

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

Vickie Moss, Iola Register, Terry Call, Allen County EMS Financial Director, Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Robert Johnson, II, County Counselor, Becky Voorhies, Johnathon Goering, Thrive Allen County, Jami Clark, Allen County Appraiser, Arlyn Briggs, landowner and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Mitchell Garner, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the regular meeting on September 21, 2021.

Arlyn Briggs, landowner, asked the commission if he could wait to comment since it will be spoke about with Thrive. The appraiser's office provided information about county owned property, already located in the cities. Discussion followed on the properties. He stated Thrive needs to explain how much money Thrive would get for this grant. Arlyn expressed some of his personal concerns.

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, reported chip and sealing is happening and go until the weather changes. Mr. Jeff Rexwinkle discussed the chip and seal at his driveway 415 Fairway Ave. Discussion followed.

Mitch stated there were around 1,000 persons at Fly Kansas Air Tour; over 500 kids. It was the best turnout of all the airports. Casa and Hope Unlimited participated by providing popcorn and snow cones.

Kim Ensminger, USD 256 Superintendent and Matt Rehder, City of Iola Administrator, joined the meeting.

Mitch stated the crews are out mowing and crusher is up; they are still down one mowing person.

Jonathan Goering, Thrive Allen County, discussed the fly tour.

Jonathan thanked the commission for meeting on Monday to help with filing for the Moderate-Income Housing Grant to purchase land to make available to construction persons. Jonathan explained why the confusion at the last commission meeting; this grant is not for the landbanks also discussed. He explained Thrive has written the grant to the best advantage for Allen County. Goal is not to go out to purchase 10 or 11 properties and set on them. They would centivise this land to building but first they have to get a developers in. \$50,000 Grant which \$35,000 for land acquisition and \$15,000 for insurance. Chairman Symes asked about potential lots. Jonathon stated yes, they have lots in mind. Discussion followed. Jonathan stated they are looking at duplexes and cottages. They would have to start building by July 2022 for this grant. There is a great need for housing; he has heard that from the industries here in the county. Commissioner Lee stated he is still bothered continuing maintenance on the property if nothing happens; could current owners be put in a que so if the property doesn't sell there is still taxes coming in. Jonathon stated the spirit of the grant is to have the land given away. Commissioner Daniels asked about receiving the grant, whatever is not used is given back from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. If a builder is interested and for certain would the grant holder purchase the property once it is for sure sold. Discussion followed. Jami explained she does not exempt property Topeka does.

Donita Garner, Alexandria Gumfory, Nina Johnson, Hope Unlimited representatives, reported October is Domestic Violence month. They serve Allen, Anderson, Neosho and

Woodson Counties. They want to make sure individuals know how to reach them. They have served over 481.

Chairman Symes read the:

ALLEN COUNTY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a serious crime that affects people of all races, ages, gender, and income levels; and,

WHEREAS, domestic violence is widespread and affects over 4 million Americans each year; and,

WHEREAS, one in three Americans have witnessed an incidence of domestic violence;  
and

WHEREAS, children that grow up in violent homes are believed to be abused and neglected at a rate higher than the national average; and,

WHEREAS, domestic violence costs the nation billions of dollars annually in medical expenses, police and court costs, shelters, foster care, sick leave, absenteeism, and non-productivity; and

WHEREAS, only a coordinated community effort will put a stop to this heinous crime;  
and,

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing domestic violence and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services and assistance to victims;

NOW THEREFORE, We, County Commissioners of Allen County, Kansas do hereby proclaim the month of October as

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

And urge our citizens to work together to eliminate domestic violence from our community.

Signed and dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021

Chairman Symes moved to adopt Proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Matt Rehder, City of Iola Administrator and Toby Ross, Water department director, requested ARPA funding because they need complete renovations of the 3 water towers in Iola. He explained each of the needs for towers \$715,000 for Oak Street tank \$295,000, Gates Tower for \$205,000, and College Tank for \$215,000. They do have capital outlay of \$800,000 of their own APRA funds, they plan to use for sewer work. They did plan to do the towers in 2022 with their own funding but would like county ARPA funding if approved.

Kim Ensminger, USD 256 Superintendent, requested funding from ARPA funds as well. Kim presented her request funding to complete projects for windows and HVAC system. They have more work than funding the estimated extra cost needed is \$59,000. Total cost of the project is \$147,170. There is more funding at the State Education Department from the Federal Government. Cassettes are vents in the ceiling or in the window itself.

Kim requested funding for the second portion is windows in the high school, turnkey bid at \$147,170. She explained the need. Fresh air exchange to fall with in the COVID requirements. They could use SEDR funding but have other items needed (educational needs) for that funding. These items would qualify for ARPA funding. Chairman Symes asked about the project moving forward are the funding all or nothing requests? The project that would not happen would be the windows, because using the SEDR will have to follow the Federal costs which would cost more (Davis Bacon costs). She would like to stream line at the same time due to HAVC and \$206,170 for both projects. ESSER 2 & 3 funding.

Sheriff Murphy and Crickett joined the meeting.

Jonathan continued his discussion on the concern of the funds; they would ask for a portion up front (15% - \$7,500) the rest is a draw down. There is a big need for housing at this time. Commissioner Daniels requested the commission approve each property before purchased. Jonathan stated yes, that could happen. Counselor Johnson asked about a time line and consequences? Johnathon stated yes. Commissioner Daniels stated the County would just have to sponsor the grant. Discussion followed. Chairman Symes stated the property are only empty lots, and the commission get to say yes or no, Jonathan is doing as economic development as director, housing is at the top of the list for the county.

Paul asked about the builders building. He said they said they can't make any money building and selling. Commissioner Daniels said the property is free so that is the incentive.

Arlyn appreciated the clarification of terms discussed. He asked what is affordable housing, \$200,000 is not affordable housing. Discussion followed. Commissioner Lee stated he thought between \$65,000 to \$85,000. Arlyn stated schools also have to be available and have other infrastructure (roads)to support the growth. This is a good opportunity but must be communicated to all.

Resolution 202118 was presented for approval.

**RESOLUTION FOR MODERATE INCOME HOUSING**  
**NO. 202118**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN HOUSING WITHIN ALLEN COUNTY, KANSAS.**

**WHEREAS**, Allen County is responding to the Request for Proposal for Kansas Moderate Income Housing (MIH) funds to be submitted to the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation through the State Housing Trust Fund (SHTF); and

**WHEREAS**, the funds will be used for the acquisition of real property for future housing development in Allen County; and

**WHEREAS**, the housing units will be targeted to households between 60 and 150 percent of HUD's state non-metro area median income; and

**WHEREAS**, the development will be new construction; and

**WHEREAS**, the administration of the MIH funds will be handled by Allen County with assistance from Thrive Allen County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Allen County Commission, Kansas, that the following be adopted.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Allen County Commission that they support and approve the development of the aforesaid housing in their communities, subject to local ordinances and building permit processes.

Passed and adopted by the Governing Body of Allen County, Kansas, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF ALLEN COUNTY, KANSAS**

Chairman Symes moved to approve the Resolution 202118 housing fund grant and sign an MOU with Thrive that are identified and identified buyers/contractors before the land is purchased and a MOU with Thrive and what is will be returned funding. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Sherrie requested a letter of support on behalf of the Healthy Foundations school nurse grant being submitted to the Healthcare Foundation of Greater Kansas City by USD #258 and the school nurse Wendy Froggatte. This program is pivotal in assuring that students are able to work at their best capacity in the classroom ultimately creating productive citizens in our community. In conclusion, we fully support the efforts of USD

#258 and Wendy Froggatte as they seek external funding to support a program designed to support the health and academic success of our students. Commissioner Daniels moved to have commissioners sign the letter of support. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Sherrie requested a letter of support for Regena Lance to apply for the T-Mobile grant for funding to build a museum and internet café in the un-incorporated city of Mildred. Commissioner Daniels moved to have commissioners sign the letter of support. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Sherrie requested the county pay for employee flu shots for October 4, 2021 between 3 and 4:30 p.m. The cost to the county will be \$50 for those employees under 65 and 65 and over will be \$90. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioners adjourned for a 5-minute break.

Commissioners discussed the ARPA requests as of September 27, 2021. They discussed putting a deadline for requesting. Discussion followed on each of the items and timing. Chairman Symes stated he would like to set a deadline. Commissioner Lee stated he would like to have two deadlines; one for the first half and one for the next round of ARPA funding. Commissioner Daniels stated most of the requests will be done with the administrator. Discussion followed. Commissioners set the deadline for receiving ARPA funding requests for October 12, 2021 at the close of the Allen County Commission meeting for ARPA funding round 1 and another deadline after ARPA funding round 2 is received.

Commissioners discussed ARPA funding administration. Chairman Symes reviewed the costs presented by Thrive Allen County for \$96,101.32 and Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission for \$120,126.65. Commissioner Lee stated he has wondered about doing in house administration. Discussion followed on several different thoughts. Chairman Symes stated he looks at it as helping other entities outside the county as presented and given the breath of the grant. Commissioner Daniels moved to hire Thrive as ARPA funding administrator. Chairman Symes seconded; motion passed 2-1-0. Commissioner Lee voted no.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) KAC – Notifications of upcoming elections for KAC Governing Board
- b) National Opioids Settlements
- c) EMC info on a 2020 Ford F-150
- d) CBK Inc. information on David Ray James
- e) Letter from Before the Board of Tax Appeals
- f) Audit letter from Rodney M. Burns, CPA, LLC

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$13,271.90
- b) Payroll – Reimbursement for David Lee, Crickett Maley, Cara Barkdoll, Robert Johnson II for SEK Regional baskets.
- c) Payroll – 6 months pay change for Brian Laver
- d) Payroll – Monthly cell phone cost to Fredrick (Alex) Henderson
- e) Payroll – Vacation carryover 34.25 hours for Justin Thompson approved to be used before February 16, 2022.

With no further business to come before the board, Chairman Symes moved to adjourn, Commissioner Lee seconded, and motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m. until Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly's Room of the

courthouse.

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Bruce Symes, Chairperson

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Jerry Daniels, Commissioner

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Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk

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David Lee, Commissioner