

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, Interim Road & Bridge Director, Bryan Murphy, Allen County Sheriff, Rick Aiello, employee, Jared Wheeler, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director, Terry Johnson, citizen, and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Jeremy Hopkins led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the special meetings on July 23, 2024.

Chairman Symes asked for public comment. Commissioner Lee wanted to express his thanks for all those involved in making the Allen County Fair a success.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported the clay/bentonite is still being tested. They had sent out 10 tubes to be tested and 9 have come back as passed.

Mitch reported the 2019 compactor will need to be rebuilt at some point. It currently has 11,000 hours and he was advised that at 14,000 it should be rebuilt. He is getting prices for it. We would need to rent one while this is being rebuilt. Commissioner Daniels asked about trading in the older compactor for a new one/used one to keep 2 running. Discussion followed.

Mitch reported the 6" pump at the landfill is down and it is in Wichita being looked at. They found the engine is fine but the pump is bad. Mitch is checking on prices for a new one.

Jeremy Hopkins, Interim Road & Bridge Director, reported that Thursday evening a 2014 John Deere tractor burnt up. It did burn the front of the mower as well. Jeremy is wondering if we should just lease one for now. Insurance has been notified and they are working on it. Discussion followed.

Jeremy stated they are going to help Woodson County; they will be spraying oil with the distributor for them. They will be just over the county line.

Jeremy reported the mini excavator was delivered yesterday. Replaced the backhoe with this.

Commissioner Lee asked if Jeremy had talked with any of the implement businesses here about a tractor to replace the burnt one. Discussion followed.

Jeremy stated that they should begin chip sealing Petrolia blacktop next Tuesday and then move into the town of Petrolia.

Jared Wheeler, Thrive Allen County, reported on a preliminary substantial completion statement from Holly with BG Consultants. Jared explained the punch list she sent. Jared will have Holly add the turning of the hydrant to the list. Discussion followed.

Chairman Symes reported on the Juvenile Detention Center board meeting. He explained the insurance carrier recommended having a cyber security policy. He is suggesting that all county correspondence go through county emails and not personal emails. He proposes we start moving forward to policy and procedure of county emails and multi-factor authentication. He thinks there may be a need to do so.

Dimity Lowell, lola Seniors Inc, joined the meeting. She reported she has been looking for another facility to send their overflow. She was contacted by a business from Dallas, Texas, and they sent a trailer. After a given period of time, they will weight it out and they pay .06 per pound, then they will take away and send the items to a third world country.

Dimity stated they have given \$15,000 back to the community. They also spent \$6,000 to buy basic sets of supplies for 220 elementary students and 110 middle school students. Discussion followed.

Chairman Symes reported that they received word Linn County will no longer be a member of the South East Kansas Regional Juvenile Detention Center. This will leave 10 counties. The director has gotten the SEKRJDC a \$60,000 grant that should help offset losing Linn County. They are charging \$175/day for those that are not a part of this consortium. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Lee moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes for Non-Elected Personnel. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:03 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:18 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes for Non-Elected Personnel. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:18 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:23 a.m. No action taken.

Chairman Symes reported that Jeremy Hopkins will be moved from Interim Road & Bridge Director to the Director.

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers - \$382,620.07
- b) Payroll – Change form for Steve Womack, Jeremy Hopkins
- c) Payroll – Mileage for Bruce Symes
- d) Clerk's Journal Entries –#25

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Lee moved to adjourn, Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 2-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m. until Tuesday, August 6, 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