

The Allen County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. with Chairman Bruce Symes, Commissioner Jerry Daniels, Commissioner David Lee 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, Bryan Murphy, Allen County Sheriff, Chelsie Decker, 911 Communications Director, Jerry Hathaway, Allen County Attorney, Rick Aiello, employee, John Brocker, County Commissioner Elect, Anthony Maness, Sheriff Elect, Cole Herder, Humboldt City Administrator, Terry Johnson, citizen, and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Commissioner Lee led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Symes asked for public comment. There was none.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, Schwab Eaton cannot inspect the new cell due to the snow and ice.

Mitch reported landfill did have a few people come to drop off trash, mostly commercial.

Mitch stated the airport is mostly covered in ice and cannot be cleared at this time.

Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, reported his crews were out Saturday, Sunday and Yesterday working on the roads. Two plow trucks are down right now and in the shop for repairs. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Lee asked Jeremy about the LaHarpe Senior Center parking lot. The larger gravel makes it hard to maneuver walkers so Jeremy will be putting smaller screenings down.

Cole Herder, Humboldt City Administrator, reported Humboldt is up for their 3-year renewal of the city's Neighborhood Revitalization Plan (NRP). It will be the same as before. Discussion followed. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the chairman's signature on the Humboldt City NRP renewal. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chairman Symes reported on the request from City of LaHarpe for renewal of their NRP. There are no changes to the plan, just renewing it. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve the Chairman's signature on the City of LaHarpe's NRP renewal. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Shannon reported there will be a retirement reception for Jerry Hathaway on Friday, January 10th from 2:00 – 4:00 in the Courthouse Assembly Room.

Robert Johnson II, County Counselor, Commissioner Daniels, and Commissioner Lee, presented plaques to Bruce Symes, Bryan Murphy, and Jerry Hathaway for their service to Allen County.

Cole reported Whitetails and Wildlife Museum's ribbon cutting will be next Thursday at noon. Commissioner Lee asked Cole to expand on what this museum is. Cole stated that Max Rickerson, a Humboldt High School alum, has built a museum that showcases his trophy mounts, some full body, and others head/shoulder mounts. Cole explained the plans for the museum moving forward. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Lee moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Non-Elected Personnel. Chairman Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 8:58 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Chelsie Decker, 911 Communications Director, John Brocker, Commissioner Elect, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:08 a.m. No action taken.

Chairman Symes moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Non-Elected Personnel. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:10 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, John Brocker, Commissioner Elect, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:20 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Lee moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney Client. Chairman Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:23 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, John Brocker, Commissioner Elect and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:33 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Inventory - Sheriff
- b) December Dept Rpts – Public Works, Register of Deeds, County Clerk, Sheriff, Treasurer
- c) November Dept Rpts – District Court
- d) 2024 Dept Rpts – Register of Deeds, Public Works
- e) December Fund Status
- f) Escapes – Oil, Value 3,546, \$516.92, Year 2024
Oil, Value 1,934, \$279.46, Year 2023

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers -
- b) Payroll – Change forms for Mitchell Garner, Alyssa Sigg
- c) Payroll – Vacation carryover request for Don Solander, 50 hours
- d) Clerk's Journal Entries – 2024 #40, 41
- e) Abatements – PP, Value 1,725, \$270.02, Year 2024
Oil, Value 1,934, \$279.46, Year 2023
Oil, Value 7,556, \$1,051.42, Year 2024

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 9:38 a.m. until Tuesday, January 14, 2025 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