

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.

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Jeremy Hopkins, Allen County Interim Road & Bridge Director, Robert Johnson, County Counselor, Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Rickie Aiello, Allen County employee, Rodney Burns, Auditor, Arlyn Briggs, citizen, Robert Franklin, citizen, and Paul Zirjacks, citizens, was present to observe the meeting.

Commissioner Daniels led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the June 25, 2024 meeting.

Chairman Symes asked for public comment. Arlyn Briggs, citizen, reported he recently moved to Allen County. He stated he hopes by having dialog with the county commissioners that it would. He stated he will not run for an elected office, but he will continue to try to have input on ways to make things better for Allen County.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported they are still working on the lines for the water and sewer lines.

Mitch reported he has 3 contractors coming out to look at what is needed for generators at the airport. Commissioner Daniels stated he has had several calls on the lack of power to fuel planes when the outages have happened. Mitch stated he did speak with Jason, we could use theirs, however if the city is out, they have priority. Discussion followed.

Mitch presented bids for topcoat at the landfill. 3 bids were received. LSC Environmental Products, Apalachin, NY, 900 bags for \$21,440.00, LSC Environmental Products, 880 bales for \$22,193.00, and Profile Products, Buffalo Grove, IL, 880 square bales for \$24,600.80. Mitch recommends LSC Environmental bags, not bales. Discussion followed. Commissioner Lee approved to accept the bid from LSC Environmental Products, Apalachin, NY, 900 bags for \$21,440.00. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Mitch reported they put a roll off at the landfill for those citizens to drop off used fireworks, just as a precaution. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Lee asked how the landfill progress is going. Mitch stated they had just received a few more bags of bentonite. Discussion followed.

Jeremy Hopkins, Interim Road & Bridge Director, reported the mowers are out in their districts mowing. Bettis Asphalt is working on McAtee and then Dodge Drive. Bettis has a few openings this month for patching that needs done should we choose to do so. This would be for washout areas due to the weather. Discussion followed. Commissioners approved Jeremy to speak with Bettis about the areas needing repaired.

Jeremy stated West Virginia will be getting chip sealed on the 9<sup>th</sup>, then they will move to Petrolia. He stated the pothole patcher truck down, but is being repaired.

Discussion began on the 2025 budget. Rodney discussed Draft #2. Interest on idle funds could be adjusted due to 2024 trends. Rodney will adjust the 2024 estimated interest income to reflect more receipted. Chairman Symes discussed the requests from Southeast Kansas Mental Health.

Chairman Symes also discussed the request from ACARF. Commissioners are discussing possibly using PILOT funds to help out ACARF. Chairman Symes stated he would like to

see us contributing \$1500 per month, Commissioner Daniels stated we was thinking \$1000 per month, and Commissioner Lee stated he was considering \$2000 per month. Discussion followed. Commissioner Lee moved to support ACARF with \$24,000 a year starting July 1, 2024 with the intent based upon budgetary discussion to continue with monies coming from PILOT funds. Chairman Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chairman Symes brought up the request for consoles for the dispatch center. Rodney discussed the use of the special equipment fund and how this could be used to save up for replacement items. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Lee asked Rodney how having a sales tax to help fund the Ambulance service. Discussion followed.

Chairman Symes stated he got a response from Chelsie regarding the consoles and if they payment for these could be spread out for 3 years, such as a lease/own option. Discussion followed. Commissioners are going to remove the budget request of \$100,000 for consoles, as they are going to use PILOT funds to purchase these.

Commissioners discussed the meals on wheels budget items for the jail fund. Shannon explained that the elderly funds pay back to the jail fund each month for the meals.

Marcia Davis, Thrive Allen County, joined the meeting.

John Stranghoner, citizen, joined the meeting.

Chairman Symes discussed the proposed hangar budget request. Mitch had budgeted for 2 hangars but they could cut the cost of one hangar. Discussion followed on rental amounts. Commissioner will remove \$125,000 from capital outlay to reflect construction of only 1 hangar.

Chairman Symes asked about cutting \$10,000 from chemical costs from the Noxious Weed budget. Discussion followed. Rodney will take out \$10,000 from the chemical expense.

John Stranghoner, citizen, stated he owns 20 acres of pasture on Nebraska Rd, where a bridge had been replaced. He felt it was wrong that as a landowner he was not notified of the work being done. An old bridge had been dug out and whistles put in until a new structure could be put in. John would like to have the dirt returned to his property, which was put on the adjacent landowner's property. Discussion followed. Commissioners asked Jeremy to go ahead and get the dirt moved back and a fence replaced.

Marcia Davis, Thrive Allen County, reported on the lola community conversation. lola citizens stated the trails, community support, Bowlus, hospital, courthouse square are great things for our community. Areas for growth could include food truck village, water stations, continuous sidewalks near G&W and elementary school, more communication about events, public restrooms near the square, improved billboards, recycling. The top three priorities would be tourism readiness, community communications, infrastructure. Discussion followed. Commissioners would be open to discussion with the City about partnering on a public restroom.

Discussion continued on possible cuts in the budget.

Commissioner Lee moved to move forward with putting a sales tax question on the November ballot to go towards Emergency Medical Services. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed. 3-0-0.

Commissioners were presented with Resolution 202407 Reducing Speed Limit. This will be for the area where the Last Mile trail crosses US 169 at Hawaii Rd. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve Resolution 202407. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioner Daniels moved to approve Chairman Symes' signature on BG change order with overage to come out of Pilot funds. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioner Daniels moved to designate Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 a county holiday. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) June monthly reports for Attorney, County Clerk, Public Works, Register of Deeds
- b) KDHE Public Notice No. KS-AG-24-172
- c) KDHE Public Notice No. KS-Q-22-124

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Payroll – Enrollment form for Edward Donovan
- b) Payroll - Change forms for Jill Allen, Amy Wilson, Thad Parker
- c) Payroll – Reimbursement to Patrick Cash
- d) Clerks Journal Entries - #18, 19, 20, 21
- e) Abatements: RE, Value 322, \$66.66, Year 2023  
RE, Value 3,526, \$708.64, Year 2021  
PP, Value 3,2023, \$533.36, Year 2023

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Lee moved to adjourn, Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m. until Tuesday, July 9 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly's Room of the courthouse.

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Bruce Symes, Chairperson

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David Lee, Commissioner

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Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk

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Jerry Daniels, Commissioner