

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, Vickie Moss, Iola Register Representative, Robert Johnson, Allen County Counselor, Lisse Regehr, Thrive Allen County, Jared Wheeler, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director, 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 October 31, 2023.

Chairman Lee asked for public comment. There was none.

Mitchell Garner, Public Works Director, reported the painting on the taxiway is complete. They are still waiting on the supplies to come in to begin work on the lights, PAPIs, and AWOS system. The electric still needs completed as well.

Mitch stated they have gotten the vehicles switched around after receiving the old EMS vehicle.

Mitch reported they are still working on building the test pad. They are also waiting on the new electric poles and line to be put in.

Mitch reported he spoke Kenny Shetlar about putting in a bin to recycle #2 clear plastic, milk jugs. Kenny would bring the container and then haul it off when full. The revised operating plan needs to be approved before we can begin with the recycling; it is filed with KDHE. Discussion followed. Commissioners would like to begin with the #2 plastics as soon as we get the approval.

Chairman Lee mentioned that the north side of Nebraska has trash in tree line. Can we please get that picked up as soon as possible?

Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, reported that Bill Delich, Bettis Asphalt, informed him they should begin Country Club Heights end of this week or beginning of next. Discussion followed.

Mark reported on the Asphalt meeting he attended last week. Discussion followed.

Mark stated the engineers have looked at the areas we want to put the curves back in. If we decide to put the curves back in, we will need to have an engineering study done of that area. Discussion followed.

Chairman Lee asked about the bridge project on Nebraska Rd. Mark stated they should be pouring the top today, they are over schedule.

Shannon Patterson, County Clerk, presented Resolution 202313.

Resolution No. 202313

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALLEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN RURAL OPPORTUNITY ZONE STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM CALENDAR YEAR 2024

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ALLEN COUNTY, KANSAS,

Section 1. Pursuant to K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 74-50,223, the Board of County Commissioners expressed its intent to participate in the Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) student loan repayment program.

Section 2. Allen County has been designated a Rural Opportunity Zone pursuant to K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 74-50,222. As of July 1, 2022, the County population was 12,464 as certified by the Kansas Department of Revenue.

Section 3. Allen County Commissioners hereby obligate Allen County to participate in the ROZ student loan repayment program as provided by K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 74-50,223 for a period of five years, which shall be irrevocable.

Section 4. Allen County agrees to pay in equal shares with the State of Kansas the outstanding student loan balance of any resident individual for five years if the resident individual meets the terms of qualification provided by the State of Kansas in K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 74-50,223, and the appropriate rules and regulations. The number of qualified resident individuals receiving such payments will be subject to the availability of funds.

Section 5. Allen County intends to enter into partnerships with Cities, Employers, and Foundations for the direct sponsorship of Rural Opportunity Zone Applicants. Sponsored Applicants must meet all qualifications of the ROZ program. All sponsorships will be subject to ROZ student loan repayment rules and regulations.

Section 6. The maximum student loan balance for each qualified resident individual to be repaid jointly by Allen County and the State of Kansas shall be \$15,000 over a term of five years.

Section 7. Allen County shall allocate \$0.00 a year for the purpose of matching payments from the State of Kansas to qualified resident individuals. Allen County shall revise its ROZ budget on an annual basis submitting a new Resolution to the State of Kansas by January 30th each year. Allen County shall submit their obligation in full to the Department of Commerce before the first day of October each year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be published once in the official county newspaper and shall be in effect from and after its date of publication.

Adopted this 7th day of November, 2023 by the Board of Allen County Commissioners, Allen County, Kansas.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
OF ALLEN COUNTY, KANSAS

Discussion followed on what the Rural Opportunity Zone Program is. Commissioner Symes moved to adopt Resolution 202313. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Shannon presented the 5310 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Grant. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve the chairman's signature on the 5310 grant. Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Shannon shared with the commissioners a bid she received to upgrade the security for election equipment storage. There is a grant opportunity that will reimburse 90%. Decisions will be made later this year if the applications were approved or not.

Lisse Regehr, Thrive Allen County, introduced Jared Wheeler, the new economic development director.

Lisse wanted to inform the public that it is open enrollment for Medicare, Medicaid, and health insurance. Thrive will help the public in enrolling for benefits.

Lisse relayed information regarding the project for Rural Water District #8. Brad Riebel with Midwest Engineering was present on October 24 to open bids. His recommendation is Bennet Inc. The bids that came in were roughly 39% greater than the engineer's expectations. Discussion followed. Rachel Moore will be present later to answer any questions.

Commissioner Symes reported that lola will now have a VA clinic. It was said to be located here in the old Family Physicians building. Remodel is slated to begin December 10 and projected to open on May 1st. The clinics in Fort Scott, Chanute and Garnett all closing so we will be a central location.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:20 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, and Robert

Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:30 a.m. No action taken.

Rachel Moore, Thrive Allen County, joined the meeting.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Trade Secrets. Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:30 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:40 a.m. No action taken.

Rachel Moore, Thrive Allen County, following up on information given by Lisse. She stated she is in communication with the BASE Grant office with questions on funding the gap made by inflation. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Symes asked Bob if we need some kind of policy or agreement for the recycling bins being placed at the landfill. It was decided to discuss on a case-by-case basis.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Public notice for Kansas Water Pollution Control Permits
- b) Solid Waste Assurance Financials for October 2023
- c) October 2023 Fund Status Report
- d) October 2023 monthly reports for Appraiser's office, Attorney's office, Register of Deeds office, Public Works, County Clerk's office, Treasurer's office

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – 10/30/23-\$2,986.14, 11/6/23-\$121,832.23
- b) Payroll – Change form for Dathan McMurtrey
- c) Payroll – Vacation Carryover for Mitchell Garner & Kevin Covey
- d) Clerk's journal entries - #53, 54

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 9:54 a.m. until Tuesday, November 14, 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