

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.

Vickie Moss, Iola Register, Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Robert Johnson, II, County Counselor, Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, Mitchell Garner, Public Works Director, Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, Rick Aiello, employee, Lisse Regher, Thrive Allen County, Jessica Thompson, Thrive Allen County, Terry Johnson, citizen, and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Chairman Lee led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the regular meeting on November 7, 2023.

Chairman Lee asked for public comment, there was none.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported that the landfill test pad construction has been delayed. The truck delivering the machine was in an accident in Dallas, Tx.

Mitch reported EPA for dirt removal will be back in the spring. Discussion followed.

Mitch reported that the new operating plan has been submitted to KDHE and they are now waiting on approval.

Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, reported the overlay on country club heights is going well.

Mark presented information on the curves west of Humboldt. It would be next spring before anything would be able to be done.

Lisse, Thrive, reported that they are still waiting to hear from the HUB, but otherwise they have not been able to find any other grants to help fund the Rural Water District #8 project. Jerry stated B&G will provide a list of options to trim some of the scope on the remainder of the Airport Industrial Park project. An archeological study will need to be done. Discussion followed.

Terry Call, Zoning, reported on the 5 archeologists he contacted that are approved by the State to work in Kansas. KB Archaeological Consulting quoted a cost of \$5456.00. Terry informed the commissioners that the field study will last 1-2 days, then it will take approximately 4-6 weeks to write report, and then it will be sent to the State. Discussion followed. Commissioner Symes moved to approve KB Archaeological Consulting to perform the study for \$5456.00. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chairman Lee commented on how 4 different companies want to be our insurance brokers. He is wondering if we need an outside party to come look at the proposals to see if they are apples to apples comparisons. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Symes asked if the archeological study could possibly delay the process even more if something is found. Commissioner Daniels states yes that is a possibility. Terry stated if the survey comes back clean, they can switch from boring to open trench which could save money.

Lisse reported they have some interns that she would like to have come in and give a report on the community conversations they are holding at the schools.

Stacey Fager, USD 257 Superintendent, Jenna Higginbotham, USD 257 Curriculum Director & Preschool Coordinator, Sherri O'Rear, Ready Set Learn Preschool, Hayley Westerman, Munchkinland and More Childcare Center, joined the meeting.

Chairman Lee opened the Canvass of the November 7, 2023 City School General Election. Shannon Patterson, County Clerk, presented the provisional ballots. She explained the reasonings for such provisional ballots. There are 22 total. Of the 22 ballots, 13 were counted and 9 were not. Commissioner Symes moved to certify the November 7, 2023 General Election results. Commission Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Jenna Higginbotham, Sherri O'Rear, and Hayley Westerman, are requesting a letter of support. They are requesting this apply for the Capital Project Fund Accelerator Grant to build a Mustang Community Learning Center. Jenna explained the needs they are seeing in the community. The plan is to build this center at the east end of the playground area located at the lola Elementary School. lola USD 257 and Munchkinland and More Childcare Center are partnering to apply for this grant. This will potentially add 31 new daycare spots. Jenna stated there is a need for more infant childcare availability. Commissioner Symes moved to sign the letter of support. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioners have cancelled the meeting on December 5, 2023 as they will be at the KAC conference.

Commissioners discussed the last meeting of the year. Tuesday December 26, 2023 is a holiday for the County. It was decided to hold the regular meeting in conjunction with the year end meeting scheduled for Friday, December 29, 2023 at 12:30 p.m.

Commissioners discussed the LAVTR and the outlook of it beginning again.

Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, reported on a zoning hearing held on Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Dan Stanley applied to put in commercial self-storage units on his property located at 368 1600<sup>th</sup> St, Humboldt. He plans to allow access during daylight hours. The planning board moved to recommend approval. Discussion followed. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve the request. Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Minutes from Dan Stanley zoning hearing
- b) CTD10 Minutes from August 16, 2023 meeting
- c) October 2023 monthly report for Noxious Weed

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers - \$58,328.57
- b) Payroll – Change forms for Dallas Merritt & Kevin Turner
- c) Payroll – Mileage reimbursement for Darcy Burton
- d) Payroll – Longevity payouts for 2024

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Daniels moved to adjourn, Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 10:03 a.m. until Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

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David E. Lee, Chairperson

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Bruce Symes, Commissioner

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Shannon Patterson, County Clerk

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Jerry Daniels, Commissioner