

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.

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Jeremy Hopkins, Allen County Road & Bridge Director, Rickie Aiello, Allen County employee, Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, Jason Trego, Emergency Manager, Chase Vaughn, County Counselor representative, Anthony Maness, Sheriff-elect, John Bocker, Commissioner Dist. #3 – elect, Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Doris Forshee, citizen, and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Commissioner Lee led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the December 17, 2024 meeting.

Chairman Symes asked for public comment. There was none.

Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, reported the two motor graders have been delivered.

Jeremy reported on the current fuel system. The company used is no longer in business and now they cannot get fuel reports. Jeremy will be looking for a new system.

Jeremy stated he plans to grind up Texas Rd from old highway into Carlyle, and possibly Rhode Island from 1000-1200. He will also be doing patch work on other roads around the county.

Jami Clark, Allen County Appraiser, Sandra Drake, employee, and Danielle Louk, Deputy Appraiser, joined the meeting.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported the apron for new hangar has been poured. They are waiting on Heartland to put the meters up before electric can be run. Mitch also discussed a grant to purchase up to 3 generators for the airport, county share would be 25%. Discussion followed.

Mitch state the landfill has electric in and pump is in. Thursday, Schwab Eaton will be here to do final inspection and report to KDHE. Discussion followed.

Mitch asked the commissioners their thoughts on rent amount for the new hangar. \$450-\$500? Discussion followed.

Commissioners opened the zoning hearing. Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, reported on the zoning hearing that was held on December 19th. Joe Works is wanting to change 6 acres from agriculture to heavy industrial, as heavy industrial allows for bulk propane storage, conditional use allows for retail. This is located on 1400th St between Hawaii and Georgia. Terry stated the 2 land owners nearby didn't have any issue as long as it was just the 6 acres. The zoning board recommends approval pending the survey and sale to David Gant. Doris Forshee, citizen, lives across the road and they do not want this change to happen. She is concerned that her home will lose 30% of its value. She is suggesting adding a privacy fence as well. Discussion followed. Commissioner Lee moved to accept the recommendation of the Allen County Zoning Board to rezone the 6 acres from agriculture to heavy industrial, pending the survey and sale to David Gant. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chairman Symes presented Jami Clark a plaque for her retirement.

Marilyn Logan, Marmaton Market Inc, seeking a letter of support for a \$152,645.00 grant. Grant will replace freezer, upgrade electric. Marilyn explained the need. Discussion followed. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the signatures on the letter of support. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioners reviewed Resolution 202419 which amends Resolution 202417, transferring \$265,000 to special machinery instead of \$600,000. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve Resolution 202419. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Jason Trego, Emergency Manager, presented a letter to go along with a grant he is applying for. He explained the letter needs signature confirming county's portion of putting smart modules on the 3 storm sirens. This is part of a mitigation project. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve the letter. Commissioner Lee seconded. Commissioner Lee asked if this is just a control box? Jason explained. Motion and a second; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioners discussed raises for 2025. Commissioner Symes moved \$1.00 for under \$50,000 and 3% for those above. All employees including elected officials. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Non-Elected Personnel. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 2:02 p.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Jeremy Hopkins, Road and Bridge Director, John Bocker, Commissioner Elect and Chase Vaughn, Allen County Counselor representative. Commissioners reconvened at 2:12 p.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Non-Elected Personnel. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 2:13 p.m. Those present will be Commissioners, John Bocker, Commissioner Elect and Chase Vaughn, Allen County Counselor representative. Commissioners reconvened at 2:23 p.m. No action taken.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Inventory – Iola Seniors Inc, Public Works, Road & Bridge, Treasurer, Elderly Van, Maintenance, Register of Deeds, Meals on Wheels
- b) December report – Attorney
- c) Your Community Foundation thank you letter
- d) Historical Society letter regarding Brown Brothers' Garage and Store (86 3rd St., Mildred)
- e) Adds – RE, Value 3,617, \$673.62, Year 2024
OIL, Value 1,306, \$179.90, Year 2024

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$1,185,243.95
- b) Payroll – Change forms for Wayne Carson, Edward Donovan, Terry Call
- c) Clerk's Journal Entries - #37, 38, 39
- d) Abatements – RE, Value 13,672, \$2,006.80, Year 2024
PP, Value 14,212, \$2,299.70, Year 2024
TR, Value 547, \$78.22, Year 2024
OIL, Value 1,306, \$179.90, Year 2024

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Daniels moved to adjourn, Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 2-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m. until Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

Bruce Symes, Chairperson

David Lee, Commissioner

Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner