

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

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Jeremy Hopkins, Allen County Road & Bridge Director, John Brocker, County Commissioner Elect, Chase Vaughn, County Counselor representative, Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Rickie Aiello, Allen County employee, Marcia Davis, Thrive Allen County, Patrick Zirjacks, Thrive Allen County, Kaysin Crusinberry, Thrive Intern, Max Anderson, Thrive Intern, Robert Franklin, citizen, and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Rick Aiello led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the November 5, 2024, November 12, 2024 and November 14, 2024 meetings.

Chairman Symes asked for public comment. There was none.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, presented bids for topcoat used at the landfill. LSC Environmental, Apalachin, NY for a total of \$21,452.00 (bags) and Profile Products, Buffalo Grove, IL for a total of \$24,300.80 (bales). Mitch's recommendation is LSC. Commissioner Lee moved to purchase landfill cover from LSC for \$21,452.00. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Mitch presented the airport revenue information requested last week. He showed the three revenue sources and comparison from 2022, 2023, and 2024. Discussion followed.

Mitch reported he received the final bid for the hangar this morning. He will have that ready for the commission next week.

Chairman Symes asked how the new cell is coming along. Mitch stated they are pumping more water out again but still working on other aspects of the project. He will be having a conference call with Will Rodgers, Halcomb, and Jared Brooks, Schwab Eaton, later this afternoon.

Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, reported his crews are out working on washouts again, just normal maintenance.

Chelsie Decker, 911 communications Director, joined the meeting.

Jeremy presented a bid for another motor grader. He will be trading in a 2004 with 21,000 hours for a \$30,000 allowance. The new mower grader will be \$384,931.00. Discussion followed. Commissioner Lee moved to purchase the new motor grader for \$384,931.00. Commissioner Daniles seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioners asked Jeremy what equipment would be next for replacement. The new semis should begin coming in shortly. And he would like to look at another mower max or brush cutter.

Max Anderson and Kaysin Crusinberry, Thrive Interns, introduced themselves and their purpose. They have spoken with Iola and Moran. In Iola they met with each grade separately. Main points of discussion were lack of activities and not feeling safe, such as drug use. Some suggestions from Iola would be getting the carnival back, they miss the bowling alley, and they would like ice skating, roller skating. In Moran their main concerns were drug/alcohol abuse in the community, they would like to see community cleanup

such as roads and sidewalks, and control of the abandoned animals (cats/dogs). Discussion followed.

Bruce asked about letter from KDOT received this morning about a new van. Discussion followed.

Bruce asked if we could get a representative from Cox or Pinnacle to discuss the requested letters of support for the BEAD Grant.

Michael Burnett, EMS Director, joined the meeting.

Michael reported that with the help of Thrive they were awarded a grant that allowed them to purchase 3 new cots. He would like to apply for a matching 50/50 grant to purchase 2 monitors. The match would be \$50,000. This grant requires 15% match, but Michael states he feels we have a better chance of getting two monitors if we state we will match 50%. These monitors are also defibrillators, EKGs, take blood pressures and other readings. Main tool in the ambulance. Discussion followed. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the grant application with a 50% match from the county. Chairman Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Michael reported they had their annual review. Discussion followed.

Arlynn Briggs, citizen, joined the meeting.

Chairman Symes moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney Client, Trade Secretes. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:07 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, John Brocker, Commissioner Elect, and Chase Vaughn, Allen County Counselor representative. Commissioners reconvened at 9:17 a.m. No action taken.

Chairman Symes moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes for Attorney Client, Trade Secretes. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:18 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, John Brocker, Commissioner Elect, and Chase Vaughn, Allen County Counselor representative. Commissioners reconvened at 9:23 a.m. No action taken.

Robert Franklin, citizen, discussed having one meeting a month in the evening for those that are not able to be here during the day. Discussion followed.

Arlynn Briggs, citizen, suggested the department heads make available what will be discussed the Friday before, so it can be put on the web for the public to review.

Commissioner Daniels stated he was considering asking Shannon Patterson, County Clerk, to create a spreadsheet to track the expenses with the EMS fund. He also thought creating an EMS advisory board for a slightly better form of communication when it comes to the spending. Arlyn voiced his opinion on the EMS subject and the spending. Discussion followed. Robert Franklin, citizen, wants to speak on behalf of the staff of the EMS. He gives them a thumbs up from his family as he states they have received amazing service and response from them.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Letter from KDOT regarding Carbon Reduction Program award
- b) Letter from ART for monetary support
- c) October monthly report for District Court, Noxious Weed
- d) October financials for hospital board

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$183,520.59 & \$254,004.91

- b) Payroll – Enrollment form for Sarah Insley
- c) Payroll – Change form for Ethan Collins
- d) Payroll – Election pay for Jeremy Hopkins
- e) Payroll – Mileage reimbursement for Jill Allen
- f) Payroll – Vacation Carryover for Kayla Garber 6 hours
- g) Payroll – 5, 10, 15, 20 years of service bonus
- h) Payroll – Sick Leave payout
- i) Payroll – Longevity as of 2025
- j) Clerks Journal Entries -
- k) Abatements –

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Lee moved to adjourn, Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m. until Tuesday, November 26 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

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Bruce Symes, Chairperson

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David Lee, Commissioner

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Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk

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Jerry Daniels, Commissioner