

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

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Mark Griffith, Allen County Road & Bridge Director, Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, Robert Johnson, County Counselor, Rickie Aiello, Allen County employee, Crystal Richey, Allen County employee, Jason Trego, Emergency Manager, Chelsie Angleton, 911 Communications Director, Lisse Regehr, Thrive Allen County, Jared Larkey, Farm City Days Committee, Vicki Moss, Iola Register representative, Paul Zirjacks, citizens, was present to observe the meeting.

Chairman Lee led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the July 11, 2023 meeting.

Chairman Lee wanted to express his thanks for all of the work done in the aftermath of the storm that came on Friday.

Chairman Lee asked for public comment. There was none.

Jason Trego, Emergency Manager, reported on the storm that rolled through on Friday. He called Chairman Lee on Friday evening for a verbal disaster declaration. He is asking for an official Resolution and proclamation declaring disaster status; Resolution #202306 Proclamation of a State of Local Disaster Emergency for Allen County, Kansas.

RESOLUTION # 202306 AND PROCLAMATION

PROCLAMATION of a State of Local Disaster Emergency for Allen County, Kansas:

WHEREAS on the 18th day of July, 2023, the Board of Commissioners of Allen County, Kansas finds that certain conditions have caused, or eminently threaten to cause wide-spread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property in disaster proportion in Allen County, Kansas;

WHEREAS, such conditions have created obstructions which endanger health, safety and welfare of persons and property within the border of Allen County, Kansas.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners of Allen County, Kansas:

That the Board of County Commissioners of Allen County, Kansas, under and by virtue of the authority vested in it by K.S.A. 1976 Supp. 48-932, does hereby PROCLAIM that a State of Local Disaster Emergency exists.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED AND PROCLAIMED that the area within the border of Allen County, Kansas covered by this proclamation/ resolution is the entire area of Allen County, Kansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Board has all rights and/or powers to perform such functions as are vested in said Board by and through the provisions of the Kansas Emergency Preparedness Act of 1975.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED AND PROCLAIMED that this resolution shall remain in effect for a period of seven (7) days unless terminated earlier or renewed by consent of the governing body.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF ALLEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS THIS 18th DAY OF JULY, 2023.

Discussion followed. Commissioner Symes moved to approve the Resolution #202306 Proclamation of a State of Local Disaster Emergency for Allen County, Kansas. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported that he opened the landfill for limbs on Sunday.

Mitch reported the sealing is done at the taxiway. Once it gets inspected then it will be able to be painted.

Mitch stated that there are no grants available to help with the burying of the electric poles; so that will be at county expense.

Mitch reported there was some minor damage to the hangar doors from the storm, and he has turned it in to insurance. Also, the new fencing at the landfill tipped over but it did not do any damage to it.

Mitch presented bids for a new hydro seeder. He sent out for 3 bids but only received one back from Multi Machine Inc out of Asbury, NJ. The company sent a quote for a new Panther T12 Hydro Seeder, 1500-gallon tank, self-driven for \$445,000.00. They also quoted for a used 2021 Panther T12 Hydro Seeder with 1500 hours on it for \$304,500.00. Discussion followed.

Corey Isbell, Iola Fire Chief, and Michael Burnett, EMS Director, joined the meeting.

Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, reported his crews were out until 9:30 or 10:00 p.m. on Friday trying to get all the paved roads cleared. They were back out from 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Saturday getting the rest of the roads cleared as best they could. They did not touch the limbs that were on the power lines.

Mark reported he will not be here for the August 1, 2023 meeting.

Jared Larkey, Farm City Days Committee, would like to request \$2500 for donation towards Farm City Days. He would also like to request use of the Courthouse Lawn. Farm City Days is scheduled for October 19, 20, 21, & 22, 2023. They are planning to have the parade, vendors, car show, bounce houses and the carnival. The county contributed \$1500 last year. Commissioner Symes moved to approve use of the courthouse lawn and donation of \$1500 for Farm City Days. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Michael Burnett, EMS Director, wanted to report that in the future there will be several pieces of equipment that will be needing to be replaced; cots, monitors, the 2006 Expedition, and ambulance. Some of the cots are 13 years old and the life span for those are typically 7-8 years. Power cots cost anywhere \$20,000-\$40,000 depending on the options chosen. He would like to replace one cot and one monitor in the near future. They will also be needing a new ambulance and a new EMS vehicle. The Expedition now is a 2006 with 189,000 miles. They use this to go assist in Humboldt and Moran on calls. Discussion followed. The commission requested a more comprehensive list of equipment that will be needing replaced.

Commissioner Daniels reported on a complaint about no ambulance in Humboldt last week. Corey Isbell stated he will look into it.

Commissioner Daniels has been asked by several individuals about mitigation on the incident discussed early this year. Michael and Corey both stated that is being worked on.

Lisse Regehr, Thrive Allen County, stated she would like to look into if there are grants for equipment for EMS. That may be an option to help replace the needed equipment.

Lisse thanked the commissioners for being at the ceremonial bill signing to officially designate Lehigh Portland the newest State Park.

Lisse is asking for permission to set up an account for \$5,000 for fuel from the Public Works fuel system. This would be for them to be able to buy fuel to mow. The state park will include the trails; however, during the transition Thrive will continue to maintain the trails.

The commission gave the okay for the public works department to set up an account for Thrive to purchase fuel.

Lisse also requested for the commissioners to consider giving Thrive a set percentage of a mill, instead of a fixed dollar amount for their disbursements.

Lisse introduced the idea of setting up a specific fund to budget in monies to put toward economic development projects. For example, incentives to help attract new industries to the airport industrial park. Could this be done instead of asking for monies out of the general fund. Discussion followed.

Lisse reminded that the Thrive Allen County nominations are due by August 7, 2023. The categories include health, recreation, education, economic development, unsung hero, Donna Talkington award, and the lifetime achievement award. You can nominate a person or organization. Once all nominations are in, the Thrive board meets in August and will review all nominations, vote on 3 nominees in each category, and then the winner. The nominees and winners will be celebrated at Thrive's Annual Banquet held on Friday, November 17, 2023.

Chelsie Angleton, 911 Communications Director, reported on call volumes during and after the storm. For the three days prior to the storm, the total call volume was 448. Total call volume for Friday, July 14, 2023 was 857, Saturday, July 25, 2023 was 728, and Sunday, July 16, 2023 was 253. Chelsie reported Chairman Lee had stopped by briefly, and all consoles were occupied, Chelsie was fielding calls in her office, and Jason was in emergency operations center handling the calls between agencies. The numbers presented by Chelsie were just phone call, it did not include all of the radio traffic they had to keep up with as well. Discussion followed.

Robert Johnson, County Counselor, reported on the court expansion project meeting that was held yesterday. The plan is to have the bond issue on the November 2023 ballot. Original plans have been altered to take away the elevators and tunnel, resulting in a cost savings compared to the original plan. Crossland will take videography of testimonies on why this is needed. The next meeting will be held on August 14, 2023. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Symes moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:40 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Lisse Regehr, Thrive Allen County, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:50 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Symes moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:53 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:03 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Symes moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 10:05 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:15 a.m. No action taken.

Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk, presented a request from Cara Walden. Cara & Bill Walden along with Gabe and Myra Gleason would like to request use of the courthouse lawn to hold a movie night. The plan is to hold the first one to coincide with the August sidewalk sales. They would like to bring in food trucks to be set on Jefferson Street. Commissioner Symes moved to approve this request with the understanding that

they will communicate with Ron Holman for location. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Mark is throwing out the idea that the shop would be prime location for the state to buy because of the trails and lake. Doing so would allow to build new shop as well. Discussion followed.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Business Forum invitation from Southeast Kansas Inc
- b) United States Bankruptcy Court papers for Endo International
- c) EMC Claim information
- d) June 2023 financial reports for Hospital Board from Larry Peterson
- e) June monthly report for Noxious Weed, corrected Attorneys office

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$264,035.03
- b) Clerk's Journal Entries – #35 & 36
- c) Payroll – Enrollment form for William Todd
- d) Payroll – Change forms for Darcy Burton, Kayla Garber

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Daniels moved to adjourn, Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m. until Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly's Room of the courthouse.

David E. Lee, Chairperson

Bruce Symes, Commissioner

Shannon Patterson, County Clerk

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner