

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

Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Robert Johnson, II, County Counselor, Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, Ron Holman, House & Grounds Director, Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, Chelsie Decker, 911 Communications Director, Rick Aiello, employee, John Brocker, County Commissioner Elect, Cole Herder, Humboldt City Administrator, Terry Johnson, citizen, and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Cole Herder led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the regular meeting on November 26, 2024

Chairman Symes asked for public comment. There was none.

Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, reported the new motor grader should be delivered at the end of the month. The mower max is headed to the Elsmore area. Norman maintenance going on around the county.

Cole Herder, Humboldt City Administrator, reported the city is doing a 13-million-dollar water project, with the assistance of USDA Rural Development funding. They are having to move the water lines farther away from the sewer lines, so he is asking for an additional easement. The county owns one of the 65 areas that will need the additional easement. He is asking the County if they would be willing to donate. Cole would like to revise the right of way easement that will be filed to only say donated and then will bring back for the signature. He would just need to agreement signed for now. Commissioner Lee moved to donate the requested 10' easement behind the ambulance station at 808 Osage, and approved the Chairman's signature on the agreement and easement (once revised). Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chairman Symes reported on a request from the City of Iola for an annexation of the property involved in the Airport Industrial Park improvements. Commissioner Lee stated he thought we would do this once the sewer project was completed. Discussion followed on the timeline. The request asked today is just a prelim to the annexation. Letter states we are requesting the annexation of the property. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the signature on the annexation consent request. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Ron Holman, House & Grounds Director, was asked where we stand with the state of our roofs and time frame of when we will need a new one. Typically, they say 20 years life span, with the courthouse roof being put on in 2007 and the sheriff/jail section being put on in 2015. Ron stated that yes, he believes we should start budgeting for the replacement. Zack Morrison, H&H Roofing, came to look at the roof and he will be back to give his recommendation of what needs to be done, especially over District Court.

Commissioner Lee asked Terry Call if he had any more information on the battery farm. Terry stated the company will like to make a presentation, but that it will be after the first of the year.

Gary McIntosh, Your Community Foundation, joined the meeting.

Shannon Patterson, County Clerk, reported the courthouse will close to the public at noon on December 30th to conduct year end procedures. She asked the commission what time they would like to hold their meeting, as Tuesday December 31st is a holiday for the county. The commission will hold their regular meeting on Monday, December 30th at 1:00 p.m.

Shannon then asked if they were still considering moving their January 14th regular meeting to the 13th for swearing in. Since the commission will have a request from the city (the City of Iola meets the evening of January 13th) coming in on the 14th, they will hold their meeting on that Tuesday as normal.

Robert Johnson, reported a family is moving to a property just outside the south city limits of Iola. There is an adjacent lot owned by the county, not by the property owner, as originally thought. The county had purchased the lot from FEMA after the flood. Bob is asking the commission to consider selling said lot. Bob stated he would advise them to make an offer and then the commission could open the offer at a later meeting. John Brocker stated he believes no structure can be placed on the lot. Discussion followed. They will hold off until next meeting and let Bob do a little more research into it.

Chairman Symes brought up possibly making an official pull off area on the west side of old highway south of Iola. He stated currently not official pull off and not safe. Discussion followed.

Alan Weber, Your Community Foundation, joined the meeting.

Alan Weber spoke on a change needed in order for our environmental fund to be eligible for the Patterson grant. The commission would need to be changed to an advisory role and then the Your Community Foundation would be the final deciders. Allen County funds are only available to fund projects to better the environment. Alan stated it could be broadened depending on what was wanted. Commissioner Lee stated he was inquiring about the community events. Alan stated he would not advise using it for that, but use it for something above and beyond what county already is doing. Discussion followed. Commissioners are considering contributing no more than 8,000 and no less than 5,000. John Brocker will take a request to the hospital facilities board meeting to use the sales tax funds to donate to the hospital fund at Your Community Foundation, to go towards the Patterson Family Grant match.

Commissioners discussed the easement presented last meeting in regards to the sewer line project. Commissioner Daniels moved approve Chairman Symes' signature on the easement. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioners discussed the audit engagement letter and engagement letter for budget preparation assistance presented by Rodney Burns at the last meeting. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve Chairman Symes' signature on the two engagement letters. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioner discussed the two letters of support for Cox Communications and Pinnacle Broadband to apply for the BEAD Grant. Commissioner Daniels moved to sign the letters of support. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioner discussed a letter submitted by Jared Gilmore Phillips to continue to prepare the Schedule of Bond Activity for the Allen County Regional Hospital for \$3,750.00. Commissioner Lee moved to approve Jared Gilmore Phillips to prepare the schedule of activity. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioners discussed the hangar bids that Mitch presented at the last meeting. Koehn Construction Services for \$221,747.07 and Precision Enterprises for \$132,862.00, for purchase after January 1 to hit the 2025 budget. John Brocker, County Commissioner Elect, asked if we have an idea of what we will be renting it out for. Discussion followed on area airports and what rents are being charged. Chairman Symes stated he would like to wait until next week when Mitch will be here to answer a few questions.

Debbie Bearden, Farmers Market, joined the meeting. Debbie is requesting to have a representative from the County to be on a Farmers Market Working Group. She will be asking the cities to have representation as well. The purpose of the group is to work together to keep the farmers markets going. The commissioner will official appoint someone at the January meeting when all other appointments are made. For now, Commissioner Lee stated Debbie could contact him.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) November reports: County Clerk, Treasurer, Public Works, Register of Deeds, Attorney
- b) November Fund Status Report
- c) League of Kansas Municipalities yearly letter and information
- d) 2025 budget for SEK Mult County Health Department
- e) Add – PP, Value 555, \$88.80, Year 2024
TR, Value 760, \$128.06, Year 2024
Oil, Value 2,243, \$367.70, Year 2024

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$982,059.14 & 12/9/2024-\$31,989.25
- b) Payroll – Enrollment for Jody Potter
- c) Payroll – hotel & mileage reimbursement for Robert Johnson
- d) Payroll – Mileage reimbursements for Shannon Patterson, Jerry Daniels, Jami Clark
- e) Payroll – November process service for Haley Donovan, Thad Parker, Steve Womack, Brenda Beth
- f) Abatements – RE, Value 47,301, \$9,641.90, Year 2024
RE, Value 1,080, \$224.20, Year 2022
RE, Value 1,080, \$217.06, Year 2021
PP, Value 35,595, \$5,392.30, Year 2024
TR, Value 3,891, \$588.16, Year 2024
Oil, Value 5,583, \$878.70, Year 2024

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Lee moved to adjourn, Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:08 a.m. until Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 9:54 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

Bruce Symes, Chairperson

David Lee, Commissioner

Shannon Patterson, County Clerk

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner