

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.

Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Robert Johnson, II, County Counselor, Mitchell Garner, Public Works Director, Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, Ron Holman, House & Grounds Director, Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, Rick Aiello, employee, Debbie Bearden, GROW Council, Terry Johnson, citizen, and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Chairman Symes led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the regular meeting on October 15, 2024

Chairman Symes asked for public comment. There was none.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported the frame for the new hangar is up and they are starting to put the tin on. The door company has come to measure and the door could be in next week. Discussion followed.

Mitch stated he does not have any bids for asphalt yet, and only one for concrete. The pipe is being put in by road and bridge now.

Commissioner Daniels asked about the 2025 hangar project. Mitch stated he is checking on prices now for it.

Commissioners discussed the water meter that needs installed for the new lift station with the sewer project.

Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, reported they are out doing normal operations.

Commissioner Lee read a thank you to letter received from the City of Elmore regarding Jeremy and his road crew.

Commissioner Daniels asked about Savonburg. Jeremy stated he will be meeting with them on Friday to discuss what can be done there.

Ron Holman, House & Grounds Director, reported on Farm City Days.

Ron stated he has some left-over Christmas lights so he is asking to put the extra on the 911 Communications building. Commissioners approved this request.

Ron requested to put in a dog waste station on the square. He has been approached by some citizens asking this as we have several individuals who walk there dogs here. Commissioners approved this request. Chairman Symes suggested putting two out, one on North and South side of the square.

Ron reported they will be lighting the Courthouse up green for Veteran's Day again this year.

Debbie Bearden, GROW Council, presented recommendations for two new council members, Kelly Sigg and Dwight Hawkinson. Commissioner Daniels moved to appoint Kelly Sigg and Dwight Hawkinson to the GROW Council. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chelsie Decker, 911 Communications Director, joined the meeting.

Debbie presented the 2025 State Policy Platform. She is asking if Allen County has any resolutions in regards to the food system. We do not believe so. Would the commissioners like to see support going forward to legislature for any of these. She explained as the GROW council they are often asked to go to the state and support certain topics. She is asking if they are asked to write a letter of support, would commissioners be okay with such. Chairman Symes stated he would like for the GROW council to advocate for more local avenues. Debbie asked if the County would consider partially funding a market director? She will also be asking the city. Grants are funding the director now. Discussion followed.

Chelsie Decker, 911 Communications Director, reported Allen County 911 is now a Medical Accredited Center of Excellence (ACE). We are the 341st Medical ACE in the world. Chelsie explained how to become an ACE. You must maintain the national standards for 3 months before you can even apply for such. Must maintain those standards, submit reports quarterly, and reapply every 3 years. Chelsie reported Allen County is the 3rd county in Kansas, along with Franklin and Johnson counties to hold a Medical ACE, and the only county in Kansas to have a dual ACE. We are also a Fire ACE, which was received 3 years ago. Discussion followed.

Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, reported on the two nuisance letters he had sent out. The property on Holiday Ct has been taken care of. The second property, south of LaHarpe, has passed their 10 days period to request a hearing, and are now about half way through the 30 days to clean up. Discussion followed.

Chairman Symes spoke about Allen County's 5310 Service to the Elderly operation. We will be applying for the grant again this year. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve the Chairman's signature on the KDOT 5310 application. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioner Lee moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney Client, Possible Litigation. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:23 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:32 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Lee asked how much methane is lost at the landfill. Is it feasible to capture it and use it. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Lee stated he was able to have a conversation with Gail Klaassen, Neosho County Commissioner on Saturday at his booth at Farm City Days. She had spoken with Commissioner Lee previously about how Neosho County funds their EMS with the help of sales tax revenues.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Thank you letter from City of Elmore

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers - \$185,881.55
- b) Payroll – Mileage reimbursements for Rikki Witchley and David Heiman
- c) Payroll – Commodities reimbursement for Jerry Hathaway
- d) Payroll – Boot reimbursement for Jake Bland

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Daniels moved to adjourn, Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:46 a.m. until Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioner's Room of the courthouse.

Bruce Symes, Chairperson

David Lee, Commissioner

Shannon Patterson, County Clerk

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner