

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

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Jeremy Hopkins, Allen County Road & Bridge Director, Danielle Louk, Interim County Appraiser, Robert Johnson, County Counselor, Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Rickie Aiello, Allen County employee, Anthony Maness, Sheriff, Corey Schinstock, City of Iola, Bo Garrett, Fair Board, and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Commissioner Daniels led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the December 30, 2024, January 7, 2025 meetings.

Commissioner Lee moved to nominate Commissioner Daniels as Chairman for 2025. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chairman Daniels moved to nominate Commissioner Lee as Vice-chair for 2025. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chairman Daniels asked for public comment. There was none.

Commissioner Lee moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Non-Elected Personnel. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 8:33 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Danielle Louk, Interim Appraiser and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 8:43 a.m. No action taken.

Chelsie Decker, 911 Communications Director, joined the meeting.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported Schwab Eaton will be here tomorrow for the final inspection. The evaporators will be installed in the spring, they cannot be in during the winter. Discussion followed.

Mitch presented local area hangar prices and a comparison of monthly rent needed depending on how long "payout" is. Commission Lee stated he has spoken with a current tenant that does mechanic work at the airport. Discussion followed.

Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, reported he will be needing to purchase a new salt box for the trucks. He has one that is rusted out and needs replaced.

Chairman Daniels stated he received compliments on how the roads are taken care of in the winter weather.

Commissioner Lee asked about the new trucks, Jeremy stated they are still a few months out.

Corey Schinstock, City of Iola, reported the Iola City Council has approved Resolution 202501 requesting the Commissioners to make a finding that annexation of certain real property will not hinder or prevent the proper growth and development of the area. This is done to progress with the annexation of the Airport Industrial Park area. He is asking if the commissioners are ready to approve. Commissioner Lee moved to endorse the City's resolution 202501 and move forward with the annexation. Discussion followed. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Bo Garrett, Allen County Fair Board, reported they have a need to replace pens for the sheep/goat barn. The fair board has been working with the extension district. He has received a bid for around \$25,000 from Northeast. Chairman Daniels has asked if Bo would be able to get another bid to look at the numbers. Discussion followed.

Chelsie Decker, 911 Communications Director, presented a comparison of 2024 and 2025 budget lines for her department. Discussion was had on the fact that her budget reflects 10 full time employees and if she is full staff, she would have 11.

Commissioner Lee discussed election work pay. Currently, they receive \$10.60 per hour to work elections. Shannon Patterson, County Clerk, stated she would like to see that increased to either \$14.00 or \$15.00 this year, as this is what she was looking to do in 2025. Commissioner Lee moved to increase election work pay from \$10.60 to \$15.00. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Sheriff Anthony Maness reported on his first day as Sheriff. He stated he sent a deputy to check the alarm buttons and system. He reported he got all of his deputies sworn in yesterday as well. He has a few meetings scheduled to speak with employees and lay out his vision. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Lee asked about an undersheriff. Anthony Maness stated that he has put it back out for application to make sure all qualified interested individuals can apply.

Commissioners and Sheriff Maness discussed security of the courthouse.

Commissioners asked Sheriff Maness about his staffing. Discussion followed.

Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, reported the chairman of the zoning board would like to see a moratorium placed on battery energy storage systems in Allen County. Commissioner Daniels states he would like to see just a delay process. Discussion followed. Commissioner Lee moved to approve Resolution 202502 with changing term from 12 month to 180 days with option to extend another 180 days. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioner Lee moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes for Non-Elected Personnel. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:38 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Chelsie Decker, 911 Communications Director, Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:53 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Lee moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes for Land Acquisition. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:54 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:59 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioners discussed the possibility of adding a wireless microphone for those in the back with comments. They also discussed possibly getting rid of the podium and letting speakers sit facing them to discuss their items.

Sheriff Anthony Maness reported on the Homeland Security Council appointment. Commissioner Brocker moved to appoint Sheriff Maness as the representative on the Homeland Security Council. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Shannon Patterson, County Clerk, presented Resolution 202501, a resolution regarding fixed assets. She explained this is a resolution that is done every year. Commissioner Lee moved to approve Resolution 202501. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Shannon then discussed new year appointments and reappointments.

Commissioners would like to wait until next week before appointing/reappointing anyone to the hospital facilities board.

Chairman Daniels moved to reappoint Walt Regher, JR to the SEK Mental Health Board. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chairman Daniels moved to reappoint Mike Waldman and John F. Brocker as his alternate to the Regional Planning Revolving Loan Committee. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chairman Daniels moved to reappoint David Lee to the Bowlus Committee. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chairman Daniels moved to appoint David Lee to the Allen County Housing Task Force. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chairman Daniels moved to appoint John F. Brocker to the Iola Industries Board. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chairman Daniels moved to appoint David Lee to the Economic Development Board. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chairman Daniels moved to reappoint David Lee, Nicholas Lohman and Rebecca "Becky" Walden to the Multi County Health Board. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioner Lee moved to reappoint John F. Brocker to the Executive Committee of the Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission. Chairman Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioner Lee moved to appoint Ann Houk to the Moran Senior/Community Center Executive Board. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioner Lee moved to reappoint Loren Korte (Vice President) to the Public Building Commission. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chairman Daniels moved to appoint John F. Brocker to the Southeast Kansas Regional Juvenile Detention Board. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chairman Daniels moved to appoint the Humboldt Union as the official newspaper for 2025. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Discussion was had on postings on the website.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Renewal notices from EMC
- b) Proclamation by the Governor – State of Disaster Emergency Proclamation
- c) December report from Noxious Weed, Larry Peterson for Hospital Board, Solid Waste Financial
- d) Annual report from Noxious Weed, Solid Wast Financial
- e) Annual reports from Geneva Twp, Salem Twp, Allen Co Rural Fire Dist #2 Volunteer, Allen Co Rural Fire Dist #2 City of Iola

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$620,436.69

- b) Payroll – Change forms for Daniel Cameron, Danielle Louk
- c) Payroll – Enrollment Forms for Tiana McElroy, William McClendon
- d) Payroll – December process service for B Plumlee, T Parker, B Beth, H Donovan
- e) Clerks Journal Entries – 2024 #42
- f) Abatements – RE, Value 19,722, \$3,487.68, Year 2024
PP, Value 3,841, \$583.08, Year 2024

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Lee moved to adjourn, Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m. until Tuesday, January 21 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

Jerry Daniels, Chairperson

David Lee, Commissioner

Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk

John F. Brocker, Commissioner