

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, Rickie Aiello, Allen County employee, Bob Johnson, County Counselor, Anthony Maness, Sheriff, Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Susan Lynn, Iola Register, Tim Stauffer, Iola Register, Cliff Ralstin, Humboldt Union, and Paul Zirjacks, citizens, was present to observe the meeting.

Chairman Daniels led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the January 14, 2025 meeting.

Commissioner Daniels asked for public comment. There was none.

Anthony Maness, Sheriff, reported the employee meetings last week went really well. February he will be revising schedules. Discussion followed.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported KDHE has approved the new landfill cell. They need to put five feet of trash on it before citizens can use it. Discussion followed.

Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, reported his crews are out doing normal maintenance work.

Jeremy presented a bid from Welborn Sales, Salina for the pipes used for whistles. He is waiting on a second bid.

Susan Lynn and Tim Stauffer, Iola Register, presented information on what they provide for the county. Tim outlined their subscription numbers, as well as their website information. Tim stated that by publishing in the Iola Register as well as the Humboldt Union, the information is reaching more readers than by just publishing in one. Cliff Ralstin, Humboldt Union, agrees that they serve two different markets. In 2016 the commissioners had decided to publish in both newspapers to reach the most citizens. Chairman Daniels stated it is a budget discussion on the added cost of publishing in both. Commissioner Lee stated he feels they are doing a good job at putting information out to the public. Commissioner Brocker stated his opinion is we do not reach the number of people that we should. Discussion followed.

Ron Holman, House and Grounds Director, joined the meeting. Judge Creitz joined the meeting.

Ron Holman and Judge Creitz, reported the CASA office has asked for a little renovation to their office. They would like to get rid of the door between Rons office and the CASA office, add some insulation to help cut down sounds (for privacy issues), paint, and new carpeting. Ron stated it would probably be March when this would begin. Judge Creitz stated the Bowlus will provide a space for CASA while the renovations are being done. Discussion followed. Commissioners approved this request.

Commissioner Lee reported he received the second bid from Bo Garrett concerning the sheep/goat barn. They have received bids from Northeast Gate Company, Sumner, TX, for \$25,328.00 and WW Livestock Systems, Thomas, OK, for \$28,914.40. The fair board would like to go with Northeast Gate Company. Commissioner Lee moved to accept the bid from Northeast Gate Company for \$25,328.00. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioner Lee stated he had invited Michael Burnett, EMS Director, to submit the 3-year plan for projects / purchases.

Rick reported he had ordered the additional microphones and new table for the commissioner meetings. They should be here tomorrow. Discussion followed.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) December report for Court
- b) Iola Senior Center inventory
- c) Iola Twp annual report
- d) Fire District #4 annual report
- e) Letter from FEMA

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$199,967.34
- b) Payroll – Change forms for Rickie Aiello and Anthony Maness
- c) Payroll – Mileage Reimbursement for Terry Call
- d) Abatements – RE, Value 1,924, \$428.62, Year 2023
RE, Value 30,001, \$5,669.40, Year 2024
PP, Value, 2,040, \$300.66, Year 2024

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Lee moved to adjourn, Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:11 a.m. until Tuesday, January 28, 2025 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