

The Allen County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. with Chairman David Lee, Commissioner Jerry Daniels, Commissioner John F. Brocker 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, Ron Holman, House & Grounds Director, Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, Robert Johnson, County Counselor, Chelsie Decker, 911 Communications Director, Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Camille Lavon, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director, Kelly Baker, Allen Community College, Sonia Gugnani, Allen Community College, Jamie Westervelt, Troy Smith, Director of Community Corrections, April Jackson, Thrive Allen County, Jared Larkey, All In One, Robert Henry, Eager Beaver, Carl Seely, citizen, and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Ron Holman led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the February 3, 2026 meeting.

Chairman Lee asked for public comment. There was none.

Kelly Baker and Sonia Gugnani, Allen Community College, are requesting a letter of support for an EDA construction grant. With this grant they will be constructing a building to house two new programs, diesel tech and CDL classes. Kelly explained what is needed for the letter and Sonja explained the need for the grant and elaborated on the new programs that will help fund. Discussion followed.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported the compactor was down. It had broken hydraulic hoses, but they were under warranty and the hydro seeder needs parts. He also reported they are out of the boundary on the north side of the old cell; they will move some of it over to the new cell. Discussion followed.

Mitch asked if the commission had an idea of what they want to lease the new hangar at? He has an individual interested in renting it. Discussion followed.

Mitch reported on a vendor from Wichita that does not do the type of bed we want for the noxious weed truck. The bid will end up coming from Seattle. Anderson County used the company from Seattle. Discussion followed.

Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, reported they are starting repairs on Oregon from 2000-2200. It is a low area that always gets washed out. It will be funded with FEMA money, reconstructing to help.

Chairman Lee stated a citizen had a concern for the very east end of West Virginia. They are concerned that when bridge on Highway 3 is getting fixed, that detour will put on their road, and how can we keep the road from being torn up. Discussion followed.

Judge Daniel Creitz joined the meeting.

April Jackson, Thrive Allen County, presented statistics for 2025 for the SEK Recovery Resources Coalition. It was formed in 2017. She is requesting funding for salary of 6 months for their part time employee, \$12,990 and 6 months funding for transportation, \$6,258; for a total of \$19,248 out of the Municipalities Fighting Addiction Funds. The part time employee is responsible for day-to-day operations, resident move-in/move-out coordination, rent and chore accountability, random testing coordination, resident documentation and reporting, liaison with recovery court, transportation services to/from treatment/recovery providers. The transportation cost is after-hour transportation.

Discussion followed. Judge Creitz explained his role in the Recovery Coalition. The commissioners asked April to reach out to some of the other counties within the 31st Judicial District and see if they are willing to help fund these items.

Ron Holman, House and Grounds Director, presented mowing bids. There are 12 properties in the county, Bob Henry, Eager Beaver, takes care of the 4 out of town properties. Jared Larkey, All In One, takes care of lola properties. Bob Henry is only bidding the four outlying properties for \$220.00, Jared bid all of them for \$730.00, however will subcontract out the four to Bob. Also paving bids were D&R Lawn Care for \$1190.00 and Chief Lawn Care for \$550.00. Commissioner Daniels moved to continue as is with Bob Henry taking care of LaHarpe Senior Center, Moran Senior Center, Moran Clinic, and Humboldt Senior Center; and All In One taking care of the 911 Building, Courthouse, Funston, Old Jail Site, lola Rummage Building along with the lot east of building, lola Senior Center, K-State Extension, and Medical Arts Building. Commissioner Brockner seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioners approved Ron to get concrete bids and tree removal bid.

Diana Bowman & Vicki Moss, Thrive Allen County, requested a letter of support. They are applying for the Sunflower Foundation's Paving The Way: Trail Town Program grant. It will be \$25,000. Allen County has 60 miles of trails. This grant will allow Thrive to pursue Kansas Trail Town certification, business support, and more extensive marketing. They require no matching funds, just a letter of support. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve signatures on the letter of support. Commissioner Brockner seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioners discussed cancelling the meeting on February 24 as two of them will not be in attendance. Therefore, there will be no meeting on February 24 2026.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes for Trade Secrets. Commissioner Brockner seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:45 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Camille Lavon, Economic Development Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:00 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Brockner seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 10:00 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:15 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Non-Elected Personnel. Commissioner Brockner seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 10:15 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:25 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go back into executive session for 5 minutes for Non-Elected Personnel. Commissioner Brockner seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 10:25 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:30 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go back into executive session for 5 minutes for Non-Elected Personnel. Commissioner Brockner seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 10:30 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:35 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Daniels moved to approve the letter of support for the Allen Community College. The items they are willing to support will be interviewing graduates, sending employees to class who wish to obtain their CDL, donating old machinery, and possibly sitting on the advisory board. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Shannon will email Sonia and get a letter drafted for signatures.

Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, reported that the lease agreement with Ben Ferguson on South State has been approved by FEMA. It now needs filed at deeds office. Who is paying for the filing? Commissioners feel Mr. Ferguson should pay for filing.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) January dept reports: District Court, Attorney, Appraiser, Noxious Weed, Sheriff, Treasurer
- b) January fund status report
- c) January hospital financials
- d)

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$85,023.66
- b) Payroll – Enrollment: Colton Woods
- c) Payroll - Change: Colton Slocum
- d) Payroll – Reimbursement: Jason Trego (Meals)
- e) Clerks Journal Entries - #3

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Daniels moved to adjourn, Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m. until Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

David Lee, Chairperson

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner

Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk

John F. Brocker, Commissioner