

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, Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Rickie Aiello, Allen County employee, Chelsie Decker, 911 Communications Director, Jared Wheeler, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director, Anthony Maness, Sheriff candidate, Richard Huthsing, Halcomb Construction, Terry Johnson, citizen, and Paul Zirjacks, citizens, was present to observe the meeting.

Sarah Haney led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the June 4, 2024 meeting.

Chairman Symes asked for public comment. There was none.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported the contractors for sewer line project are dropping off the pipes for the project.

Mitch stated they are working on the AWOS today, hopefully done Thursday for inspection.

Mitch presented chemical purchase numbers from last year. Last year we spend \$132,798.17 on chemical and this year we have spent \$58,670.00 so far this year. Just ordered some more so will have more bills coming in. Discussion followed.

Sheriff Bryan Murphy joined the meeting.

Jeremy Hopkins, Interim Road & Bridge Director, reported crews were out Sunday in the Northern part of the county working on washouts.

Jeremy reported the 2011 F150 that we pull the pothole patcher with is down. Jeremy received a quote from Twins for \$20,800 to fix the engine. It currently has 177,000 miles and we use it as a plow truck and also has a dump bed. Discussion followed on the need for a new truck or just rebuild this engine. Could we get quotes from other places? Commissioner Daniels moved to approve getting the engine rebuilt. Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 2-1-0.

Jeremy stated they are starting to move equipment to West Virginia. Work will begin once the crews are done working the washouts.

Dawn Murray, ACARF, and Julie Payne, ACARF, joined the meeting.

Jared Wheeler, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director, reminding the commissioner about the Iola Community Conversation, 6 p.m., at the Iola High School Science Building. This will be livestreamed on YouTube.

Richard Huthsing, Halcomb Construction, asking for clarification on what decisions were made two weeks ago regarding the additional equipment and time for the landfill project. It was decided to approve the extension, and then revisit the additional costs for equipment once the project was done. Discussion followed.

Dawn Murray, ACARF, president of ACARF board, requesting to be added to the budget. They provide yearly microchip and nail trimmings, taking dog and cat to nursing homes weekly, food bank for those who cannot afford food for their pets, Perry Trust

vouchers for spay/neuter program, emergency shelter for pets when homes are lost. Most of ACARFs funding comes from Second Chance, private donors. Second Chance is the second-hand store run by volunteers and all proceeds go to ACARF. Discussion followed.

Colleen Riebel, Conservation District, district manager, Amber Johnson NRCS Supervisor, presented their 2025 budget request. They are asking for the same amount as last year, \$45,000.00. Discussion followed. Amber explained that her role is on the federal level and the partnership between federal agency and county agency goes back to the 1930s.

Chelsie Decker, 911 Communications Director, presented updated information on the consoles she is requesting for next years budget. Her vendors recommend not splitting up the consoles for replacement. The warranties per console would differ and possibly cause confusion. Every 6 months pricing goes up due to their costs increasing. Discussion followed. Commissioner Lee would like to stop by the center to be able to see what a console is. The commissioners would like a more detailed bid for them, instead of just a budgetary proposal to just get a rough number for budget discussion.

Robert Johnson, County Counselor, joined the meeting.

Sheriff Bryan Murphy, presented his 2025 budget proposal. Chairman Symes asked about the Sheriff's VIN account. Discussion followed.

Chairman Symes moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 10:00 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:05 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Email regarding the Moderate-Income Housing grant
- b) May report from Noxious Weed, Treasurer
- c) May Fund Status report
- d) FEMA information

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$30,951.25
- b) Payroll – Change form for Patrick Cash

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 10:12 a.m. until Tuesday, May 28 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