

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. Bocker and Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk.

Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Robert Johnson, II, County Counselor, Mitchell Garner, Public Works Director, Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, Rick Aiello, employee, Camille Lavon, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director, Patrick Zirjacks, Thrive Allen County, Lisse Regehr, Thrive Allen County, Jessica Thompson, Thrive Allen County, Steve Strickler, citizen, Richard Zajics, citizen, Terry Johnson, citizen, and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Lisse Regehr led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the regular meetings on January 13, 2026, and January 20, 2026.

Chairman Lee wanted to thank everyone involved with taking care of the roads during the snowstorm. He mentioned the local jurisdictions, road and bridge, and sheriff's office.

Chairman Lee asked for public comment. Richard Zajics, citizen, asked about the tax sale the county holds. He is wondering who handles that tax sale within the county. Chairman Lee stated Robert Johnson, County Counselor, handles this along with the Treasurer's office. Bob stated there is a tentative scheduled date in April. Discussion followed on the process.

Camille Lavon, Economic Development Director, stated they posted the listing for the full time Economic Development Director Position.

Steve Strickler, citizen, stated he is starting to get a little frustrated with the recycling efforts. He stopped picking up cardboard last week as he cannot continue to do it himself. He expressed his concern that the members of the recycling group have not been asked for any input on what would work and not. Steve asked if the County would not be able to take the lead and show the city that it could work. Discussion followed.

Marcia Davis, Thrive Allen County, Henry Lohman, Intern, Jenna Miller, Intern, and Bethany Miller, Intern, joined the meeting.

Michael Burnett, EMS Director, joined the meeting.

Nate Jackson, Undersheriff, joined the meeting.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, presented the bid for the track loader that he submitted last week. This would just have the bucket on it and be able to remove snow. The bid is for \$98,639.00. There would not be much wait to get this. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve the purchase. Commissioner Bocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Mitch reported the landfill was open on Saturday and they did have some business. Yesterday was a little busier. With this cold weather, the equipment takes a little longer to start, but everything was running.

Chairman Lee asked when we would need to start planning for another cell at the landfill. Discussion followed.

Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, reported he had crews out all weekend working on the roads with the snow. He was very pleased with their progress.

Michael Burnett, EMS Director, reported on his yearly report. The calls were up slightly.

Michael reported that he emailed the commissioners a remount quote. (pull email for information.) They are slated to do remounts in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2027. Chairman Lee asked why we are not looking at Osage, which is different from their current models. Michael expressed his concerns in doing so as all of their ambulances are the same manufacturer. Lisse Regehr, Thrive Allen County, stated they could write a grant, it would be a matching grant, for an ambulance. Discussion followed.

Henry Lohman, Bethany Miller, and Jenna Miller, Thrive Interns, reported on their conversations at the local schools.

Henry stated their first conversation was done with Humboldt High School. Their concerns was the decline in attendance to Biblesta, lack of food options on Mondays, and lack of college level classes. They are very thankful to Joe Works for investing in the community and bringing it back to life.

Bethany Miller reported on lola High School conversation. Students hoped to see more parks, and more doors in the restrooms, feminine hygiene product availability. They love their community however they see a need for more job opportunities for the youth.

Jenna Miller reported on her conversation with Moran High School. They say there is a need for more recreational activities and extracurricular activities, more diverse sports, and employment for youth. They state the closing of the store is a concern. They would like to see track and weight room updates, visitor stands improvement at the football field.

Chairman Lee asked how well received their results of their conversations are with the respective districts. Discussion followed.

Jessica Thompson, Thrive Allen County, reported on the 1.4-million-dollar grant for housing preservation. This will be to renovate and rehabilitate homes throughout Allen County. Strategically going out to every community in Allen County to identify properties in need. She explained a few examples of what can be done with the funds from this grant. IT will be 3 ½ years to do the construction, and the last 6 months for final inspections and reporting. Discussion followed.

Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, reported on the Advantage Development zoning hearing. This hearing was held on January 22, 2026. Terry explained the request for the change. The zoning board recommends for the commission to approve the zoning change from agricultural to commercial to be able to construct contractor storage units and a covered RV storage area. Discussion followed. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve the recommendation for zoning change. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Terry presented a map regarding a 118' tract of land owned by Lorence Barnett. Terry explained this tract was inadvertently excluded from the 2009 zoning change. The zoning board recommended including the 118' tract into the commercial tract, a correction of the original change. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve the correction. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Terry presented a map showing Boyer's property north of lola. This was changed to commercial years ago. The family has been making improvements and making walking trails around the lake. The electricity and sewer are already there with the concrete slab. They would like a conditional use permit to be able to bring in 4 campers/RV's to be able to use the utilities. The zoning board recommended approval of the permit as there were no complaints from the surrounding landowners. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve the permit. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Terry stated he does get email from Vance regarding available ambulances. He will forward to the commissioners so they can see what is available.

Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk, reported there is Resolution 202602 A Resolution Of The Board Of County Commissioners Authorizing Participation In Rural Opportunity Zone Student Loan Repayment Program For Calendar Year 2026. She explained this will start paying a new participant. Camille Lavon explained what the ROZ program was and why we participate. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve Resolution 202602 to participate in the ROZ program. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Trade Secrets. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:50 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 5 minutes for Non-Elected Personnel. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 10:02 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Jeremy Hopkins, Road and Bridge Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:07 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 10:08 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:18 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Annual Rpts: Salem Twp, Logan Twp

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers - \$345,486.88
- b) Abatements – RE, Value 873, \$181.96, Year 2024  
RE, Value 879, \$181.40, Year 2025

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 10:24 a.m. until Tuesday February 3, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

---

David Lee, Chairperson

---

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner

---

Shannon Patterson, County Clerk

---

John F. Brocker, Commissioner