

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 Jill Allen, Deputy Allen County Clerk

Jeremy Hopkins, Allen County Road & Bridge Director, Misty Rice, Register of Deeds, Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, Will Rogers & Richard Huthing, Halcomb, Bob Johnson, County Counselor, Jared Brooks, Schwab Eaton, Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Terry Johnson, Rick Hill & Paul Zirjacks, citizens

Misty led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Daniels recognized retired Neosho County Sheriff Jim Keath & Allen County resident Scott Welch with a moment of silence.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the March 11, 2025 meeting.

Commissioner Daniels asked for public comment.

Rick Hill, county citizen, reported on trash, junk trailers, etc. on 600 St south of Hwy 54. Jill agreed with Rick, as she drives the road every day and sees all the trash. Terry stated that he has already met with one of the property owners and he is going to bulldoze one house down & clean up the other place. Terry will visit the other residence soon.

Sheriff Maness checked in to see if commissioners needed anything.

Commissioner Lee told Misty that the department heads are to report next Tuesday night as the 6:00 pm commission meeting.

Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, talked about normal maintenance. He had to shut down a truck due to mileage. He reported on last Friday's wind. Commissioner Lee asked Jeremy if he was taking care of landfill in Mitch's absence. He stated no.

Richard Huthing & Will Rogers, Halcomb talked to commissioners about a change order pertaining to the trench at landfill. Richard stated he wants to finish the project, but wants to know where they stand. Chairman Daniels asked when it will be finished, it has been at least six months. We just want it done, nothing personal. Bob said the problem is there has been so many extensions that have not been met, that is where the frustration lies. Will admitted there have been lots of extensions & change orders, which has made everyone unhappy, both sides. The last deal is just related to the trench. He went over what all has been done per the specs. He said 80% is excavated & done. KDHE will allow them to do the liner in sections. The trench is 20' deep, 3' in width. Commissioner Lee asked why it did not get done; it has been sitting there almost a year. Will said their goal was to keep things going, they sent a change order to Mitch. He said right now they just need to confirm they will get payment for it. Commissioner Lee said we are holding \$300,00.00. Jared Brooks, Schwab Eaton, stated the contract time expired Oct 31, 2024. At that time an extension was given. The cell was complete at the end of Dec 2024. A punch list was issued for clean up work. They were told trench would be complete by March 15. He feels the trench could have been constructed in a timelier fashion. Erosion has occurred, causing more work now for the contractor. Commissioner Daniels expressed we need to move forward. Bob asked when will it be done, give us a date. Will stated with good weather, maybe two weeks, should be easy to get done in 60 days. Richard mentioned the cost of the material more than the bid. Richard suggested bringing back what it cost to get it done. Commissioner Daniels said get it done then come back and bring punch list and we will go over it and we will be fair. Jared asked for an updated construction schedule. There are evaporators that

need to be installed. Richard said he has talked with the evaporator suppliers. Jared said he is not holding retainers on material.

Arlyn Briggs joined the meeting. Arlyn stated he sees repetition from time to time to time. He told the commissioners they have a responsibility too. He stated they have been very forgiving.

Jeff Keithly, Allen Regional Transit, shared statistics on their transportation service. Discussion followed.

Terry reported on the nuisance properties he is working with.

Commissioner Lee moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney Client Privilege, Commissioner Brocker seconded, motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:06 am. Those present will be the commissioners and Counselor Johnson. Commissioners reconvened at 9:16 am, no action taken.

Michael Burnett, Allen County EMS, reported on the new ambulance. It's just waiting on the decals. He'd like to install a locking floor plate for the cots. It's an extra \$766.45. Commissioner Lee moved to purchase the locking bar floor plate for \$766.45, Commissioner Brocker seconded, motion passed 3-0-0.

Michael discussed another ambulance he just wants to keep for now.

Ben Ferguson, county citizen, purchased 802 S State St, lola KS in December. Part of the property – 816 S State, .55-acre tract, next to his tract, is owned by Allen County. He would like to purchase said tract from Allen County. He pointed it out on a map to the commissioners. Terry stated it was in the FEMA buyout. You cannot build on it. Ben said there are guidelines to building on it. Ben doesn't intend to build on it. He just wants it because it's right up against his. Commissioner Brocker said we have to get permission from FEMA to sell it and certain verbiage in the deed. Commissioner Lee asked about selling property without going out for bid. He mentioned a lease in the meantime so Ben can use it for a garden. Commissioners will work with Ben on this, making sure to be within the legal guidelines. Terry and Bob will research this.

Jeremy had to rent a hammer for the quarry. He is waiting to begin chip seal in June.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Allen County Fair Board expenses
- b) Allen County Solid Waste Financial Assurance Agency account info Feb 2025

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – 3/13/2025-\$401,299.51 & 3/17/25-\$36,195.74
- b) Payroll – Appeal Brief for Brandon Cameron, Allen County Attorney
- c) Payroll – Reimb for mileage Terry Call
- d) Abatements – RE, Value 588, \$92.34, Year 2023
RE, Value 633, \$99.34, Year 2024
PP, Value 1,519, \$454.34, 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 9:36 am until Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

Jerry Daniels, Chairperson

David Lee, Commissioner

Jill Allen, Deputy Allen County Clerk -

John F Brocker, Commissioner