

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

Mitch Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Mark Griffith, Allen County Road and Bridge Director, Rick Aiello, Allen County employee, Sarah Haney, Iola Register Representative, Robert Johnson, Allen County Counselor, Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, Jami Clark, Allen County Appraiser, Danielle Louk, Allen County Deputy Appraiser, Lisse Regehr, Thrive Allen County, Marcia Davis, Thrive Allen County, Christopher Holloway, Thrive Allen County Intern, Shelby Peters, Thrive Allen County Intern, Misty Rice, Allen County Register of Deeds, Kevin Covey, employee, Dennis Gardner, employee, Crystal Richey, employee, Sean Cox, employee, Bruce Boettcher, BG Consultants, Paul Zirjacks, citizen, Rebekah Coltrane, government student, Leeann Maloney, government student, Briggs Michael, government student, Jakie Fager, government student, Rio Lohman, government student, Keira Fawson, government student, Jaydon Morrison, government student, Jenna Morrison, government student, Abigail Meiwes, government student was present to observe the meeting.

Sarah Haney led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the regular meeting on January 30, 2024.

Chairman Symes asked for public comment. Lisse Regehr, Thrive Allen County, wanted to remind the commissioners about the Carlyle community conversation happening this evening.

Mitchell Garner, Public Works Director, presented landfill top cover bids.

Landfill Cover

February 6, 2023

| COMPANY | Price | Freight | Total Price |
|--|--|------------|-------------|
| * LSC Environmental Products Apalachin, NY | \$21.09 per bag X 900 = \$ 18,975.00 | \$2,486.00 | \$21,461.00 |
| Profile Products, LLC Buffalo Grove, IL | \$24.66 per bag X 880 = \$ 21,700.80 | \$2,640.00 | \$24,340.80 |

Phone bids.

This topcoat is used daily to cover the trash being sprayed by the hydroseeder. Commissioner Lee moved to accept the bid from LSC Environment for \$21461.00 for landfill topcoat. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Mitch reported there will be a pre-construction phone conference held on Monday February 12. This will be to discuss AWOS and papi lights with Caleb and the electrician. Discussion followed.

Mitch stated they are getting close on bids for new hangar.

Mitch reported the container for milk jugs has been delivered to the landfill.

Chairman Symes presented Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) Service Awards to the county employees who have been employed for 8, 16, 24 years. For 8 years of service, Chairman Symes recognized Sean Cox, Jennifer Friend, Jerry Hathaway, Misty Rice, and Lisa Sears. For 16 years of service, Chairman Symes recognized Daren Kelleman. For 24

years of service, Chairman Symes recognized Kevin Covey, Dennis Gardner, Mitch Garner, and Crystal Richey.

Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, presented a reimbursement request to the State for dust control and chip sealing for the unofficial detour route when the state was working on the bridge on Highway 54. Discussion followed. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve signatures on the reimbursement agreement. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Mark presented new information on leasing tractors for 2024. We own 3 tractor and we have 6 districts. Leasing 2 tractors help with availability for the districts. It will be \$7,252.00 for 12 months or 350 hours. Discussion followed. Commissioner Lee moved to lease 2 tractors for another year through governmental tractor rental program. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Mark stated they are working on getting to as many roads as possible now that the weather is a little nicer. Trying to patch as many potholes as they can.

Mason Knopp, SEK Financial, joined the meeting.

Brigham Folk, Shelby Peters, Christopher Holloway, Thrive Interns, reported that on January 23, 2024 they hosted a community conversation. A total of 300 students actively participated in this event. Some statistics they compiled were 72% of the students plan to go to college, 14% will be going straight into the workforce, and 10% will attend a trade school. When asked if they plan to come back to Allen County, 52% stated they do not plan to come back to Allen County, while 48% plan to return. They reported that on April 4, 2024 they will be burying a time capsule that the seniors will put an item in and this will be opened April 4, 2064. They have worked with Norman Printing to create a plaque that features these four topics: Community, Health, Economic, Education. Their next community conversation will be with Humboldt High School on February 26, 2024. They would like to schedule a time in March to meet with the college if possible. They feel it is very interesting to hear how their peers feel about these topics.

Mason Knopp, SEK Financial, presented information on a 457 plan for the county. This will be in addition to KPERS 457 we are currently enrolled in. He would like to come and present information to the employees. Discussion followed. Chairman Symes would like to a little time to think about it.

Jami Clark, Allen County Appraiser, reported that she has been asked to come in and talk about values. Jami stated they are out gathering information for values. Placing market values on properties again. She believes they will be from 10% - 25% increase this year. She gave examples of how her appraisal values compared to their selling prices. Jami also explained her part of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program. Jami discussed the process of appraising dwellings and the different approaches; market value approach, cost-based approach, income approach (confidential). They look at what happened within the last year. State gives a 10% leeway above and below the selling price of a property. Lee asked if there is anything that we can do at the county level to help alleviate the increase in value causing increase in taxes. Discussion followed. There are a couple of items in the legislation for consideration.

Jami introduced Danielle Louk as the new deputy appraiser.

Kathy Brennon, SEKAAA, joined the meeting.

Bruce Boettcher, BG Consultants, presented an update on the plans for airport industrial park improvements. He believes we are ready to advertise to get bids for construction costs. He feels like they are pretty accurate in their idea of base bid pricing. Discussion followed on all the different aspects of the project. Commissioner Daniels moved to

approve BG to move forward with the bid advertisement. Commissioner Lee asked which options Bruce would be asking for in the bids. Bruce stated they would leave it up to the companies bidding on what items they choose to put numbers to. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Lisse Regehr, Thrive Allen County, reported she has reached out to commerce to inform them that we now have a new timeline concerning the Airport Industrial Park Project. Midwest was in doing their meeting about the water project. They had submitted a grant in December to help with the overages and are looking into other grant opportunities.

Kathy Brennon, Southeast Kansas Area Agency on Aging (SEKAAA), presented information on a program they started in 2023 called 60 Dine. They contract with cafeterias or restaurants to allow those 60 and older to eat at the site for a donation. Currently the program has 172 participants signed up. The location participating currently is Saint Luke's Hospital Cafeteria. They would like to contract with a location in Woodson and Neosho Counties. Discussion followed. To sign up they call the SEKAAA office and they have forms that need filled out and signed.

Chairman Symes discussed an email from Rachel Moore with Thrive Allen County regarding the selling of the house built in Humboldt. Another question regarding the house was if landscaping would be included. Discussion followed on the County's involvement with the project at this point in time. Lisse stated that the commissioners just needed to approve JW-JW Real Estate to list the house for sale. Commissioner Lee moved to approve JW-JW Real Estate to list the house for sale. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk, asked the commissioners to schedule the canvass of the Presidential Preference Primary for March 26, 2024. Commissioners have scheduled the canvass for 9:30 a.m. on March 26.

Shannon reminded the commissioners of two letters Larry Peterson is requesting for signature. These letters are a part of the year end financial review for the Hospital Board done by Jarred, Gilmore and Phillips. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve the Chairmans signature. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chairman Symes asked Commissioner Lee about a meeting with Health Department. They held a board appreciation meal and their regularly scheduled board meeting.

Chairman Symes shared an email from Patrick Zirjacks, Thrive Allen County. This email is informing Chairman Symes of a strategy session task force in regards to their veterans suicide prevention effort. Commissioner Lee will attend the task force.

Commissioner Symes moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for non-elected personnel. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 10:17 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:27 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Symes moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 10:28 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:38 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner Invitation
- b) Review of Financials by Jarred Gilmore & Phillips
- c) Letter from Larry Crawford declining City of Bassett Council position
- d) 2023 annual report for Solid Waste Financial Assurance Agency

- e) January 2024 Fund Status Report
- f) January 2024 monthly reports from Attorney's office, Appraiser's office, Treasurer's office, Noxious Weed Dept., Public Works' office, Register of Deeds' office
- g) Added: PP, Value 4,342, \$893.34, Year 2023

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$461,626.09
- b) Payroll – Enrollment form for Brandon Dix
- c) Clerk's journal entry #6
- d) Annual Reports for Fire District #3, Fire District #4, LaHarpe Elm Cemetery, West Cottage Grove Cemetery
- e) Abatements: RE, Value 2,220, \$450.16, Year 2023
PP, Value 1,370, \$233.96, Year 2023
TR, Value 426, \$59.10, Year 2023

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Lee moved to adjourn, Commissioner Daniels seconded, and motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. until Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly's Room of the courthouse.

Bruce Symes, Chairperson

David E. Lee, Commissioner

Shannon Patterson, County Clerk

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner