

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

Vickie Moss, Iola Register, Robert Johnson, II, Allen County Counselor, Hunter Nichol, Southwind Extension, Rickie Aiello, employee, Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, Robert Johnson, County Counselor, Jonathan Goering, Thrive Allen County, Steve French, City of Iola Mayor, Matt Roeher, City of Iola Administrator, Cole Herder, City of Humboldt Administrator, and Paul Zirjacks, citizens, was present to observe the meeting.

Chairman Daniels led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the regular meeting on July 12, 2022.

Hunter Nickell, Southwind Extension District Live Stock Production Agent, discussed spraying for Noxious Weeds within Allen County. He reviewed the calendar dates and times for spraying for Noxious Weeds. Hunter presented documentation handouts. Discussion followed.

Steve French, City of Iola Mayor, discussed communication between the city and Allen County. Discussion followed. Mayor French stated he would like them to know the city wants to work with the county at the regional airport.

Commissioner Lee requested to get a report on the Ambulance; at least quarterly. Discussion followed. Mayor French stated he would get something setup.

Bryan J. Murphy, Allen County Sheriff, joined the meeting.

Mitchell Garner, Public Works Director, presented more info on the side by sides. He reviewed the changes for each bid. They all have to order the equipment. Mitch reported the intended use for the side by side at the airport; pulling planes and taxing persons back and forth as well as putting a tank on it and spraying. Discussion followed. Commissioner Symes moved to purchase the John Deer's Gator XUV825MS4 2023 for \$21,660. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Mark Griffith, Road and Bridge Director, reported they are chip and sealing on patches in Texas Road, 4400 Delaware to Arizona and 4200 - 4400 Roads at \$15,000 per mile, working on a plan for next year to be ready to chip next year. He stated the crusher is working well so they are okay on chips currently. Discussion followed on the patches done on Texas Road with the pothole machine. Two mowers are still down. He wants to make all one district and have brush cutters go out first. Discussion followed on plans and different equipment (Mower Max). Commissioners suggested to get pricing; with or without trade in.

Mark discussed adding 5 more people for \$171,080 for asphalt persons. They would be strictly asphalt person, cutting trees in the winter when they can't patch or chip seal. Mark explained what positions he would place these employees.

Chairman Daniels asked about striping though Humboldt's street which is a county road and other county roads. Mark discussed chip and seal and keeping it done up to help preserve the roads. Discussion on process of fog seal.

Chairman Daniels discussed the US Hwy 169 detour. Discussion followed.

Commissioners asked about roof patches in the hangers at the airport. It is being worked on.

Sheriff Murphy asked about his budget. Commissioners stated they are still working on budget. Commissioner Symes asked about a transport unit that might be replaced that Juvenile Detention could possibly use. Discussion followed.

Sheriff Murphy reported on the tower project at the landfill. He is hoping it will be operational by the end of August. Discussion followed on what all will be included.

Jonathan Goering, Thrive Allen County, reported the 1.4 million for the B.A.S.E. grant should be coming this week.

Jonathan discussed the Economic Development for what they have done for the last five years; he presented a list for review. Allen County has contributed \$20,000 for the last few years and request to have additional funding for 2023 and forward. Discussion followed on budgets. Commissioner Symes discussed he would like to entertain the requested amount. Jonathan discussed the increases they have applied for, for the Allen County Regional Airport.

Jonathan stated a few things Thrive does: professional development, market the county better, surveys, sponsorships, grant writers, and Lisse too. Commissioner Symes stated with the partnership contribution now is getting a big, big return and need to maintain our infrastructure. He stated as a leader to prepare for the future, getting people and industry here. Commissioner Lee stated he would like to see where we are at before commitment to the request.

Cole stated you have to invest to get investment returns. Discussion followed on valuations. Commissioner Lee asked what about existing businesses or pie in the sky businesses. Jonathan stated more money just builds a bigger and better program.

Colleen Riebel, and Duane Jared, Conservation District Representatives, discussed budgets. Duane stated they were not asking for an increase; they are doing with what they have which is \$45,000. Discussion followed on what was going on in their district.

Rodney Burns, auditor, discussed 2023 proposed budget. Discussion followed on cuts and needs.

Commissioner Symes 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 10:33 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:38 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Symes moved to go into executive session for 10 more minutes for attorney client. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed. The time is 10:40 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Mitchell Garner, Public Works Director, Mark Griffith, Road and Bridge Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:50 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioners continued to work the 2023 proposed budget. Discussion followed.

Mitch discussed a landfill fire is happening at Tulsa currently.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Annual report for Volunteer Fire District #2
- b) Allen County, Kansas Placemaking Action Plan
- c) Thank you card from LaHarpe Day Committee
- d) 2021 Annual report from Fort Hays State University
- e) Quarterly report on medical enrollment
- f) Reach Healthcare foundation report
- g) KWORCC visit analysis

- h) Email from Rene Hart, Public Transit Manager on State mileage
- i) ROZ information changes
- j) Bond activity statement summary

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers \$141,848.50
- b) Payroll – mileage reimbursement for Bruce Symes, brief payment for Jerry B. Hathaway
- c) Payroll – pay increase for Charmanne Sayles, Tommy Sayles and Sharon Utlely, and Jacqueline Crump for election pay.
- d) Clerk's journal entry #39, #40, #41 and #42
- e) Abatements: RE Val 356, \$79.22, 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 1:19 a.m. until Tuesday, July 26, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the courthouse.

Jerry Daniels, Chairperson

Bruce Symes, Commissioner

Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk

David E. Lee, Commissioner