

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

Jeremy Hopkins, Allen County Road & Bridge Director, Robert Johnson, County Counselor, Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Rickie Aiello, Allen County employee, Chelsie Decker, 911 Communications Director, Marcia Davis, Thrive Allen County, and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Chairman Daniels led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the February 25, 2025 meeting.

Chairman Daniels asked for public comment. There was none.

Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, presented his 3-to-5-year plan for roads and equipment. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Lee asked Jeremy about an email he had sent about a road needing repaired. Discussion followed.

Chairman Daniels asked what Jeremy needed right now to help with the chip seal, equipment or a few extra people? Jeremy stated the need of few more workers.

Chelsie Decker, 911 Communications Director, presented updates from her department. Jason Trego, Emergency Manager, just finished up Fire Instructor Academy. He can teach the EFD class to new hires which will save the county money.

Chelsie stated they just hosted Excellence in Dispatch Certification classes at the college. There were 17-18 individuals in each class. Two Allen County employees need 1 more class, and two employees need 2 more classes to get their certifications.

Chelsie reported she just posted for 2 job openings, and will post on Indeed as well in a few days.

Chelsie reported that she, Jason, and another employee will attend NAVIGATOR conference in Orlando. With Chelsie and Jason each teaching a class there, she was able to save 33%. Total cost of the trip for the three of them will be \$5,694.21.

Chelsie reminded of Storm Fury on the Plains to be held at the Bowlus on Monday, March 10, at 6:30 pm.

Marcia Davis, Thrive Allen County, reported on the Carlyle Community Conversation. 13 residents attended. They are changing the structure slightly to make it more of a conversation instead of a question/answer type of gathering. Topics that had come up were roads, lighting on Covert, Dunlap, Adam, and 4th St., a mural on the storm shelter, sign coming into Carlyle, and rock by the storm shelter. Another thing they will like to start is a follow up after a few months with the community, with hopes it will keep them more involved and empower residents to speak up sooner. Next conversation is in LaHarpe on March 25th at 6 pm.

Commissioners reviewed paperwork for the storm siren upgrades previously discussed by Jason Trego. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the Chairman's signature on the grant application for upgrades to the storm sirens. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Discussion was had on creating the Road and Bridge Committee. Commissioner Lee has 2 individuals interested, Commissioner Brocker has 2 individuals interested, and Chairman Daniels has 1 individual interested. They decided they will email the information to Jeremy for him to coordinate a meeting and one of the commissioners will be in attendance.

Chairman Daniels moved to reappoint Commissioner Brocker to the hospital board. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioner Lee moved to approve Bukaty's proposal for 2025 health insurance, with the option to give a notice of termination at a later date if chosen to do so. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioner Lee discussed the evening meetings. March 25th will be the first one and then the following months are still being decided on which Tuesday. The meetings will be held at 6 pm.

Michael Burnett, EMS Director, joined the meeting.

Commissioner Lee moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:10 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:25 a.m. No action taken.

Michael Burnett, EMS Director, discussed the demo unit he spoke about last week. The company had 5 units last week and now they are down to 1. Discussion followed. Commission Lee moved to purchase the demo for 227,699.00. and approve the additional \$3,000.00 on the remount project. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Jeremy would like to get outdoor lighting at the shop. Commissioners said to go ahead and get some bids.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Drug court graduation invitation
- b) Kansas State Revolving Fund letter
- c) Zoning board minutes from planning meeting
- d) Letter notifying of a public hearing from City of Iola
- e) February monthly reports from Public Works, Register of Deeds, County Clerk, Attorney

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – 2/27/2025-\$297,056.30 & 3/3/2025-\$220,640.17
- b) Payroll – Enrollment for Sydney Joe Robertson
- c) Payroll – Mileage reimbursement for Jill Allen
- d) Clerks Journal Entries - #6
- e) Abatements – RE, Value 4,103, \$689.48, Year 2024
PP, Value 0, \$25.98, Year 2023
PP, Value 979, \$418.50, Year 2024

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Lee moved to adjourn, Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m. until Tuesday, March 11 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

Jerry Daniels, Chairperson

David Lee, Commissioner

Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk

John F. Brocker, Commissioner