

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

Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Robert Johnson, II, County Counselor, Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, Mitchell Garner, Public Works Director, Jason Trego, Emergency Manager, Rick Aiello, employee, Jared Wheeler, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director, Terry Johnson, citizen, and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Chairman Lee led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the regular meeting on December 29, 2023.

Chairman Lee moved to make Commissioner Symes chairman for 2024. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chairman Symes asked for public comment, there was none.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, presented the updated flyer for the recycling and battery disposal at the landfill.



**Allen County Landfill**  
**1170 2800 Street**  
**LaHarpe, KS 66751**  
**620-496-2310**  
**Office: 620-365-1422**

**BATTERIES**

The Scale House Operator shall accept only the following items:  
•Lithium batteries (primary or lithium ion)  
•Lithium battery-containing electronics: cell phones, laptop computers, tablet computers, digital cameras, power tools.

**PLASTICS**



•HDPE #2 Plastic: High-Density Polyethylene; natural-colored plastic milk jugs only.

These are the **only** items  
accepted for recycling at  
this time

Commissioner Daniels asked if this will be posted on the website and published in the paper. Mitch stated yes, once it is approved. Discussion followed.

Mitch presented an analysis of potential starting wage increases. Discussion followed.

Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, reported that the state has okayed a bridge replacement at 2400 and Nebraska. He presented a Contract for Engineering Services by Consultant. We pay for the engineering since we do not have a county engineer. Commissioners asked if the State pays for the whole project when they designate a bridge as needing replaced. Mark stated it is a 90%-10% split. Discussion followed. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the signatures on Contract for Engineering Services by Consultant. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Mark stated he put some blocks up on the curves west of Humboldt. He is still doing some research as to why they were taken out. He is speaking with more individuals on this. Discussion followed.

Bryan Murphy, Sheriff Allen County, joined the meeting.

Jason Trego, Emergency Manager, reported that he is still looking into grant availability for the storm siren in Mildred. Commissioner Symes asked when the storm siren stopped working. Jason stated they do not know; they were notified it has not been working for the weekly tests. Jason stated there is an option of making our sirens smart sirens, where if it is located within the region of a tornado warning, it will automatically sound. Discussion followed.

Chairman Symes mentioned possibly placing an ad in the local newspapers to ask for volunteers for our boards that have vacancies. Discussion followed. Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk, will have those vacancies to share with commission next week.

Chairman Symes brought up the starting wage increase requests. Commissioner Lee stated for the public again for the Sheriff's department and the Dispatch Centers requests. Commissioner Daniels discussed a few other requests received, and discussed what was allowable per their budgets. Discussion followed. By consensus of the commissioners, they are okay with the starting wage increases presented by the department heads thus far. Chairman Symes wanted to clarify that he is looking strictly at starting wages and not the increase of those already employed.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:18 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:28 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:29 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:39 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Lee moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:41 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:52 a.m. No action taken.

Robert Johnson, County Counselor, reported we should be getting the last signature needed for the easements.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) December monthly report from Treasurer's Office

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Lee moved to adjourn, Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m. until Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

---

Bruce Symes, Chairperson

---

David Lee, Commissioner

---

Shannon Patterson, County Clerk

---

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner