permit for Veteran of Foreign Wars Poker Run to be held on September 11, 2021. Sheriff Murphy discussed visiting with the Sheriff of Bourbon County and they were ok with it in Bourbon County; trying to revive the VFW. Commissioners discussed the areas; Mildred Store and 1688 Nevada Street. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the Certificate of County Clerk to be signed to support the Poker Run on September 11, 2021. Discussion followed. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 2-1-0. Chairman Symes voted "No".

Sherrie requested an Allen County voting delegate for Kansas Association of Counties conference. Commissioner Daniels said he would do it. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Sherrie mentioned paying Area Agency on Aging for 2021. Discussion followed. Chairman Symes moved to issue a check for \$3,000 to Southeast Kansas Area on Aging. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Dick Works joined the meeting.

Sherrie asked what time the commission wanted to canvas on November 9 for the November 2nd General Election. Commissioners agreed that 10:00 a.m. would be good.

Bruce asked about a ARPA administration and requests. Discussion followed. Sherrie will advertise for an administrator. Commissioners just want to make sure everything is by the book. Commissioners discussed the ARPA list and hiring an administrator. Sherrie stated if it was just the county spending money it would be different but there are several different entities applying. She reported the first report due today has already been submitted.

Commissioner Symes requested Sherrie explained what the Revenue Neutral Rate is. The tax rate in mills that would generate the same property tax revenue in dollars as levied the previous tax year using the current tax year's total assessed valuation. How the RNR calculated? To calculate the revenue neutral rate, the County Clerk shall divide the property tax revenue for such taxing subdivision levied for the previous tax year by the total of all taxable assessed valuation in such taxing subdivision for the current tax year, and then multiply the quotient by 1,000 to express the rate in mills.

Sherrie explained an open record request from Dave Trabert, Kansas Policy Institute, requesting the RNR rate and Proposed Rate for Allen County. She picked up the proposed rate from the first draft of Allen County's budget and should have picked up the final proposed levy of 61.500 instead of 67.902. She stated this levy is lower than 2020's levy.

Chairman Symes opened the Revenue Neutral Rate hearing at 9:00 a.m.

Larry Macha, citizen/businessman, RNR increased revenue has to have a hearing, even with the 5% rate it is too much. He presented a 2021 Green Book from the Kansas Policy Institute. Since 1997 until 2020 Allen County has gone up 321% and population gone down 15%. Discussion followed on surrounding counties.

Larry discussed the county seats in the USA. US Property tax (Rural Homestead Payable 2019) \$150,000 – Valued Property in Kansas, lola is ranked 6th in the United States, net tax of 3,314 and effective tax rate (ETR) is 2.209%. The highest in Kanaz. And US Property tax (Rural Commercial Payable 2019) \$1,000,000 – Valued Property (\$200,000 Fixtures) in Kansas, lola is ranked #1 in the United States, net tax of 61,143 with an ETR of 5.095%. The highest in the United States. Larry stated these commissioners have the power and authority to stop. They need to define wants and needs have to be considered first, then give to the wants. It would be great to leave where they are at. Businesses hard to have come in. Cuprite is the appraisals are the highest. Larry reviewed his property values.

Larry raising taxes, community college is raising their taxes. City of lola is .7/10 of a %, USD #257 capital outlay is 4%. Told about all his businesses he had to sell because of taxes. Take care of the public's taxes.

Tim Henry, owner of Twin Motor Ford, go up again and decided to come. Lost a lot of businesses in Allen County. His home 12%, needing more and wind falls should keep tax

on property lowered. Problems getting materials in the County, if they don't succeed Allen County loses tax monies.

Commissioner Daniels discussed valuation and levy has dropped every year since he has been here. RNR is a number assigned by Topeka.

Kevin Cole, Pete's businesses, asked as you look at valuations, they are raising. Discussion followed. Tighten up belts.

Paul Zirjacks, tear down houses but not rebuilding. Sherrie discussed Neighborhood Revitalization. Crickett discussed neighborhood revitalization. She feels it's gotten way out of hand. A lot of tax dollars going out the door for it.

George Levans joined the meeting.

