

The Allen County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. with Chairman David Lee, Commissioner Jerry Daniels (by phone), Commissioner John F. Bocker 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, Rick Aiello, employee, Cameron Carter, citizen, Terry Johnson, citizen, and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Jeremy Hopkins led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the regular meetings on August 18, 2026, and August 21, 2026.

Chairman Lee asked for public comment.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported there was a small fire in the northeast corner of the landfill last Thursday. It was caused by fireworks. Mitch wanted to thank LaHarpe rural fire, Moran volunteer fire, and the Sheriff's office. It has been reported to KDHE and reports have been filed.

Mitch reported there will be recycling tomorrow from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. It has been published in the paper with the new hours.

Chairman asked how the refurbished compactor has been working. Mitch stated there was a small leak and they came to fix it.

Chairman Lee asked about the water truck. Mitch reported they are getting all of the stickers from it and checking it over before delivery.

Chairman Lee stated he had a citizen ask if there is an access road around the North. Also asked if there could be a fire hydrant installed. Mitch reported he has been trying and nothing has come of it yet.

Camille Lavon, Vice President of Allen County Economic Development (ACED), joined the meeting.

Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, reported that the distributor truck had broken down. He went to get parts last night and getting it back up and running.

Jeremy stated the new noxious weed truck is still on schedule. Discussion followed.

Jeremy reported he will be presenting crushing first of September. Along with trash service for the shop.

Kylie Cromer, Director of Economic Development, joined the meeting.

Camille Lavon, Allen County Economic Development Vice President, would like to request hosting a car show on the county lawn for this Thursday's Farmer's market. Commissioners are okay with this as long as Ron is okay with it.

Kylie Cromer, Director of Economic Development, introduced herself and explained her history here in Allen County.

Dante Powell, Allen Community College, joined the meeting.

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

Nate Jackson, Undersheriff, joined the meeting.

Ronnie Higginbotham, citizen, joined the meeting.

Dante Powell, ACC, introduced himself and explained he is the director of the ACC CDL program. He explained he has been professionally teaching for about 8 years. He is planning to begin their first class October 2026. It will be an 8 week rotation. He stated they are trying to acquire 2 trucks and trailers to use for training. He was allowed to purchase a CDL driving simulator. He explained the two areas he is working on using for training. How can he best facilitate the best working relationship with the county? He wants to be able to put them in different road situations, using county highways if allowed. Discussion followed.

Sheriff Anthony Maness joined the meeting.

Nate Jackson, Undersheriff, presented a flyer for the 2nd annual Resilient Warrior Luncheon. It will be held at the Kansas National Guard Amory in Iola on September 12. It is a free luncheon for all veterans, their families, and the active servicemen who wish to attend. Discussion followed.

Ronnie Higginbotham, citizen, concerned about the intersection of New Mexico and 1830th. He stated from one direction it is a blind corner. He is concerned because there is no stop sign or yield sign. He is asking if anything can be done. He has had a couple of close calls as well as his family members. Jeremy stated he could put a stop sign up and also said he could clear some brush as well, it is needed. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 20 minutes for Trade Secrets, Economic Development. Commissioner Bocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:30 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Camille Lavon, ACED, Midwest Engineering, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:50 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go back into executive session for 10 minutes for Trade Secrets, Economic Development. Commissioner Bocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:52 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Camille Lavon, ACED, Midwest Engineering, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:02 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go back into executive session for 10 minutes for Trade Secrets, Economic Development. Commissioner Bocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 10:03 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Camille Lavon, ACED, Midwest Engineering, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:13 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- GordanCPA Auditing Accounting Consulting letter

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- Clerk's Vouchers - \$369,213.48
- Payroll – Change form: Shaylee Baker
- Payroll – Appeal Brief: Brandon Cameron
- Payroll – Meal Reimbursement: Edward Donovan
- Payroll – Mileage Reimbursement: Terry Call, Jerry Daniels, Alex

- Donnelly
- Abatements – PP, Value 157, \$23.32, Year 2005

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 10:15 a.m. until Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

David Lee, Chairperson

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner

Shannon Patterson, County Clerk

John F. Brocker, Commissioner