

The Allen County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. with Chairman Bruce Symes, Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Lee, and Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk.

Vickie Moss, Iola Register, Terry Call, Allen County EMS Financial Director, Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Jason Trego, Emergency Manager, Jonathon Goering, Thrive Allen County, Arlyn Briggs, Bob Franklin, and Paul Zirjacks, citizens, was present to observe the meeting.

Terry Call led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the regular meeting on December 30, 2021 and January 4, 2022.

Arlyn Briggs, landowner, requested the commission about approaching the Attorney General to investigate into things happening in Allen County. He elaborated.

Robert Johnson, II, Allen County Counselor, Bryan Murphy, Allen County Sheriff, joined the meeting.

Chairman Symes moved to appoint Commissioner Daniels to be Chairman for 2022. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chairman Daniels asked about Arlyn filing for office. Arlyn stated he was running for Governor. Chairman Daniels stated he is not going allow campaigning during the commission meetings.

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, reported the guys out chatting the roads last week due to the weather. It wasn't too bad but they did put down chat on the overpasses.

Mitch had an engineer look at culverts and bridges. Chairman Daniels asked about 1600 Road since US Hwy 169 will closed in an area south of Humboldt. Discussion followed on lowering the speed limit to 45 miles per hour (mirroring what Neosho County has done or will be doing) and bridge limits.

Commissioner Lee asked about the crews out mowing. Mitch stated as long as the weather holds out, they will be knocking weeds back to help keep ahead. He addressed an area submitted via email: "an intersection at 4600 and Texas road to the attention of the commissioners. This intersection is dangerous if you are approaching it from the west or north. There is a stop sign on the East and west of the intersection but if you are approaching from the west you have to pull out pass the stop sign to see oncoming traffic from the north. When approaching from the north you can't see if anyone is coming from the west, granted they have a stop sign but not everyone always stops. The obstruction at this intersection is due to over grown cedar trees in a fence line. The trees have been cut back at some point but need to be cut again and the removal of them needs to extend back farther. Please take time to check out this intersection." Mitch has a crew in the area and they are working on the county side and trimming back a tree that is overhanging the county right of way line of sight. Commissioners suggested Mitch visit with the landowner to see if the landowner can trim the tree more on their side.

Commissioner Lee discussed an area on west on Oregon Road that needs addressed; washouts and such. Mitch will view it.

Chairman Lee asked about striping on Hawaii and old highway, and airport runway.

Mitch is working on the list for chip and seal for summer 2022.

Jonathan Goering, Thrive Allen County, reported the Federal Government has released the Final Rule for ARPA funding; a 400 plus document. They will be using it when considering requests for ARPA funding. Commissioner Symes asked for an update on the ARPA funding requests.

Jonathan thanked the commission for supporting the Rural Opportunity Zone program for 2022. He appreciates it and encourages companies to utilize it.

Jason Trego, Emergency Management Director, updated the commission on the generator, it was delivered Monday; it is larger than they thought. His vehicle will probably not be able to pull it. Chairman Daniels stated maybe Jason should think about a trade in for a larger vehicle. Discussion followed. Sheriff Murphy stated there is a couple of vehicles they are looking at trading in so maybe they can work something out.

Jason reported there is snow projected for Saturday, January 15, 2022 in Allen County.

Troy Howard, KDOT P.E. Area Engineer and Wayne Gudmonson, P.E. District Engineer, was present to answer any questions the commission might have. Chairman Daniels discussed what the routes for Allen County roads will look like when road construction starts.

Troy discussed the upcoming projects – 2C from Plummer to Humboldt/Chanute Road. He explained where it will be. 2A and 2B will be worked on at the same time, towards the end of July; looking to be done about Thanksgiving 2022 for unrestricted traffic.

Troy stated K39 will have a bridge replacement in Bourbon County later this year.

Troy reported US Hwy 54 is scheduled to have an overlay from Yates Center to Iola city limits. Discussion followed. Troy presented some maps for review.

Wayne stated they will be visiting with Mitch, keeping him updated and Mitch will update the commission.

Sherrie asked about COLA and Merit increases. Commissioner Symes discussed doing straight COLA and forgoing the merits for 2022. The cost of living has gone up so much that he is considering 4% or 5% without merit. He stated he really appreciates employees; he would suggest 4%. Chairman Daniels stated "yes employee are important and in competition with other businesses". Discussion followed.

Commissioner Symes read the Final Rule for pay using ARPA funding. Detail discussion followed funding authority.

Commissioner Symes ask Jonathan to send the ARPA funding spreadsheet; updated.

Commissioner Symes moved to go into executive session for 20 minutes for non-elected person. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:37 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:57 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Symes moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes for non-elected person. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 10:00 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk, Terry Call, Allen County EMS Financial Director and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:15 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Symes moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for attorney client privilege. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 10:17 a.m.

Those present will be Commissioners and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:27 a.m. No action taken.

Chairman Daniels asked about videoing in the future since Terry Call will be retiring Allen County in March 2022. He stated commission would be looking.

Commissioners discussed the cost of COLA once a decision is done. The increase would be \$138,420 for 4% and \$173,025 for 5% per year. Commissioner Lee stated the right thing would be to be in the 4% to 5% range to be complete. Commissioner Symes stated the best way to show appreciation would be to do the 5%; the right thing to do. Chairman Daniels stated the complication of premium pay and replace another project with ARPR funds would be better bookkeeping. Commissioners tabled a decision to next week.

Chairman Daniels recognized the loss of David Ingle, a friend, Desert Storm veteran, father, husband and officer. He was a good person.

Commissioner Lee reported 164 COVID cases in Allen County. Bourbon County is at 122. Sherrie reminded the commission that COVID booster shots will be offered Wednesday, January 12 at 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Monthly report of December 2021 for Allen County Sheriff's Office, District Court, Register of Deeds and Public Works office
- b) Annual report for 2021 from the Register of Deeds office and Public Works office.
- c) Addeds for tax statements Oil Value 331, \$45.06, Year 2021
- d) Kansas Association of Counties Legislative Event January 26, 2022
- e) Email from Terry Call reporting the City of Moran decline to pay utilities on the Moran Ambulance station due to the cities increasing daily operations and energy costs.
- f) Fund Status report for month ending December 2021.
- g) Letter from Kansas Department of Transportation on City of Mildred Connecting Link Agreement Cancellation since Mildred unincorporated in 2016.
- h) Kansas Workers Risk Cooperative for Counties 2022 premium statement.
- i) Allen County Solid Waste Financial Assurance Agency dtd 07/02/2021

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers: 1/6/2022-\$485,641.31 & 1/10/2022-\$172,237.36
- b) Clerk's Journal Entry #86 & #87 for 2021 and #1 & #2 for 2022
- c) Payroll – reimbursement for mileage for Terry Call
- d) Abatements: PP Value 109, \$17.96, Year 2021
TR Value 2489, \$355.04, Year 2021

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Lee moved to adjourn, Commissioner Symes seconded, and motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m. until Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

Bruce Symes, Chairperson

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner/Chairman

Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk

David E. Lee, Commissioner