Chairman Symes discussed population, we need to stop the decline. He talked about people leaving for metro areas. It leaves more of a burden for those that are still here to provide the services needed. Sherrie explained the change in valuation. Oil and Gas fluctuate so much. Commissioner Daniels mentioned Evergy.

Dick Works said too many are caught up in mill levies and tax dollars collected, inflation at 3% but Allen County really only 1.9% when you look at the dollars. Chairman Symes stated he really appreciates the Allen County employees and what they do. Commissioner Daniels stated the same thing and added the levy keeps going down.

Sherrie explained the commissioners need to adopt resolutions to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate. She handed out resolutions for Allen County, Fire District #2, Fire District #3, Fire District #4, Sewer District #1 & Sewer District #2. Chairman Symes asked that because the RNR is new this year resolutions are necessary.... Sherrie stated they have to say they are going over the RNR, that's what the resolutions are for. Chairman Symes read the resolutions. Commissioner Daniels reiterated that even though we're lowering the mill levy, we're going above the state RNR. Sherrie reminded the commissioners of all the services Allen County has picked up over the years, It may start with a grant, but they are ongoing costs regardless what the grant does. Commissioner move to adopt Resolution 202112, 202113, 202114, 202115, 202116 & 202117, Chairman Symes seconded, motion passed 3-0-0.

Bruce opened Budget hearing, reviewable each year. He stated they have a proposed budget for 2022 as published. Sherrie discussed the taxes that the state took away, this money was to come back to the county, but did not continue that way. The state is supposed to pay for the letters and publications regarding the RNR. Chairman Symes stated the will of the commission will prevail. He asked for any discussion from the public, then any discussion from the commission? He stated costs and expenses are painful, he is comfortable with budget as it is today. Commissioner Lee expressed his thoughts on need vs want. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve the proposed budget for 2022, lowering mill levy 1.3, from 62.834 to 61.5,00 Chairman Symes seconded, motion passed 2-1-0, Commission Lee opposed.

Jonathan Goering, Thrive, introduced Caleb R. Coltrane, PE, with Garver, to discuss airport updated master layout plan. Allen County and Airport Advisory Board have a goal to update the master plan and layout plan for the airport. The FAA requires such to update for industrial development at the airport. The RFQ's are due by 5 p.m. today. Mitch, Robert, Caleb, Jason (FAA rep) and Johnathan will be reviewing these. There is COVID grant funding for reimbursements. The planning process is typically a year long, but in this case it's a little bit of a reduced scope, it may happen a little faster. Chairman Symes asked who composed the advisory board. Discussion followed.

Sharlyn Thompson, City of LaHarpe President of City Council, requesting funding from Allen County's ARPA funding. She presented a letter listing in detail the need. Some of the lift stations are 42 years old, five are needing rehabilitation and 1 needs a total replacement. Discussion followed. CCTV is a camera in the lines. Bruce asked about other funding possibility. Sharlyn stated it will probably end up costing more that this \$612,000 cost provided. She explained about smoke tests to find covered sewer lines. David asked about time line. Sharlyn said the lagoon looks good the other they are starting on right away. This project is going forward. The City of LaHarpe received \$80,000 ARPA funding and is designated towards sewer.

CITY OF LAHARPE
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August 27, 2021

Allen County Commissioners:
The City of La Harpe request to be considered for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds received by Allen County.

The City of La Harpe, KS, is having issues with our municipal sanitary sewer system. We have had multiple sanitary sewer overflows (SSO) due to large storm events. Typically, a SSO is caused by inflow and infiltration (I & I) which is created by an aged and deteriorated sanitary sewer system that allows storm water into the system. SSO occur when the collection lines are full and the sewage can not be pumped and the flow backs up and out of the manholes and discharges the raw sewage to the nearest drainage way. This is a health and safety issue for our local residents, does not meet KDHE regulations and overtaxes the current wastewater system (collection system, lift station pumps and lagoon treatment) causing added cost to the system.

Requested Funding:

Preliminary Engineering Report (PER, engineer to complete)	\$6,500.00
CCTV existing sanitary sewer collection system (The system is approximately 19,000 linear feet, typical costs are \$2.00/ per linear foot)	\$38,000.00
Smoke Testing based on time and materials by KRWA	\$4,000.00
Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey (SSES, engineer to complete)	\$17,500.00
Infrastructure Improvements (Design & Construction)	
1) Lift Station #1 - rehabilitation	\$28,000.00
2) Lift Station #2 - rehabilitation	\$45,000.00
3) Lift Station #3 - rehabilitation	\$17,000.00
4) Lift Station #4 - rehabilitation	\$21,000.00
5) Lift Station #5 - replacement	\$400,000.00
6) Lift Station #6 - rehabilitation	\$35,000.00
Total requested funding:	\$612,000.00

Benefits:

Long term infrastructure improvements will provide long term benefits to the residents. The city is planning and attacking the current issues with long term solutions. Currently the city only repairing issues as they arise, which is not a cost-effective approach as the system deteriorates and repairs become more frequent.

Funding will allow the city to mitigate the financial impacts of a large wastewater project. This request funding will assist the city in managing the sanitary sewer user rate impacts for the residents. City is submitting to CDBG/USDA/KDHE for project funding that will include long term loans for improvements not covered under this allocation by the County ARPA funds.


Sharlyn Thompson, City of La Harpe

Commissioners will add this request to the list.

Dick Works, discussed Humboldt Senior Center; only windows are in front, basement has major issues. He explained history. Handicap entrance is only in the back. Dick requested the current funeral home in Humboldt be considered for a new senior center. In 1980 a mill levy was voted to support Senior centers. Dick would like to invite the commissioners to visit the current Humboldt Senior Center and go visit the funeral home. The asking price is \$130,000.

Chairman Symes moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected. 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 10:30 a.m. Commissioners reconvened at 10:40 a.m. No action was taken.

Chairman Symes moved to go into executive session for 10 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, Terry Call, EMS Financial Director/Zoning Administrator, and Robert E. Johnson, II, Allen County Counselor. The time is now 10:41 a.m. Commissioners reconvened at 10:51 a.m. No action was taken.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss Attorney Client Privilege. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Those in the room will be Chairman Symes, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Daniels, Robert E. Johnson, II, Allen County Counselor. The time is now 10:51 a.m. Commissioners reconvened at 11:01 a.m. No action was taken.

Commissioner Daniels discussed advertising for a Road and Bridge Director with an engineering degree or equivalent. He explained the split and propose.

Chairman Symes reported on a ranking of all counties from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the CDC. Allen County is ranked 41% of vaccinated rate. Allen County is ranked 98th with COVID-19 cases per 100k and 8th in COVID-19 Tests wot j 400 tests per 100k. Allen County's overall ranking is 76 out of the 105 counties in Kansas. Chairman Symes requested everyone be responsible to family and neighbors.

Commissioner Lee reported Allen County had 46 COVID cases as of yesterday.

Terry discussed records disposal for the hospital. They are ready to move 400 boxes to shred. Shred It will be taking them for shredding. Discussion followed. Terry discussed time frames.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Petition for the Humboldt Senior Center (2nd week)
- b) An informational letter from Stephen Euston, Bukaty Company.
- c) A Claim letter from EMC Insurance
- d) A Solid Waste Financial Assurance Trust Agreement history letter from Alan Weber.
- e) A letter from US Department of Homeland Security United States Coast Guard Auxiliary known as "America's Volunteer Lifesavers"
- f) Monthly report from the Attorney's Office
- g) A "Thank-you" letter from Humboldt Biblesta, Inc for the county's donation.
- h) A release letter from Dustin Gale, CDBG Project Manager for the CDBG-CV grant 2021 (#20-CV-002)
- i) A request letter for ARPA Funds from City of Humboldt
- j) A list of current ARPA Fund requests
- k) Meetings map for the SEK Regional Meeting being held September 23, 2021.

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$531,542.95
- b) Payroll – mileage and meal reimbursement for Troy Smith

With no further business to come before the board, Chairman Symes moved to adjourn, Commissioner Daniels seconded, and motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m. until Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly's Room of the courthouse.

Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk

David Lee, Commissioner