

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, Anthony Maness, Republican candidate for Sheriff, Jared Wheeler, Thrive, Tom Nevans, citizen, and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Chairman Symes led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the May 28, 2024 meetings.

Chairman Symes asked for public comment. Tom Nevans updated the commissioners on some improvements being made to the Veterans Wall Memorial. They are also extending the deadline to get the banners to be placed around the square.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported most of the electric work is done at the airport.

Mitch stated that equipment has been delivered to begin on the sewer line project.

Mitch reported that Richard Hutz, Halcomb Construction owner, would like to come speak to the commissioners next week as he was unable to be here last meeting. Discussion followed.

Mitch discussed the changes to his budgets. Commissioners asked for copies of his budget request. He will come back with them to finish discussion.

Jeremy Hopkins, Interim Road & Bridge Director, reported they will begin working on West Virginia Rd around the 10th of June, then move to Petrolia black top.

Jeremy reported the mower crews are out but the ditches are wet so they are getting what they can.

Jeremy stated they will be renting a water truck from Neese in Fort Scott to go along with the project on West Virginia.

Shannon Patterson, County Clerk, discussed her budget requests. She explained the reasoning for a slightly lower election and service to the elderly budgets. The clerks budget increased slightly due to postage rate increases as well as the possibly personnel raises.

Mitch Garner, presented copies of his budget requests. Mitch explained the increases in the airport budget. Chairman Symes asked about the telephone increase, is there anything that can be done about AT&T that keeps increasing. Paul, citizen, says his personal AT&T keeps increasing as well. Discussion followed.

Mitch discussed the noxious weed budget. He explained the increase in wages as the additional staff beginning earlier in the year. Phone is the same as airport so he will check into alternate options for it as well. Chemical costs have increased. Questions were asked about the increase in KPERS, it is because of a working after retirement employee and the rate is higher.

Terry Johnson, citizen, joined the meeting.

Mitch then discussed the solid waste budget. Commissioners asked about the engineering fees, once the new cell is done will that go down. Mitch stated if we keep working on the C&D and monofill then we will continue to need the engineers. Mitch stated he is waiting on the new cell to be finished before looking into any new equipment. A new backhoe is needed but it can wait.

Misty Rice, Register of Deeds, presented her budget request. She reported on her capital outlay increase, she needs new index books. She explained what the purpose is of the index books and the need to have them replaced all at once.

Darolyn (Crickett) Maley, Treasurer, presented her budget request. She explained her increases. Discussion followed.

Danielle Louk, Deputy Appraiser, presented the Appraisers requested budget. She explained the decrease in salaries and the few increases they have proposed. She explained Field Mobile, a program and device, that she is looking into which would be a little more efficient. Discussion followed.

Chelsie Decker, 911 Director, presented her budget requests. She explained the increase in office equipment as they are needing to replace the consoles and possibly adding a 4th console to our center. Commissioner Lee asked about possibly replacing one console at a time. Discussion followed.

Jeremy Hopkins, presented budget requests. Jeremy explained the proposed increases. The main increase, other than personnel, would be paving materials. Discussion followed.

A discussion was had on a starting point when looking at raises for next year, for budget purposes.

Chairman Symes moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for non-elected personnel. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 10:35 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Danielle Louk, Deputy Appraiser, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:45 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Lee moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 10:46 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:51 a.m. No action taken.

Shannon, on behalf of Red Cross, asked for permission to use the Moran Senior Center for a blood drive and waiving the rental fee. Commissioners approved the request.

Commissioner Daniels reported on the contractors meeting held last week for the Airport Industrial Project.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) May monthly reports for Public Works, Register of Deeds, County Clerk, Attorney
- b) Tax Appeal Hearing letter

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$200,921.01
- b) Payroll – Change forms for Danielle Louk, Dallas Merritt
- c) Clerks Journal Entries - #17
- d) Abatements – PP, Value 0, \$358.64, 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 11:00 a.m. until Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly's Room of the courthouse.

Bruce Symes, Chairperson

David Lee, Commissioner

Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner