

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

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Jeremy Hopkins, Allen County Road & Bridge Director, Rickie Aiello, Allen County employee, Ron Holman, House & Grounds Director, Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, Bob Johnson, County Counselor, Rodney Burns, Auditor, Anthony Maness, Sheriff-elect, John Brocker, Commissioner Dist. #3 – elect, Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Terry Johnson, Bob Franklin and Paul Zirjacks, citizens, was present to observe the meeting.

Commissioner Lee led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the November 19, 2024 meeting.

Commissioner Daniels asked for public comment. Sheriff-Elect Maness reported on employee meetings. Sheriff Murphy allowed the employees to partake in said meetings.

Ron Holman, House & Grounds, discussed roof problems; district court & register of deeds. Commissioners approved Ron to do whatever necessary for the roof issue.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, passed out two bids for the hangar; One from Precision and one from Koehn. Discussion followed. Commissioner Lee suggested they wait until the meeting of December 10 to make a decision. Chairman Symes would be present then.

Mitch reported on generator and the possibility of KDEM grant.

Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, reported on salt and ice control material for the upcoming winter months. He said the 980 only really had a flat tire, so will be ready to go soon.

Megan Bottenberg, Director of Government Affairs for Cox Communications in Kansas joined meeting. She passed out info on Cox Communications and discussed broadband expansion. Megan asked the commissioners sign a letter of support. Kansas Office of Broadband Development is online if people want to see a map. Commissioners agreed to table signing the support letter until December 10, when Chairman Symes is back. Paul Zirjacks asked if the broadband would replace coaxial cable. Megan responded.

Rodney Burns, Auditor, reported on the 2023 audit of Allen County. He discussed the ambulance billing and AIMS. The landfill closure was mentioned. Solid Waste fund was discussed. A budget amendment will need to be done, County Clerk Patterson had talked to Rodney about this.

Rodney presented his audit contract for next year and the audit report. The price of such is up \$600.00. Commissioners will wait until December 10 when Chairman Symes is back to approve contract.

Bob gave the commissioners Right of Way Easement for the commissioners to sign. It assigns our assignee rights to the City of Iola. Jerry moved to approve Right of Way Easement, Commissioner Lee seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Terry Call, Zoning administrator, reported an interest in battery storage facility, BESS (battery energy storage System) in Allen County, 15-30 acres needed, discussion followed. Commissioners requested Terry ask BESS to get on the agenda, then of course a zoning hearing will be needed.

Rob Faulkner and Chris Crowe, Pinnacle Broadband, called in to the meeting. Chris requested commissioners' support. Commissioner Daniels stated they will likely approve letter of support when Chairman Symes is present as well.

Commissioner Daniels moved to approve Kelly Sigg, Iola Area Chamber of Commerce to use the east side of the courthouse lawn for the annual Christmas block party on Friday, December 6, 2024. Commissioner Lee seconded, motion passed unanimously 2-0-0.

Michael Burnett, Allen County EMS, reported on new cots soon to be delivered. He explained the flexibility of the new cots. Michael reported on ambulance needing repairs. Commissioner Lee moved to have the ambulance repaired by Twin Motors, cost to be around \$9,000, Commissioner Daniels seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lee asked Michael to be a part of the budget discussion and share what will be needed in regards to expenditures.

Commissioner Lee stated no commission meeting next week December 10, as commissioners will be at KAC.

Commissioners wished employees Happy Thanksgiving!!!

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Appraiser's monthly money collected (cash)

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$231,836.12 & 11/25/2024-\$466,250.96
- b) Payroll – Sheriff's process servers
- c) Payroll - payroll change for A Haney, enrollment for A Maness
- d) Permission to shred 2020 vouchers, adds & abates, daily work PR dup checks, MV per KSA 75-3504 & KAR 53-2-115

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Daniels moved to adjourn, Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 2-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:38 a.m. until Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

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Bruce Symes, Chairperson (absent)

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David Lee, Commissioner

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Jill Allen, Deputy Allen County Clerk

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Jerry Daniels, Commissioner