

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

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Mark Griffith, Allen County Road & Bridge Director, Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, Robert Johnson, County Counselor, Rickie Aiello, Allen County employee, Chelsie Decker, 911 Communications Director, Jason Trego, Emergency Manager, Tim Stauffer, Iola Register representative, Sarah Haney, Iola Register representative, Jared Wheeler, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director, Humboldt High School Intro to Law students, Eric Carlson, Humboldt High School teacher, 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 November 14, 2023 meeting.

Chairman Lee asked for public comment. Robert Johnson, County Counselor, introduced 10 students from Humboldt High School taking an Intro to Law class and their teacher Eric Carlson.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported KDHE sent back the operating plan to change some of the wording. They will get that resubmitted.

Mitch reported that the cost of the new hangar doors will not be reimbursed by FEMA because we had insurance, but they will reimburse the deductible. Commissioner Daniels asked if we could look at replacing the remaining two doors on the hangar. Only 4 of the 6 doors were damaged in the July storm. Can we quote two new doors to match the others. Discussion followed.

Debbie Bearden and Clara Misenhelter, Allen County Grow Food & Farm Council, joined the meeting.

Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, reported that we should have the new fleet of trucks in by end of month. He is also getting the trucks ready for snow removal.

Mark stated he is working on signage to be able to put the curves back in. Discussion followed.

Chelsie Decker, 911 Communications Director, requesting wage increases for all of her employees, and to also increase the starting wages. She presented information on the difference in starting wages between Allen County, City of Chanute, Anderson County, Neosho County, Woodson County, and Bourbon County. We are below all of these entities except for Bourbon County. Her proposal is for a 7% increase along with the COLA increase. Discussion followed. Commissioner Symes stated he appreciates everything her staff does and the coverages we offer. The commissioners would like time to consider this request.

Chelsie stated she has 3 people in training and they are doing well. Discussion followed. She is anticipating another retirement in the early part of 2024, so they will be looking to hire for that position.

Debbie Bearden & Clara Misenhelter, Allen County Grow Food & Farm Council, gave the 2023 annual report. Some highlights of 2023 are receiving an \$800 grant that allowed "Protein for Pantries", earned a \$1000 grant to put garden beds at the food pantry garden in LaHarpe and Moran, development of a food assessment with results being

used at the retreat in January 2024 to see what needs to focus on in 2024. Debbie requested that Paige Olson be appointed to the council. Commissioner Symes moved to approve the appointment of Paige Olson to the Grow Council. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Terry Call reported he was contacted about putting in an 80-acre solar farm east of Humboldt. He has asked the party to submit the scope of the project to him. He is wondering if we need to revisit the solar regulations draft he had submitted previously. He stated he had changed the windfarm regulations to fit the solar. Commissioners asked if can we borrow from another county to get ours created.

Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk, asked the Commission if they would like to participate in the wellness blood draws again in 2024. They stated yes. Tentatively scheduled for February 8, 2024 and registrations will open up after the first of the year.

Commissioners asked if the Archaeological study has been completed. Terry stated yes it has been and reports are being compiled now.

Commissioner Symes moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes for Trade Secrets. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:20 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 9:35 a.m. No action taken.

Rachel Moore, Thrive Allen County, joined the meeting.

Commissioner Symes moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes for Trade Secrets. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:38 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Jared Wheeler, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director. Commissioners reconvened at 9:43 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Sheriff's office monthly reports from August, September, October
- b) Allen County Fair Board financials from August, September, October
- c) Hospital Board Financial reports from Larry Peterson for October
- d) Letter from Kansas Historical Society regarding the lola Theater
- e) Information on the Your Community Foundation Giving Tuesday fundraiser
- f) EMC Insurance claim information

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$209,560.13
- b) Payroll – Mileage reimbursements for Terry Call & Amy Wilson
- c) Payroll – October process service for Brenda Beth, Daren Kellerman, Haley Donovan, Steve Womack
- d) Payroll – Vacation carryover request for Donna Kovacic, 11.5 hours
- e) Payroll – Holiday bonus
- f) Payroll – Sick leave payout over 720 hours
- g) Payroll – Transfer of leave to another employee requests from Daren Kellerman, Patrick Cash, Daniel McMurray

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 9:44 a.m. until Tuesday November 28, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly's Room of the courthouse.

Shannon Patterson, County Clerk

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner