

The Allen County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. with Chairman William "Bill" H. King, Commissioner Jerry Daniels, Commissioner Bruce Symes, and Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk in the assembly room of the Allen County Courthouse.

Nick Reynolds, Humboldt Union, Trevor Hoag, Iola Register, Roy Smith, Allen County Undersheriff, Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor, Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Terry Call, Allen County EMS Financial/Zoning Administrator, Ron Holman, Allen County House and Grounds Director, Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, and Paul Zirjack, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Chairman King led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the regular meeting on April 28, 2020.

Ron Holman, Allen County House and Grounds Director, visited with the commissioner on putting push bars on the outside doors since the courthouse has gone to just the north entrance. He stated that each of the 9 doors would be required to have push bars. The cost could be up to \$400 per door. Discussion followed. Commissioner Daniels suggested Ron get solid bids while the commission consider the installation.

Chairman King expressed his appreciation to Ron Holman and Terry Call for their signs and barriers within each of the offices in the courthouse due to the COViD-10 pandemic. He also requested that anyone who works in the courthouse park on the west side of the square (Washington Street) and not on the north side (Jackson Street) to allow customers the closer parking spots. Discussion followed. Chairman King will draft a letter.

Commissioner Symes commented he had visited with office's on how yesterday went. He said Crickett (Treasurer's office) stated they had a good day, it was steady. Chairman King suggested commissioner wait another week before increasing the number of visitors in the courthouse. Undersheriff Smith said he was at the north entrance for about 6 hours and thought it ran smoothly. Commissioner Daniels thanked Ron for all the extra work he has had to do. Ron explained departments are cleaning their areas...counters and such.

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, stated last Friday was the last day for residents to sign up for dust control. Commissioner Daniels asked if residents will have a small "Grace" period. Mitch stated yes, they have had 31 sign up for dust control. Chairman King mentioned he used to do the "Grace" period up until he actually ordered the materials.

Mitch reported on storm damage over the weekend. He called out 8 employees for cleaning and cutting up the downed trees and limbs. They are still picking up limbs. His crews have been out fixing a guard rail that was hit over the weekend. Commissioners asked Mitch if there was any structural damage to any county buildings. Mitch stated there was not.

Chairman King questioned about the procedure if a citizen calls the Sheriff's office after hours does it automatically ring to dispatch? If so, does the phone numbers transfer with it? Undersheriff Smith said yes, calls forward to 911, and he believes the phone number showing would too. Chairman King stated he had just had questions about the procedure.

Chairman King asked if the Allen County Jail were taking inmates while COViD-19 was happening? Undersheriff Smith stated they were not, they quit taking inmates about the

middle of March. Chairman King asked if the intent is to pick up housing out of county inmates once everything calms down.

Chairman King asked about the current inmates and their medical attention. Undersheriff Smith stated a health care person comes to the jail on Tuesday and Thursdays. He assured the commission the jail is meeting the needs of the inmates.

Chairman King discussed an option to the requested radio tower. He mentioned one of the windmill's 350-foot towers are being disassembled for scrap and was wondering if this would be an option to paying for a new one to purchase this one. Discussion followed. Chairman King requested Counselor Johnson to check into this. Counselor Johnson stated 6 of the 7 tower vendors are interested in bidding on the tower. If the commission continue on bids, he will have a pre-bid meeting on the tower project.

Chairman King discussed budget versus cash for 2020 budget.

Terry Call, Allen County EMS Financial/Zoning Administrator, mentioned there is a "BRICK" grant he can apply for in September that will help with payments towards storm shelters. Discussion followed on waiting to apply for the grant.

Commissioner Daniels updated the commission on a conference call with Senator Jerry Moran. He stated they are working hard at the federal level. They discussed schools, cities and counties. Senator Moran wanted to assure they are aware of Allen County. Commissioner Daniels stated other topics of discussion and others on the call.

Jerry Hathaway, Allen County Attorney, joined the meeting to express his appreciation to the commissioners for the shut down and continued pay to the employees. His office has a good set up with the security glass. Jerry expressed his concerns for when the courts open back up. He mentioned Judge Creitz is working on keeping them updated on court happenings. Jerry informed the commission he and other attorneys have been working on plea deals to take some of the load off of the courts.

Commissioner Symes discussed economics and looking at tightening the belt on budgets. Could some of the departments shift expenses. Jerry stated his are kind of static, i.e. witness fees and such. He also mentioned to the commission that a full-time person is planning on retiring in the next few months, his part time person will fill that position and he will not be filling the part time persons position.

Sherrie requested to purchase social distancing guards like what has already been ordered for election purposes to make sure they come in time for election day. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve a second order. Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Terry updated the commission on the Moran Ambulance Station. The curbing is completed. The construction crews are working on insulation and will be hanging sheetrock before long. They will be having a walk through at the Humboldt Ambulance Station on Thursday. If the punch list isn't long, they will probably be able to open Humboldt's some time here in May. Moran's station will be later on.

Trevor asked the commission about their phase plan for Allen County. Commissioner Symes stated the county will continue to look at the state plan set out by Rebecca Johnson last week at the commission meeting. Commissioner Daniels agreed and stated everyone needs to get back to business and get the world turning again. The county will continue doing as much as they are allowed to do until we are allowed to do more. Chairman King reminded them that several departments continued to work as they are essential employees!

Counselor Johnson requested the commission chair sign off on utility easements north of the Allen County Regional Airport. The utility company is moving lines 6 feet south of Minnesota Road. Discussion followed. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve Chairman King's signature on the easements. Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Chairman King signed.

Commissioner Symes moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Non-elected personal. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Those in the room will be Chairman King, Commissioner Symes, Commissioner Daniels, and Robert Johnson, II, Allen County Counselor. The time is now 9:12 a.m. Commissioners reconvened at 9:27 a.m. No action was taken.

Commissioner Daniels commented he would like to see all taxing entities and department heads keep their 2021 budget requests flat other than COLA. Chairman King agreed. Commissioner Symes stated "I associate myself with that remark". Mitch stated big tires costs are going up. Commissioners stated if a request increases the department head just needs to come justify the expense. Commissioner Daniels discussed Federal and State funding to help with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). They are partnering with counties and city governments, hospitals

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Payroll – enrollment forms for Brian C. Plumlee, Full time Sheriff's Deputy and Edward E. Foster, Seasonal mower.
- b) Journal entries: #19 & #20

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Daniels moved to adjourn, Commissioner Symes seconded, and motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m. until Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

William H. King, Chairperson

Bruce Symes, Commissioner

Sherrie L. Riebel, County Clerk

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner