

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

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Jeremy Hopkins, Allen County Road & Bridge Director, Chase Vaughn, County Counselor representative, Rick Aiello, employee, Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Jason Trego, Emergency Manager, Dan Davis, Allen County Recycling, Jane Works, Allen County Recycling, Vince Coons, Allen County Recycling, Darrell Monfort, Recycling, Karen Gilpin, Allen County Recycling, Steve Strickler, Allen County Recycling, Monte Carriker, citizen, BJ Lohmeyer, Recycling, Scott Murrow, Recycling, and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Jason Trego led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the August 4, 2026, meeting.

Chairman Lee asked for public comment. Rodney Warren, Foley Equipment, thanked the commission for their continued support of Foley. He presented a before/after picture, with statistics, of the compactor rebuild. Commissioners asked about statistics on rebuilds they complete overall. Discussion followed.

Monte Carricker, citizen, had some questions/concerns about the proposed changes to the burn ban. He is asking if there are any specific requirements or conditions to enact a burn ban. Commissioner Daniels stated he still feels that the proposed change is not the right move, he would rather keep it the same, with the recommendation coming from Jason Trego. Discussion followed.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported they held their first recycling time Saturday. Four citizens did show up.

Chairman Lee asked about the buckling at the airport. Mitch stated he has already had 1 company come look and another one is coming today.

Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, presented a bridge replacement agreement for a bridge on Minnesota Rd between 400 and 600 roads. The county's portion would be 10% with the state share being 90%. This will happen within the next couple of years. Discussion followed. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve the agreement. Commissioner Bocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Jeremy stated they are chip sealing on Oregon Rd. He then listed the areas they will be going next.

Dan Davis and Vince Coons, Allen County Recycling, asked a few questions about recycling. Dan reported he was one of the citizens that did drop off some recycling items. He will be asking the questions they are most asked. Where will the recycling go? Once hauled, what will they do with it? Did the county look into the possibility of recycling offsetting any expenses? Is the county still working with the city on this. Commissioners paused the conversation to open the Canvass.

Chairman Lee opened the canvass of the August 4, 2026, Primary Election. Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk, presented provisional ballot statistics. Out of the 34 total provisional ballots, 10 did not count and 24 were counted. Statistics from the August 4, 2026, Primary Election are as follows:

Total Registered Voters	8,878
Votes cast at the polls – Republican	1,596
Votes cast at the polls – Democrat	487

Votes cast at the polls – Nonpartisan	186
Advance	519
Provisional	24
Total Registrants Voting	2,812
Voter Turnout Percentage	31.67%

Jason Trego, Emergency Manager, presented a proposed Resolution 202606 Enacting a Burn Ban. He is asking for this due to the extreme heat index for the week. This will be for the safety of the emergency responders. Chairman Lee's concern with this is the fact that we have county employees out there working in this heat. Discussion followed. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve Resolution 202606 Enacting A Burn Ban. Commissioner Bocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Discussion on recycling began again. Vince Coons asked where the commission see recycling going in the future. Dan Davis reported on previous areas he has lived in that did not have landfills, but had transfer stations. He is asking that the county continue to be proactive rather than reactive. Vince voiced his opinion on the stability of a volunteer driven entity continuing recycling vs a county entity continuing recycling. Steve Strickler is asking why the county is not putting the money being spend on the "duplication of service" into the current facility and program. Chairman Lee is asking to just let the county try their program of recycling for the 6-month trial period. Darell Monfort's comment is that 4 hours a month, on Saturdays, is not enough, in respect to his business. He also appreciated Mitch explaining why the bins are locked when not monitored as throwing trash or not separating causes contamination, which then means the whole lot must go to the landfill. Discussion followed.

Shannon Patterson requested to begin replacement of the ExpressVotes used in elections. She is asking to replace 12 this year, with the plan to replace the remaining 10 next year. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve the purchase of 12 ExpressVotes. Commissioner Bocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioner Daniels moved to approve Resolution 202605 Vision Zero Resolution. Commissioner Bocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Shannon reported on a vacancy on the LaHarpe Elm Cemetery Board. Commissioner Daniels moved to appoint Austin Lee to the LaHarpe Elm Cemetery Board. Commissioner Bocker seconded 2-0-1. Chairman lee abstained due to conflict of interest.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- Monthly dept reports: District Court, Sheriff, Treasurer, Attorney
- July fund status report

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- Clerk's Vouchers – \$169,261.68
- Payroll – Change form: Kim Knavel
- Payroll – Cell Reimbursement: Kim Knavel
- Payroll – Permit Reimbursement: Colin Downey
- Payroll – July Process Service: Brian Plumlee, Paul Ornelas, Megan Nelson
- Clerk's Journal Entries - #26, 27

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Daniels moved to adjourn, Commissioner Bocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m. until Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk

John F. Brocker, Commissioner