

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

Mitch Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Mark Griffith, Allen County Road and Bridge Director, Rick Aiello, Allen County employee, Sarah Haney, Iola Register Representative, Robert Johnson, Allen County Counselor, Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, Bryan Murphy, Allen County Sheriff, Ron Holman, House & Grounds Director, Jami Clark, Allen County Appraiser, Chelsie Decker, 911 Communications Director, Jason Trego, Emergency Manager, Lisse Regehr, Thrive Allen County, Jared Wheeler, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director, Marcia Davis, Thrive Allen County, Christopher Holloway, Thrive Intern, Shelby Peters, Thrive Intern, Brigham Folk, Thrive Intern, Terry Johnson, citizen, Robert 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 21, 2023.

Chairman Lee asked for public comment. There was none.

Mitchell Garner, Public Works Director, reported the contractors will be building the test pad this week.

Mitch stated they are still waiting on electric line work at airport.

Mitch reported that KDHE has yet to approve the new landfill operating plan.

Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, reported the bridge at 2200 and Nebraska should be getting overlayed this soon. This project has taken longer than projected.

Mark is still looking at the curves and should have a plan to present in the next couple of weeks.

Mark reported that Country Club Heights overlay is done.

Christopher Holloway, Shelby Peters, Brigham Folk, Thrive Interns, presented information regarding their community conversation with Marmaton Valley High School held on November 13, 2023. The major concern that the freshman class had was their school's track. Currently, when having track practice, the athletes run on the highway. The track is currently a gravel track, and this does not allow them to hold home track meets. They would need a KSHA approved track to do so. They feel that it would boost their economy to be able to hold a meet. Many students talked about how close their community is. Some students also stated they would like to have a recreation building. Chairman Lee asked if they are planning to attending other schools. They do plan to go to Humboldt and Iola High schools, as well as going to the College to speak to those students. Chris, Shelby and Brigham are all high school seniors with Iola High School. Other students are interning at the hospital and the elementary school. Discussion followed.

Ron Holman, House & Grounds, updated the commission on the Humboldt Food Pantry project. The heating and air are being finished. They are still waiting on the restroom fixtures to be able to complete that part of the project.

Chelsie Decker, 911 Communications Director, presented a cost estimate to attend the Standards & Best Practices conference. This conference is being held in Clearwater,

Florida on January 15-18, 2024. She is estimating the cost to be \$2449. Discussion followed. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve the attendance of the conference. Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chelsie reported they are hosting a training out at the college. It is a 3-day course, yesterday, today, and tomorrow. She has her new hires in attendance. This class will earn the attendees their emergency medical dispatch certification.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for non-elected personnel. Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 8:50 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Chelsie Angleton, 911 Communications Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:00 a.m. No action taken.

Chairman Lee opened the 2023 Allen County Budget Amendment Hearing. Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk, explained we are needing to amend the budget authority for the Ambulance Fund, Noxious Weed Fund, and the Emergency Phone Equipment Fund. Discussion followed. Commissioner Symes moved to approve the 2023 Allen County Amended Budget. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Bryan Murphy, Allen County Sheriff, presented information on proposed wage increases for his department. He is suggesting a 6.8% increase to be able to attract employees. He currently only has one applicant and he is only staffed at about half capacity. He is also looking to increase the starting wages for the jail as well. Increase in both budgets would total about \$92,929.00. Discussion followed. Chairman Lee is asking for a little more time to consider the numbers.

Jami Clark, Allen County Appraiser, reported that Roger Fogleman will be retiring at the end of this year.

Commissioner Symes asked what the county needs to be doing to prepare for the new state park? Lisse explained everything they are doing along with the Linda from the state. Lisse stated they have starting staking off the areas for the cabins. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Symes asked about the interest earned in our Your Community Foundation fund, in regards to the Patterson matching funds grant. It was stated that the matching funds grant only applied to "new money" being donated, not funds that are currently sitting there.

Commissioner Symes moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes for non-elected personnel. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:28 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Jami Clark, Allen County Appraiser, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:33 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Symes moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:34 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Jami Clark, Allen County Appraiser, Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:44 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioners discussed raises for 2024. Commissioner Symes moved to approve a 4% COLA effective January 1, 2024. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

There will be no meeting on December 5th due to Commissioners being at the Kansas Association of Counties conference held in Wichita.

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$194,163.11
- b) Payroll – Vacation Carryover for Crystal Richey, 49.75 hours.
- c) Clerk's journal entry #55

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 10:12 a.m. until Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly's Room of the courthouse.

David Lee, Chairperson

Bruce Symes, Commissioner

Shannon Patterson, County Clerk

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner