

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, Rickie Aiello, Allen County employee, Robert Johnson, County Counselor, Camille Lavon, Economic Development, Tim Stauffer, Iola Register, Terry Johnson, citizen, and Paul Zirjacks, citizens, was present to observe the meeting.

Chairman Lee led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the August 11, 2026, meeting.

Chairman Lee asked for public comment. Henry Lohman, Thrive Allen County, reported on the events going on with Farmers Market the next couple of weeks.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported they found another water truck and is on its way. It has less miles and is slightly cheaper.

Mitch reported they had 3 areas of concrete poured at the airport. They will be pouring a couple more areas in the next day or two. Discussion followed.

Mitch stated about 10 people showed up for the recycling hours last Saturday. Commissioner Daniels asked if there was a possibility of opening for a Wednesday evening? Mitch presented a proposed new schedule of recycling hours. He has added 2 Wednesdays a month from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Chairman Lee asked about 5 pm to 7 pm to possibly avoid individuals going to church not being able to drop off. August 26th will be the first Wednesday it will be open. Discussion followed.

Debbie Beaden and Marilyn Logan, GROW Council, reported they had two individuals resign from the GROW Council board and are requesting Barbara Button and Amelea Jones to be appointed to the GROW Council. Commissioner Daniels moved to appoint. Commissioner Bocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Marilyn Logan reported they are applying for a grant that will focus on education to reduce food waste in homes. She is requesting a letter of support for said grant. She explained what the grant will allow them to do. She provided a template letter. Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk, will create the letter for review next week. The deadline to submit for the grant is August 31st.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Bocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 8:51 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:01 a.m. No action taken.

Travis Baugh, Allen County Rural Fire, joined the meeting.

Darrel Baughn, Allen County Rural Fire, joined the meeting.

Travis Baughn, Allen County Rural Fire, stated he wanted to clarify some points about the burn ban discussed last week. He explained the conditions and areas that a fire department looks at when they would like a burn ban. Discussion followed on the correct chain of communication.

Darrel Baughn asked when a burn ban is put into place how long do we have to wait for the public to be informed. He also asked if there would be a fine. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:31 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Camille Lavon, Economic Development Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:46 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go back into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:47 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Camille Lavon, Economic Development Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:57 a.m. No action taken.

Shannon Patterson presented a revised quote to purchase 22 3rd Generation ExpressVotes. Commissioner Daniels approved to purchase the full 22, with \$70,000 to come from the Election fund and the remaining \$44,200 to be paid out of PILOT funds (those funds will be reimbursed by the Election fund after January 1, 2027). Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Shannon requested on behalf of Kristen Springston to place teal & purple yard signs in the courthouse lawn for September Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month. Commissioners approved this request.

Chairman Lee reported Mike Taylor is available to help educate Allen County about the EMS Sales Tax question should it be decided to put on the November ballot. Commissioner Brocker is worried that we are cutting it short on time. Mike Taylor, by phone, feels as though we still have plenty of time. Discussion followed. Chairman Lee moved to contract with Mike Taylor, Strategy Consultants, for \$5,000 to be paid by donations, balance from PILOT funds if needed. Commissioner Danniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chairman Lee reported there could be a special meeting Friday, such meeting would be executive session, trade secrets. Shannon will let news outlets know if such meeting occurs.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- July solid waste financials
- July dept report: Noxious Weed
- July hospital financials

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- Clerk's Vouchers - \$18,632.86
- Abatements – RE, Value 1,954, \$362.94, Year 2023
RE, Value 109, \$22.72, Year 2024
RE, Value 109, \$22.50, Year 2025

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Daniels moved to adjourn, Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 10:26 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