

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

Vicki Moss, Iola Register, Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor, Terry Call, Allen County EMS Financial Director, Brian Murphy, Allen County Sheriff, Ron Holman, Allen County House and Grounds Director, Chelsie Angleton, 911 Director, Jason Trego, Allen County Emergency Management, Lisse Regehr, Johnathan Goering, Thrive Allen County, Tommy Lewis, Hayden Tower Service, Inc., Steve Hull, Jerry Hall Communications, Bob Franklin and Paul Zirjacks, citizens, was present to observe the meeting.

Commissioner Symes led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

No one for public comment.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, presented a list (insert paper) and map of bridges to discuss for possible bridge limits and road limit signs. Discussion followed on time and costs. Mitch stated these needs done before June 1, 2022, but he needs to purchase more signage.

Carl Slaugh, City of Iola Councilman, joined the meeting.

Mitch discussed resolutions for the changes on the roads, he requested one resolution address all bridges and roads. No action was taken at this time.

Mitch reported they are out trimming and mowing still. Bucket truck is down but will be back up Wednesday.

Lisse Regehr, Thrive Allen County, discussed ARPA funds and final rule, beginning on April 1, 2022. She explained what it means to Allen County. Lisse presented information on the Final Rule and what is allowed; it is fully opened but cannot be used to pay down debt or take on debt. Discussion followed. She reviewed her submission: (show paper). Lisse stated the county should not spend ARPA funding on projects that have other sources of funding.

Cole Herder, City of Humboldt Administrator, and Randy Riebel, citizen, joined the meeting.

Lisse continued her discussion on ARPA funding. She discussed the Steering Committee and why she wants each person on the list. Commissioners would like time to review. Lisse wants guidance from the commission on what they would like to do. Commissioner Lee stated he would like to keep in house due to there being so many requests that won't be able to be covered with just ARPA funding. She continued to elaborate on which projects. Commissioner Symes asked for more information. Chelsie Angleton, 911 Director, explained what she was thinking should be done to complete the request of her offsite 911 office.

Lisse asked if the commissioners would like the steering committee to concentrate on county projects. Commissioners stated yes, with costs. Lisse will come back with the other sources of funding for the other projects. Discussion followed on prioritizing. Lisse will get a smaller list with costs.

Jonathon Goering, Thrive Allen County, discussed the Economic Thrive Allen County (Thrive) provides economic development services to Allen County and its communities through funding provided under a cooperative agreement

between Allen County, the cities of Iola and Humboldt, and Iola Industries, Inc. This agreement was enacted in 2013. Overall, economic development funding contains three main components: 1. An economic development advisory committee to guide the work of Thrive and to act as a sounding board for ideas and proposals. The committee contains two appointees from each participating organization, plus one member appointed by Thrive. The 2021 appointees were: Bruce Symes and Larry Manes (Allen County); Steve French and Corey Schinstock (Iola); Jerry Dreher and John Masterson (Iola Industries); and Cole Herder (Thrive/Humboldt). 2. Equal participation among members. Economic Development originally was funded at \$40,000 total in 2013, with the City of Iola and Iola Industries contributing \$15,000 each and Allen County \$10,000. Changes were made in 2016 when all three entities agreed to contribute \$20,000 each, and that's where the contract remains today. Last year, Humboldt agreed to provide \$10,000 to the program. The \$70,000 contribution funds all economic development in Allen County including the director's salary and benefits. The remaining funding is used for professional development, travel, and other resources used to grow Allen County's economy. 3. Countywide efforts. The advisory committee includes representatives of three Allen County communities (Humboldt, Iola, Moran). Recruitment efforts to develop relationships with additional Allen County communities continue with the hope that they, too, will assist in funding countywide economic development. In addition, Thrive has discussed developing a sub-committee dedicated to economic development that, while not having the authority of the current committee, would make recommendations regarding economic activity. An emphasis on race, gender, and age diversity would be a key component of the formation of this committee. Thrive staff produces a monthly economic development activity report detailing its work recruiting/nurturing economic development prospects, as well as giving important information regarding employment trends, economic conditions, and other general information. Elected officials can receive these reports upon request to Thrive or through their representatives on the economic development advisory committee. These reports are CONFIDENTIAL, a marker that cannot be overstressed. PREVIEW

The multitude of challenges brought on by a global pandemic in 2020 only continued throughout 2021 with the spread of new coronavirus variants, spikes and surges in these variants, and the uncertainty of the future for families, workers, and businesses alike. Despite these difficulties local businesses large and small alike did their best to survive. For this, they should be applauded. As a result of their resiliency, local businesses succeeded in 2021. Some grew, some expanded or started new ventures, and others simply maintained their offerings. With this in mind, let us review the economic development highlights of 2021: COVID-19 RELIEF COVID-relief funding distributed by the Federal Government and State of Kansas had a huge impact on the county's businesses and organizations in 2021 and will continue to do so for years to come. Allen County received \$2.4 million in funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), while cities within the county received the following amounts: Iola: \$798,886.99 Humboldt: \$268,368.99 LaHarpe: \$80,404.50 Moran: \$77,370.37 Gas City: \$76,005.01 Savonburg: \$15,625.78 Elsmore: \$10,164.34 Allen County selected Thrive to administer its ARPA funding as did the City of Iola for a third round of COVID-relief funding (CDBG-CV3). Additionally, Thrive administered \$132,000 in CDBG-CV dollars for Allen County in 2021 that was used to support small businesses. GRANT FUNDING Thrive Allen County receives more than 90 percent of its funding through private, state, and federal grants. Other funding sources include contracts, donations, and sponsorships. In 2021, Thrive enjoyed its most prolific year of funding ever, applying for 53 grants and receiving 30, totaling nearly \$3.5 million. Of that, more than \$1.6 million were designated community grants, meaning the funding went directly to the nonprofits and government entities outlined in the grants. Here's a breakdown:

Year	Number of Grants Applied	Number of Grants Awarded	Total Dollars Applied For	Total Dollars Awarded
2021	53	30	\$10,978,925.25	\$3,409,580
2020	52	23	\$9,555,064	\$1,241,503
2019	24	15	\$2,118,803	\$843,000

Number of Community Grants Applied: 18 (2021), 15 (2020), 6 (2019)  
 Number of Community Grants Awarded: 14 (2021), 5 (2020), 3 (2019)  
 Total Dollars Community Grants Applied: \$2,805,217 (2021), \$1,295,651 (2020), \$189,000 (2019)  
 Total Dollars Community Grants Awarded: \$1,462,717 (2021), \$213,871 (2020), \$27,500 (2019)

LOCAL ANALYSIS Thrive began a partnership in early 2021 with Atlas Community Studios, a Midwest creative placemaking agency, to utilize USDA grant funding to

address three focus areas: housing, economic development, and building revitalization in Allen County. More than a year and numerous in-person and online meetings later, Atlas has nearly completed its work and will share its findings in a public forum during 1Q 2022. Once complete, Allen County will have a blueprint for addressing its housing needs, confronting economic development, and undertaking renovation of the former Waugh-Yokum Funeral Home, which Thrive owns.

**LOCAL WORKFORCE** Many Allen County businesses large and small struggled to find enough workers to fill openings, from manufacturing and production to maintenance and food service. Unemployment rates, which had climbed to 12 percent at the beginning of the pandemic two years ago, fell to a meager 2.4 percent at the end of 2021. As it looked for ways to help local businesses address the challenge, Thrive learned that a labor study could help shed light on how to achieve this aim. After submitting a Request for Proposal to a handful of qualified agencies, Allen County Commissioners approved a comprehensive, county-wide labor study to be led by Next Move Group. The agency completed the study in late 2021 and will share its findings publicly during the 1Q 2022. The labor study will help businesses understand how their labor pool increases exponentially with wage increases (depicted in a color map), and it will highlight industries that are growing or stagnating in the county and the region.

**BUSINESS INCENTIVES** The City of Iola created a subcommittee consisting of elected officials, city staff, and Thrive to review its current incentives opportunities. Meeting topics include the incentives Iola offers currently, what other cities are doing, and what Iola should consider. The subcommittee will make a recommendation to the city council on how it should approach incentive requests.

**ALLEN COUNTY AIRPORT** Allen County Regional Airport remained a key focus for economic growth in 2021. Its mile long runway, land availability, and convenient location along U.S. Highway 169 make it one of the county's key assets. In fact, a recent Kansas Department of Transportation study revealed that Allen County's airport has a \$767,700 annual impact on the county. Therefore, steps were taken to make the land more development friendly, beginning with a utility expansion study by BG Consultants. The purpose of the study was to determine the cost and feasibility of development on a 24-acre tract in the Northwest corner of the property. BG finished the report in December and will be sharing its finding publicly in 1Q 2022. Allen County has begun another critical airport initiative by updating its Airport Layout Plan (ALP), which serves as an essential planning tool for the airport's future. The document outlines the airport's current facilities and amenities and planned future development, and should be updated every 10 years, according to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Allen County selected Garver to update the ALP after interviewing three qualified aviation agencies. These projects can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, yet the FAA will fund 90 percent of the cost with the county covering the remaining 10 percent. We anticipate the update will begin this Spring. Allen County was one of only a handful of airports statewide selected for the Fly Kansas Air Tour, which was made possible by the Kansas Department of Transportation Division of Aviation and Kansas Commission on Aerospace Education. The event drew more than 20 aircraft and hundreds of spectators – including Iola Elementary School students – to the event. It was a fantastic way to cast attention to the airport and encourage future development. Finally, with the help of the Kansas Small Business Development Center (KSBDC), Thrive worked with an aircraft mechanic based in the KC-metro area to establish a mobile mechanic business at the airport. The mechanic also plans to relocate his family to Allen County.

**INDUSTRIAL/SERVICE** B&W Trailer Hitches in Humboldt now employs 650 people, making it the largest employer in Allen County. A year ago the business employed about 500 people. B&W completed a 114,000 sq. ft. addition on the north side of its existing building last year, which is being used for manufacturing and warehouse space. It also completed an addition it calls the "Great Hall" that will be used as a dining area, training center, and storm shelter and eventually the business' medical clinic. Like many manufacturing businesses, supplier issues made production difficult. 6 Russell Stover Chocolates hired Rick Janes to lead the company's production work in Iola. Janes took over for former plant manager John Kappelman. Like many Allen County businesses, finding employees has been difficult. Russell Stover took action to address the issue by hiring female inmates at the Topeka Correctional Facility to fill worker gaps through a state/employer program. Janes says the program has been

successful, and some inmates who are nearing their release dates plan to continue working at Russell Stover and live in lola. In addition, city, county, and state leaders and Thrive staff met with business leaders to identify ways to overcome hiring challenges. Gates Corporation also hired a new plant manager. Steve Jones took over in late 2021 for Brad Bradberry, who left lola for a Gates position in Siloam Springs, AR. Jones comes to lola from South Carolina. Hiring has been a challenge for Gates as well, requiring the business to adjust some of its shifts. Peerless Products CAG enjoyed business and employee growth throughout its first full year in lola. The city's newest industry hired 35 people, established new window-making lines, and created product for its nationwide customer base. Supply chain issues and a constricted labor force made business challenging, yet Peerless soldiered on. The business predicts a strong start to 2022 and anticipates a good year with increased profitability and business and employee growth. Green Cover Seed hosted its second soil health conference for regional farmers and ranchers to increase cover-crop and no-till practices, increase profitability, and generate awareness of the businesses' cover crop seed inventory. Green Cover Seed has grown exponentially in the short time it has been in Allen County, and the business is seeking ways to expand its products and services and eventually hire more staff. As a business tethered to the film industry, Sonic Equipment felt the pains of COVID as much as anyone. Nevertheless, Sonic identified creative ways to sustain itself such as the development and construction of ultraviolet (UV) machines to help businesses and organizations purify their airstreams. The business worked alongside its sister company, Knisley Manufacturing, to keep up with production demands. The machines were popular with schools, churches, nursing homes, businesses, and more. Sonic dropped from 70 employees to 20 during the peak of the pandemic and has since grown to 40 employees. This Fall, the business added a new production line that manufactures signs and cases for movie theatres. Murphy Tractor and Equipment opened in Humboldt in the Fall of 2020 at the city's Southwind industrial site, yet COVID prevented the business from hosting its ribbon-cutting ceremony until September. Keith Wiltse has taken over management of the Humboldt location. Scott and Amy Welch opened Humboldt's combination grocery store and butcher shop Our Market in July. The Welch's received financial support from Allen County and the City of Humboldt along with grant and loan funding. Allen County does not have a hardware store within its boundaries, but that does not mean Thrive has given up the effort. In fact, just the opposite: we are working more diligently than ever to find a way to bring a stand-alone hardware store one to the area. Thrive continued seeking new businesses and opportunities for the county and working with entrepreneurs with plans to open businesses in markets such as entertainment, restaurants, retail, and business assistance. Some of these opportunities look promising in 2022!

### HOUSING

The topic of affordable housing generated as much discussion in 2021 as it had in years past, and it will continue to do so until solutions can be found. It's a complicated topic, and no one remedy will solve the problem. For example, at one time Thrive counted 14-plus housing initiatives it was working on to meet the need. Some highlights regarding the topic include:

- **Housing Studies:** Allen County and its communities will benefit from two comprehensive housing studies this year. The first was a statewide housing needs assessment commissioned by the Kansas Department of Commerce and finished in late 2021. The other will be completed in 1Q 2022 by Atlas Community Studios and focuses exclusively on Allen County.
- **Moderate Income Housing (MIH) Grant:** Allen County received a \$50,000 MIH grant through the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC) to address housing needs countywide. The intent of the grant is to purchase infill lots and gift them to builders for housing.
- **Historic Economic Asset Lifeline (HEAL):** The HEAL grant was made possible by Commerce to provide matching funds for the revitalization of underutilized, vacant, or dilapidated downtown buildings. Two lola businesses on the Square submitted applications.
- **Allen Housing 2030:** Retired lola banker Jim Gilpin has been thinking about the county's housing needs and steady population decline for more than 30 years. His interest led to the creation of Allen Housing 2030, an informal coalition of stakeholders dedicated to seeing change in these critical areas. Look for more
- **Land Bank:** Thrive is working with Allen County commissioners to create a countywide land bank. A land bank is a public authority or nonprofit organization that manages and repurposes underused,

abandoned, or foreclosed properties with the intent to get them developed and back on productive tax rolls. • **Iola Nursing Center:** Thrive has worked closely with the developer of the former Arkhaven facility to rehabilitate it to feature 50 one-and two-bedroom units. • **Iola Elementary Schools:** The sale of Iola's three elementary schools could bring a unique solution to the city's housing problem. Proposals are due by the end of January. • **Cedarbrook Phase III:** Efforts continue to find a way to bring development to the north Iola. This specific area has been platted yet lacks infrastructure such as a street, water, and electricity. Creating a Rural Housing Incentive District (RHID) for the land is the most logical solution but requires identifying a developer. • **Buildings on the Square:** In addition to the HEAL grant mentioned earlier, Thrive made building revitalization on Iola's Square a key focus of its economic development efforts, understanding that a city's center is its heartbeat. We continuously look for grants and other funding opportunities for building owners to assist them with revitalization. • **Empty Building Ordinance:** City of Iola staff and elected officials heard a presentation from the City of Emporia's Kansas Main Street director in December about a program Emporia uses to bring residential and commercial buildings into productive use. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** The City of Iola received a \$700,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in January 2021 for the purchase of a new Spartan pumper truck for its fleet (the grant is for \$350,000 and the city matched half). Feld Fire won the bid. Another CDBG opportunity became evident when City of Moran council leaders shared their concerns about the city's aging cast iron waterlines, many of which are nearly a century old. Thrive assisted the city in applying for a \$900,000 water and sewer CDBG to replace approximately 12,000 linear feet of line, gate valves, fire hydrants, meter reconnections, and more. Moran will learn this month if it was selected to receive the grant. Thrive anticipates pursuing additional CDBG grants this year with communities and needs to be determined. The Iola PRIDE / Community Involvement Task Force (CITF) has been active for years in the city, assessing community needs and leading projects that bring meaningful improvements to the community. Thrive has been an active member of the organization, lending its voice to projects such as the city's disc golf course, highway signage, and historical signage on the Square, and planning for community events such as the upcoming pop-up event in the spring. **ENTREPRENEURSHIP** Thrive was one of six pilot partners chosen to participate in the NXTSTAGE entrepreneurship competition hosted by NXTUS, an Wichita organization dedicated to being a catalyst for the region's startup ecosystem. The competition addressed health and health-related issues and community growth primarily in rural communities. After listening to numerous pitches from tech startups nationwide, Thrive selected to work with three: • **Advocatia:** Connects the underserved to health benefits through an online platform. The platform went live in Allen County in January. • **Televeda:** Engagement and programming for senior centers and seniors aging in place to eliminate social isolation. Thrive is currently working with local stakeholders to create content for livestreaming. • **LegUp:** Assists childcare providers and those seeking childcare through an advanced online platform. Thrive has been assisting LegUp to reach area providers to increase awareness and gauge interest. Allen County E-Communities helps new businesses by administering loans up to \$45,000 or 60 percent match to another loan, whichever is less. Thrive has been an active member of the organization because we believe in the importance of entrepreneurship in rural communities. We make recommendations regarding the programs and services offered to local businesses and participate in professional development opportunities to help us create and grow a local entrepreneurial ecosystem in Allen County. **TRANSPORTATION** Allen County residents benefitted from two transportation grants Thrive received in late 2020 that carried over into 2021. The grants provided non-emergent medical transportation to county residents for out-of-county medical and social service appointments and countywide public transportation. Additionally, we received a grant for \$230,000 that allowed us to purchase a wheelchair accessible vehicle, hire a transportation manager, and partially fund the transportation program. **FARMING and RANCHING** This past year we increased our focus on ag-tech opportunities such as container farming and autonomous equipment. Thrive intends to create a farm and agriculture task force comprised of local stakeholders to help identify, develop, and pursue more opportunities in these sectors. **BUSINESS INQUIRIES and INDUSTRIAL SITES**

Thrive actively monitored Requests for Proposals (RFPs) from site selectors and business prospects nationwide seeking opportunities for development in Kansas. Like most opportunities the year before, Allen County properties did not meet the prospects' requirements due primarily to these factors: • Lack of sites or buildings that met the requirements of the RFP (many site selectors are seeking existing 300,000 sq ft and larger buildings) • Lack of "shovel ready" options with utilities and infrastructure in place • Lack of four-lane interstate highways, commercial airports, river access, or rail lines. In many cases prospects specifically request locations near a major highway/interstate, railroad, or metro area, thus leaving rural sites untenable. Thrive is working to add two sites to Commerce's approved "Certified Sites" list, which will flag these development properties as shovel ready. These include Lola's 80-acre industrial park and Humboldt's Southwind Industrial Park. EMPLOYER and COMMUNITY OUTREACH Thrive met with a variety of business leaders and owners throughout the year to maintain already established relationships or develop new ones. The goal is to ensure that the needs of local businesses are being met. Moreover, we developed a Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) program to proactively connect with local businesses to learn more about their business practices, plans for the future, opportunities, and challenges. We launched the program this month. Thrive has continued to engage Allen County residents through its Community Conversations. These meetings bring people together to talk about the challenges and opportunities in their communities. We temporarily suspended these meetings in 2020 and most of 2021 due to COVID but brought them back in the fall when we visited with residents in Carlyle and Gas City. While effectual, we discovered these meetings often lack youth attendance and participation. Therefore, Thrive began an initiative in late 2021 to develop a Youth Task Force to listen to the needs and concerns of Allen County young people related to their communities. We began the initiative at Humboldt High School, meeting with well over 100 students. Our next step will be to meet bi-monthly with students who want to participate in the task force, the goal being to help them address challenges in their community by empowering them to make changes themselves (with our assistance). Our intention is to develop future leaders. The meetings with Humboldt High School students revealed to us that two obstacles are foremost on their mind: the lack of a dedicated public place to spend time with friends and the condition of their city's roads and streets. GREEN SPACES / OUTDOOR PROJECTS Thrive continued its work with the City of Lola in 2021 to create and gradually implement a design plan for the use of the former Cedarbrook Golf Course area north of Miller Road. The plan is to create a green space in the area to include walking trails, fishing in the three ponds, artwork, benches, a dog park, and possibly a disc golf course. The process has been a team effort. We received assistance from the Kansas State University Extension Agency, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, and City of Lola staff, who have done wonderful job shoring up drainage areas, adding rock to muddy surfaces, and mowing. We will continue to work with the city to make even more improvements to the site and anticipate it will become accessible to the public this year. CHALLENGES Like all things in economic development, some projects look promising until they don't. Or we discover they don't make financial sense. Such was the case with the electric vehicle (EV) charging station. The popularity of electric cars continues to increase nationwide, and it appeared that the City of Lola was poised to tap into this popularity by purchasing and installing a set of chargers on the Square. However, Thrive and city staff discovered that the project was not feasible on the scale we had intended, and the cost to make the service more attractive to users would have been cost prohibitive, at least for now. Additionally, Lola's only dedicated coffee shop closed, and a handful of restaurants and retail businesses either closed or left the city for other opportunities. Thrive will continue to work diligently to address these gaps and bring new opportunities to Allen County. Finally, a record-breaking cold snap blanketed the Midwest in February, sending temperatures plunging and utility costs skyrocketing. The weather phenomenon left many communities scrambling to meet the utility demands of residents. Allen County cities were not immune to the pain of the natural gas price spike, leading some to seek state loans to help cover costs. If a silver lining exists, it's that communities can better prepare for future weather-related episodes.

A LOOK AHEAD: 2022 We have listed a handful of projects we anticipate beginning, continuing, or completing this year:

- Housing: single-family and multi-family construction and rehabilitation
- Airport Development: utility expansion, museum, restaurant, hangers, spec buildings
- Lola Coffee Shop: attract a coffee shop or coffee options to the city
- Hardware Store: attract a new store or regional expansion
- Lola Industrial Site: determine the future of the 80-acre site west of Russell Stover
- Southwind Industrial Site: recruit additional businesses to the site
- Incubator Space: create a space for new businesses to incubate
- Youth Task Force: establish in Humboldt and possibly Lola and Moran schools
- Lola Square: continue building revitalization and add businesses
- Entertainment: identify and establish more options for all ages
- Hotel: recruit new options to the county
- Restaurants: enhance our local options, increase variety
- Farming and Ranching: develop Task Force with focus on ag-tech
- Community Development Block Grants: find needs countywide and submit applications
- Entrepreneurship: develop an entrepreneurial ecosystem in the county
- Incentives: define for the county and its cities
- Cedarbrook Greenspace: continue development and make publicly accessible
- Property Vacancy Ordinance: determine if a viable option and implement
- Land Bank: establish countywide
- Lehigh Portland: add amenities to the public space
- Local Artists: identify ways to highlight/support the area's burgeoning artistic community
- Economic Development: create an advisory task force with diverse voices and ideas

WRAP UP If there are two certainties about economic development, it's these: 1. Economic Development is a team sport. 2. Economic Development is a long game. That's why Thrive and a host of local stakeholders and community partners worked collectively in 2021 to pursue new opportunities, build or strengthen relationships, and seek solutions to existing challenges as they relate to Allen County's economic health and well-being. We believe 2021 laid the groundwork for increased economic success in 2022. The best recipe for economic success is plenty of persistence and patience with a healthy dose of optimism. Thrive looks forward to a great 2022.

Jonathon said the number one need is workers! Housing would be one of the things at the top of the list. Commissioner Symes stated housing and work force expansion is a big discussion at every Economic Development meeting. He continued to stay several issues to take under consideration. Apartment complexes are a happening thing because more and more are not able to have single family homes. Discussion followed.

Ron Holman, Allen County House and Grounds Director, discussed a few home keeping needs. He would like to replace tile in both restrooms, will be painting next week. Ron presented sign proposals from Norman Printing for \$250.00 for both sides using the existing plexiglass. Commissioner Lee moved to accept the bid from Norman Printing. Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Ron discussed the 3-vat sink required for the Humboldt Senior Center. He received one more bid for just the labor from Johnnie Vanlueen. Commissioner Lee moved to accept the bid and Ron purchase the sink. Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

George & Lori Stevens and Gene Hartman, joined the meeting.

George Stevens, Moran area citizen, discussed USD 256 getting the monies from the windfarms. Roy Peterson with the windmills promised they would get the monies before they started the building. The only business in the area. He continued to say he feels the area is getting shorted out of their taxes from the payment in lieu of taxes for the 10 years. Chairman Daniels stated the commission negotiated with the windmill company a different negotiation. Discussion followed. George stated if the school had more monies for their schools, it might bring in more students and families.

Jason Trego, Emergency Manager, discussed the weather coming in.

Jason presented bids for PPE for masks and disinfectant wipes. Bids were received from Brady for \$42,009.28; U-Line for \$112,861.55. Discussion followed on the uses of the masks and wipes; mostly to the schools. Jason stated they are low on masks and it is requested the most. Commissioner Symes asked if it is ARPA funding or general expense. Commissioner Lee asked at what point do the school districts, nursing homes and medical become responsible for their own needs. Discussion followed on who is responsible for these. Sheriff Murphy stated a lot of time they got the materials because the schools and other entities could not get their supplies so they requested them from 911.

Chairman Daniels opened the bid opening from Tower Systems, Inc. is for \$969,269.33 and Hayden Towers for \$875,000. Tommy Lewis, Hayden Tower, reviewed the goal for Hayden Towers; based out of Topeka, Kansas, turn key cost, partnership with Jerry Hall Communications and will have an electrician. Sheriff Murphy explained where the location will be. Commissioner Symes asked about the studies and asked if any other costs would be incurred. Tommy stated no, the cost is all included. Steve Hall, Jerry Hall Communications, stated materials are into 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter delivery. Sheriff explained the intent. Tommy stated Hayden Tower is on the front line of future changes. Discussion followed. Commissioner Symes asked if this was for one corner to the other corners of the county for all the county to have radio frequency. If another company ran transmission lines, would it effect this tower's ability to cover the county. Chairman Daniels stated he has been on the radio and it is frustrating not to be able to communicate. Commissioner Lee stated he would like a week or two to review. Commissioner Symes stated he would like a least a week. Discussion followed. No action was taken at this time.

Bob Franklin, citizen, discussed the PILOT funding and schools.

Commissioner Lee moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes for non-elected, Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:58 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Chelsie Angleton, 911 Communications Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:12 a.m. No action taken.

Darolyn "Crickett" Maley, Allen County Treasurer, joined the meeting.

Cole Herder, City of Humboldt Administrator, discussed the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan (NRP) for the City of Humboldt and a map. He explained the NRP process and plan. He stated the County of Allen, City of Humboldt, USD 258 and Allen County Community College usually all sign the interlocal agreement. Cole reviewed the number who have utilized this in the past and currently being used. USD 258 is now building one, but the NRP will be transferable to the new owner. Cole continued with other statistics. He stated they budget about 13 mills to refund back to the NRP. Cole stated NRP is the biggest tool he has to attract people and companies. Discussion followed. Commissioner Symes moved to authorize the Chairman's signature on the Humboldt NRP. Commissioner Lee seconded. Discussion followed. Crickett asked who approves and makes sure the changes aren't "swimming pools" and such that is not allowed. Cole stated he is the one in the City of Humboldt. Crickett asked if she had the authority to reject it or not. Cole stated if she seen something like that, let him and other cities know. Crickett asked what etc. meant. Cole said the "etc." will be something that gives him leverage. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Cole discussed the New York Times article about the City of Humboldt. He stated it would be good to have someone come visit due to that. Discussion followed. Cole stated if it does the whole area will be affected.

Sherrie discussed Blue Cross Blue Shield renewal for April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. Commissioners agreed the renewal was good for Allen County employees.

Commissioner Lee moved to renew the contract with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas. Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Sherrie requested the commission to review the Multi County Health Board appointees. Commissioner Symes moved to reappointed David Lee and Nicholas Lohman and to appoint Becky Waldon to the Multi County Health Board. Chairman Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Sherrie discussed a couple of indigent deaths submitted for payment of cremation.

Sherrie reported on the General Transportation van finances and loaner van. Discussion followed. Commissioners approved to take the cost out of the ARPA funds for January and February and will review again for March.

Randal Riebel, citizen, discussed the E, S & S equipment tabulator being hooked to the internet.

Commissioner Symes moved to go into executive session for 20 minutes for non-elected, Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 11:03 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 11: 23 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Symes moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes for non-elected, Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 11: 25 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 11:40 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Adds - PP Value 252, \$41.96, Year 2021
- b) A copy of check for Peerless County taxes paid back on 2021 taxes.
- c) MetLife renewal for 2022
- d) Personal Services Insurance, Inc. for an endorsement on a 2022 Mack Dump Truck (6981)

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – 1/20/2022-\$232,107.96 & 1/24/2022-\$36,647.72
- b) Clerk's Journal Entries – #3 & 4
- c) Inventory for Iola and Moran Senior/Community Center, EMS Office,
- d) Payroll – Rehire Chad Thompson
- e) Payroll – Reimbursement for bread for Meals on Wheels for Sherrie L. Riebel
- f) Payroll – Process Service for 8 Sheriff employees.
- g) Annual Township and Cemetery Reports from West Cottage Grove Cemetery, Humboldt Township, Iola Township, Osage Township and Salem Township
- h) Abatements - RE Value 10,028, \$1602.86, Year 2021  
PP Value 1147, \$230.5, Year 2021  
Gas Value 285, \$39.12, Year 2021

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Lee moved to adjourn, Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. until Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly's Room of the courthouse.

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Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk

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David E. Lee, Commissioner