

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

Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Robert Johnson, II, County Counselor, Mitchell Garner, Public Works Director, Jeremy Hopkins, Interim Road & Bridge Director, Bryan Murphy, Allen County Sheriff, Chelsie Angleton, 911 Communications Director, Danielle Louk, Allen County Deputy Appraiser, Rick Aiello, employee, Jared Wheeler, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director, Jared Brooks, Schwab Eaton, Steve Green, citizen, Chase Riebel, citizen, Bob Franklin, citizen, and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Commissioner Jerry Daniels led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the special meetings on May 22, 2024.

Chairman Symes asked for public comment. Steve Green, president of the Iola Amateur Radio Club, stated they recently lost access to the tower where their repeater was located. The repeater is needed to be able to communicate longer distances. They are looking for a new tower to put this on. They are wondering if they can use the county tower. Commissioner Lee asked what height they are looking at. Steve stated 150 feet. The antenna itself is an 18-foot vertical antenna. They would need to set up a portable building at the base of the tower as well, that would house the radio equipment. Sheriff Murphy stated there is enough room out there and they do have it set up with the capability of running a separate meter for their electric needed. Discussion followed.

Nathan Fawson, Job Springer, Ken McWhirter, SEK Mental Health Center, joined the meeting

Jared Brooks, Schwab Eaton, reported on the progress of the new landfill cell. Right now, the contractors are constructing the bentonite amended clay liner. This has taken a little longer than anticipated. Jared then went through the history of the project. He explained how they came up with the new completion date when adding in their inclement weather days. Jared recommends adding the additional 45 days for inclement weather as well as Halcomb's request for 45 additional days. Halcomb is also asking for \$129,072 to cover 2 months for 1 reclaimer, 1 water truck and 1 smooth drum roller. The additional 90 days would make a revised finish in August. Will Rogers and Ed Rogers, Halcomb Construction, explained a little more on what they found before being able to start on the liner. They explained how the rain and weather has hindered progress. Commissioner Lee asked how come the soil issue was not found with the initial testing. Jared explained how their testing process is done and their findings. Discussion followed. Commissioner Lee moved to issue the 45-day extension. Chairman Symes states he agrees with the time extension. He believes we need to agree to compensation request as well. They will revisit the additional compensation after the final testing. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Nathan Fawson, SEK Mental Health Center, presented their 2025 budget request. Nathan gave a brief history of the Mental Health Center and their growth in the recent years. They are now a Certified Community Behavior Health Clinic. With this certification it now looks to them to merge with Ashley Clinic to provide whole person care. They utilize the county's funding to treat those individuals who are unable to pay for their services. They are requesting \$167,038 for 2025, an increase of \$5,648. Commissioner Symes asked if the fundings from all counties are the same. Nathan stated no every county is different based on the scope of services. They are an affiliate provider with the VA. Discussion followed.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported on the grant for the taxiway extension. The County's local share cost will be \$6,367.

Mitch reported that Heartland is there and trenching the line into the ground. They will not hook the electric from the North hangar and the t hangar, we will have to have our electrician do that.

Mitch reported that Robert Mills of the Topeka Air Museum, wants to build a hangar as we are building our new hangar. Discussion followed on space availability for future hangars.

Jeremy Hopkins, Interim Road & Bridge Director, reported he is planning to start repairs on West Virginia Rd and Petrolia Rd within the next couple of weeks. Distributor truck is back. Discussion on how to keep public informed on the "priority" list. Maybe put them on the calendar area of the agenda. Discussion followed.

Jeremy presented bids on tires for the loader in the quarry. He received two bids, J.D.'s Automotive, Tiron 29.5-L25 E5-L5, \$13,206.83 for 2 tires, and Sigg Tire & Repair, Weslake WR04 E4/L4, \$7,500 for 2 tires. Jeremy recommends going with JD, even as the price is higher; the tires are better and will last longer. Commissioner Lee moved to purchase the tires from J.D.'s Automotive for \$13,206.83. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Jeremy stated he is going to pick up traffic signals from El Dorado today for the Humboldt project.

Commissioner Lee would like to thank all the organizations that participated in the Memorial Day celebrations.

Chairman Symes moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for non-elected personnel. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 10:10 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Danielle Louk, Deputy Appraiser, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:20 a.m. No action taken.

Chairman Symes moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 10:20 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Jared Wheeler, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:25 a.m. No action taken.

Chairman Symes moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 10:25 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:30 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Save the Date for the Annual General Commission Meeting of the Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission
- b) State of Disaster Emergency Proclamation by the Governor

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers - none
- b) Payroll – Enrollment forms for Christopher Bowman, Connor Martin
- c) Payroll – Change form for Jami Clark
- d) Payroll – Mileage reimbursement for Jill Allen, Misty Rice

- e) Payroll – April Process Service for Brian Plumlee, Daren Kellerman, Steve Womack, Haley Donovan, Brenda Beth, Marion Carson
- f) Abatements – TR, Value 157, \$21.82, Year 2023
Oil, Value 11,911, \$1,728.00, Year 2023

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Daniels moved to adjourn, Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m. until Tuesday, June 4, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

Bruce Symes, Chairperson

David Lee, Commissioner

Shannon Patterson, County Clerk

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner