

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

Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Robert Johnson, II, County Counselor, Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, Mitchell Garner, Public Works Director, Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, Chelsie Angleton, 911 Communications Director, Rick Aiello, employee, Jared Wheeler, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director, Terry Johnson, citizen, and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Chairman Lee led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the regular meeting on November 28, 2023.

Chairman Lee asked for public comment, there was none.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported the test pad for the new landfill cell passed at 3% bentonite; they are moving forward with it now.

Mitch reported that KDHE approved the new operating plan for the landfill. He will now be able to place the container for plastic jugs and batteries. Mitch will call Mr. Shetlar to get the container delivered.

Sheriff Bryan Murphy joined the meeting.

Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, reported he got a call back from Van Keppel in Joplin about the distributor truck. They can upgrade the electrical for around \$80,000. This truck only has 26,000 miles. It will most likely come out of the 2024 budget. Discussion followed. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve the \$80,000 rebuild for the distributor truck, with Mark asking for clarification on time frame. Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, reported the survey crew is coming back today for 1 hour for a little more field work. He stated the report is almost complete. Bob Johnson, County Counselor, reported that Joe Works and Robert Walden have signed the easements for the project and he will be taking those to get filed.

Michael Burnett, EMS Director, joined the meeting.

Chairman Lee asked Terry if he knew where we were at in revenue from Ambulance. Discussion followed.

Ron Holman, House & Grounds Director, reported that the Humboldt Food Pantry is done. A few final touches are still being completed but they are ready to start moving in.

Ron asked if the commissioners would be interested in him getting quotes to have the Iola Senior Center painted. Commissioners stated yes.

Michael Burnett, EMS Director, reported that Olathe Med is the only place that can work on the ambulances and do the alignments. This is why they were taken there. Michael explained that they do try to use Twin Motors as much as possible but with alignments they must go elsewhere. Commissioner Symes stated he would like a little bit of a heads up when work like this is needing done. Discussion followed.

Darolyn "Crickett" Maley, Allen County Treasurer, joined the meeting.

Jared Wheeler, Economic Development Director, presented an award document based on the bid proposal from Bennett Inc, in regards to the water line project for the BASE Grant. The commissioners have 60 days to sign the award document. Discussion followed.

Jared reported the Moderate-Income Housing house being built in Humboldt was visited by Rachel Moore yesterday. She took pictures and Jared presented those. The downstairs shower is unfinished. The builder decided to let that be customization for the buyer. The original plan was to complete the downstairs and let the buyer finish the upstairs to their liking. Commissioners would like to see the downstairs bathroom completed and functional. The expectation was the downstairs would be finished. Discussion followed.

Darolyn "Crickett" Maley, Treasurer, updated the commissioners about the 2024 City of Iola Neighborhood Revitalization Program. She has contacted the programmers to get the new plan set up. She was told this will have to be a custom plan due to the county staying at the staggered rebate, while the 3 other entities are rebating 100% for all 10 years. She was informed it could take up to 3 months for the proposal; then it is up the programmers, who schedule due to priority. Our appraiser's office will have to have the new program ready by June 1st to enter the properties into this new plan. Discussion followed on the difference between what the county is doing versus what the other entities in that plan are doing. Chairman Lee stated he wonders if the other entities should help shoulder the cost of the programming. Commissioner Daniels stated let's get the proposal and go from there. Options would be to accept the bid, deny the bid, or we could relook at our participation in this new 2024 plan.

Commissioner Symes asked if the others would be okay with putting a link to the KAC toolkit, in particular the video regarding LAVTR, on the website. They stated that would be a good idea.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:15 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:20 a.m. No action taken.

Stephen Euston, Bukaty Companies, joined the meeting.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go back into executive session for 5 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:21 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:26 a.m. No action taken.

Rachel Moore, Thrive Allen County, joined the meeting.

Gary McIntosh, Dawn Murray, and Julie Payne joined the meeting.

Stephen Euston, Bukaty companies, presented pre-renewal information. He reported he has everything out to market right now, waiting on that information to come back. Stephen went through the packet and explained the information presented. Stephen explained what the insurance companies look at when figuring out the new year rates. Discussion followed.

Rachel Moore, Thrive Allen County, answering question from previous conversation with Jared Wheeler. Commissioner Symes asked about the Moderate-Income Housing project in Humboldt. He is concerned with the downstairs shower not being completed. The other commissioners agreed to this. Rachel reported that the architect is who decided to

not finish the downstairs shower. Commissioner Daniels will be speaking with the architect about the bathroom.

Commissioners verified with Rachel the original estimate for the water line project in reference to the award document with Bennett Inc. Discussion followed. Commissioner Symes also verified the 60-day award period, was it from the date of bid opening or from today's date. Rachel stated it was from the bid opening on October 24, 2023.

Gary McIntosh, citizen, introduced Dawn Murray and Julie Payne, ACARF representatives. Gary explained his efforts in trying to help raise funds for ACARF. Chairman Lee asked about the deficit showing in the paperwork Gary presented. Dawn explained what this means for ACARF. They are noticing that the donations coming in are slowing down, even though costs are rising to run the shelter. Commissioner Daniels asked what they would like to see from the County. Julie stated they would possibly like to see the county provide something monthly. Commissioner Daniels asked about the funds already with the Community Foundation. He also asked what all our interest funds could be used for? ACARF has a small contract fee with the City of Iola, \$95 per dog that the city brings to them. Discussion followed. Commissioners would like a little more time to see what can be done to help ACARF.

Commissioners came back to the discussion on starting wages from the Sheriff's office, from two weeks ago. Sheriff Murphy is asking to increase his starting wage for detention officers to \$17.00 and \$20.00 for deputies. This would be about \$1.00 increase after our 4% COLA for 2024. The jail is currently down 2 employees and deputies are down 5. If the starting wage is increased, Sheriff Murphy stated he has 6 in jail that will need to be bumped up to meet the minimum wage. Commissioner Symes reported on information he learned at KAC conference about signing bonuses. Discussion followed. Commissioners would like to see what the overall increase for next year would be if the wage was increased.

Shannon Patterson, County Clerk, presented 2 Ceral Malt Beverage License renewal applications for the Mildred Store. One is for on premises and the other is for off premises. Shannon stated she spoke with Sheriff Murphy and he approved. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve the Ceral Malt Beverage License renewal application for the Mildred Store. Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioners mentioned that LAVTR was a large discussion at KAC. There is a large push for the state to start this back up. The legislature will most likely be hearing items concerning this when sessions begin in January. So, if the public wants to write their local representatives, now would be the time to do so.

Chairman Lee commented that Allen County is lucky to have a hospital, as at KAC he learned that is not the case in some counties.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 11:05 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Terry Call, Zoning Administrator and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 11:20 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Symes moved to approve Chairman Lee's signature on the award letter for Bennett Inc, for a total of \$757,228.00. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Memo from BG Consultants
- b) NACo membership letter
- c) November Financials from Larry Peterson for Hospital Board
- d) KAC membership letter

- e) The League of Kansas Municipalities Municipal Resource Catalog & letter
- f) November monthly reports from Appraiser's office, Attorney's office, County Clerk's office, District Court, Noxious Weed Dept., Public Work's office, Register of Deeds' office, Treasurer's office
- g) November Fund Status Report
- h) BG Consultants holiday card
- i) November Solid Waste Financial Statement
- j) Adds: Oil, Value 86,200, \$13,678.42, Year 2023

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers - \$888,148.52
- b) Payroll – Mileage reimbursements for David Lee, Bruce Symes, Jerry Daniels
- c) Payroll – Change forms for Dana Dawn, Daren Kellerman
- d) Clerk's Journal Entries –#56, 57, 58, 59, 60
- e) Abatements: RE, Value 25,884, \$4,107.12, Year 2023
SA, \$150.00, Year 2023
PP, Value 6,173, \$1,052.40, Year 2023
TR, Value 10,413, \$ 1,445.40, Year 2023
Oil, Value 369, \$60.54, Year 2023

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Daniels moved to adjourn, Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m. until Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

David E. Lee, Chairperson

Bruce Symes, Commissioner

Shannon Patterson, County Clerk

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner