IOLA, KANSAS **OFFICE OF THE ALLEN COUNTY CLERK** **July 7, 2026**

The Allen County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. with Chairman David Lee, Commissioner Jerry Daniels, Commissioner John F. Brocker 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, Chelsie Decker, 911 Communications Director, Rick Aiello, employee, Crickett Maley, County Treasurer, Anthony Maness, Sheriff, Terry Johnson, citizen, Josiah D'Albini, citizen, Bruce Symes, citizen, Becky Nilges, citizen, and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Becky Nilges led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the regular meeting on June 30, 2026.

Chairman Lee asked for public comment. Commissioner Daniels wanted to recognize Trooper Christopher Woods and his promotion to Captain.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported the rebuilt compactor is now being used. He is getting compliments on how nice it looks. The water truck for the landfill should be here in the next week or so.

Mitch stated he had a resident call and compliment the landfill crew. His one seasonal employee is getting ready to leave to go back to school and he has another one getting ready to start.

Chairman Lee stated he had someone call with a concern about an "abundance" of tires. Mitch explained they were just left and had not been stacked yet. Discussion followed.

Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, reported he noxious weed truck went to Wichita today to get outfitted with the tanks and sprayer.

Jeremy stated he hopes to begin chip sealing at the end of week or next week. Discussion followed on areas he will start with.

Commissioner Daniels stated he received compliments from a farmer on the striping.

Jim Talkington, citizen, joined the meeting.

Chelsie Decker, 911 Director, presented information on items that were damaged by a lightning strike over the weekend. Items thus far are the transfer switch for the generator, cox modem, cameras, copier/fax machine, and mini-split in the server room. At no time did this lightning strike cause disruption in handling 911 calls, just caused some delays in communication with surrounding agencies. Discussion followed.

Arlyn Briggs, citizen by phone call, stated he is going to try a different approach to get his points across to the commissioners. He is tired of "fighting".

Commissioner Daniels wanted to thank Chelsie and Sheriff Maness for the areas that they reduced on their proposed budgets. Commissioners began discussions on other budgets that could potentially be reduced. They started with the road and bridge fund and reduced an initial sum of $600,000 from capital outlay. Shannon Patterson, County Clerk, explained her proposed increase for the election fund, they will reduce capital outlay by $31,027. The Bowlus is budgeted to receive 1 mill, by past commissioners' motion in 2018, and the way to fund them is being discussed. Commissioner Daniels stated 2026 funding

is $199,000 and projected 2027 is $207,000. So, Commissioner Daniels is suggesting setting it to a steady $200,000. Chairman Lee stated maybe $150,000. Commissioners would like to see what $150,000 looks like in the current budget proposal. Chairman Lee moved to rescind the 2018 motion of funding Bowlus at 1 mill and moved to fund them with a set amount of $150,000 per year. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioners then looked at the Services to the Elderly fund. The topic of the elderly van was brought up. Now that ART has the 5310 funding we are essentially having a duplication of services. Shannon stated that her notes show that "we levy 1 mill for this fund due to an election." She will go back and verify this information, if not then we can reduce this fund.

The commissioners have decided to reduce the initial wage increases from 5% to 4%.

Commissioners looked at the airport fund. Chairman Lee asked about the proposed fuel costs. Discussion followed. Commissioners asked Rodney to reduce gas/oil by $50,000 and capital outlay by $40,000.

Sheriff Maness stated he could reduce the jail by another $15,000 and another $10,000 to the sheriff fund.

The commissioners are tentatively moving their regular meeting on July 21st to Monday, July 20th to finalize the proposed budget.

Chairman Lee stated the college hosted fireworks after some legion games. He would like to thank all those involved that made this possible.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

a) June dept reports: District Court, Noxious Weed, Treasurer, Public Works, Sheriff, Register of Deeds, County Clerk
b) June fund status report

Commissioners approved the following documents:

a) Clerk's Vouchers – 7/1/2026-$240,840.67 & 7/7/2026-$40,965.64
b) Payroll – Brandon Cameron appellate brief
c) Clerk's Journal Entries – #20, 21, 22, 23

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Brocker moved to adjourn, Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. until Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

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David Lee, Chairperson Jerry Daniels, Commissioner

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Shannon Patterson, County Clerk John F. Brocker, Commissioner