

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

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Jeremy Hopkins, Allen County Interim Road & Bridge Director, Robert Johnson, County Counselor, Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Rickie Aiello, Allen County employee, Jami Clark, Allen County Appraiser, Danielle Louk, Allen County Deputy Appraiser, Patrick Zirjacks, Thrive Allen County, and Paul Zirjacks, citizens, was present to observe the meeting.

Danielle Louk led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the April 16, 2024 meeting.

Chairman Symes asked for public comment. There was none.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported they have the pods in for the lights at the runway. They are working on the windsock and AWOS. They are still waiting a few parts to get in to finish up the lighting. The runway is open during the daytime but it is closed beginning at 7 p.m. due to the lights not being done. Discussion followed.

Mitch reported some circuits were fried during the power outages / surges at the airport for the pumps. Those have been fixed enough to be able to sell fuel.

Jeremy Hopkins, Interim Road & Bridge Director, reported the dust controls are being done for the transmission line. They put down 2 tankers yesterday and will do 2 more tomorrow.

Jeremy stated the distributor truck should be done by end of this month.

Jeremy will be having a meeting Thursday with the engineers to discuss the bridge on Nebraska. They will be discussing a temporary fix to open it back up. Discussion followed.

Jeremy stated they are waiting on hot mix to work on the bridge on 1600. Ottawa plant is not mixing correct kind and Parsons plant is down.

Commissioner Lee stated he had a call from a resident on 2000 Rd who is upset that the road is not being chip sealed this year. Since the soil remediation company is coming back, they decided not to finish the road to avoid damaging it again. The contractor is willing to pay ½ of the dust control for that area. Discussion followed.

Michael Burnett, Ems Director, joined the meeting.

Robert Johnson, County Counselor, reported they are on to beginning title work for the next tax sale. The property owners had 60 days to come in a pay the delinquent taxes. Started with over 200 tracts and after those 60 days, they collected over \$200,000 and are down to just over 100 tracts. Discussion followed.

Michael Burnett, EMS Director, presented 2024 1st Quarter update. Slower start to the year and March was a slow month. Commissioner Lee asked how the new legislation will affect our services. Michael believes that we will have to apply for this variance with the state board. Discussion followed.

Michael reported that one of the ambulances had to have all new ball joints and they had to replace one side of the suspension.

Marilyn Logan, GROW Council, joined the meeting.

Shannon Patterson, County Clerk, requested on behalf of Kristen Springston, Saint Lukes Senior Life Solutions, to place green ribbons on the lamp poles on either side of the Veteran's Memorial Wall as well as placing a sign that states "Mental Health Awareness month" for May. Commissioners approved this request.

Jami Clark, Allen County Appraiser, stated they are getting ready to send out the personal property valuations notices. The values have gone up slightly. The owner has 15 days to come in and discuss these values. Discussion followed.

Terry Johnson, citizen, joined the meeting.

Christopher Holloway, Shelby Peters, Thrive Interns, joined the meeting.

Debbie Bearden and Marilyn Logan, Grow Council, discussed the Regional Food System Partnership Grant that was awarded to the KC Healthy Kids program in Kansas City. The Grow Council has partnered with the KC Healthy Kids program. Debbie explained they would like to have a feasibility study done within Allen County to see where the needs are. The study would cost about 40,000 but requesting 45,000 to include incentives for participation. In order to apply for this part of the grant they need to have a 25% cash match. An outside entity would do this study and it would take 12-18 months to complete. Commissioner Daniels stated he would be comfortable with a letter of support and some amount toward the match. Discussion followed.

Brigham Folk, Thrive Intern, joined the meeting.

Brigham Folk, Christopher Holloway and Shelby Peters, Thrive Interns, reported on their final community conversation they hosted with Allen Community College. They had 3 international students in attendance, one from Australia, one from Portugal and one from Nigeria; as well as other student athletes. These students felt they were not as connected to the community as they don't know anything about the area. Christopher stated transportation was an issue to get them to local places as well. They are considering trying to set up a social media page or website that will list out events in our area. Also making sure they have knowledge of what access points they have to learn about the area. They will be working with a college representative to achieve this. Discussion followed.

Commissioners asked the interns what their plans are for after graduation. Shelby will be heading to Emporia this summer to begin some of her classes. Christopher said he will head to Lawrence and plans on majoring in Political Science and plans to come back. Brigham will attend Allen Community College for a year and study Theater. He will continue to work on making more information available to the students at the college.

Commissioner Daniels said he has been visiting with the city of Humboldt about the speed limit suggestions. Discussion followed.

Chairman Symes 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 9:36 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Jami Clark, Allen County Appraiser, Danielle Louk, Allen County Deputy Appraiser, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:46 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Non-elected personnel. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:47 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:57 a.m. No action taken.

Chairman Symes moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes for Contract Negotiations. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 10:00 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:15 a.m. No action taken.

Chairman Symes moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Contract Negotiations. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 10:17 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 10:27 a.m. No action taken.

Shannon reported that the current mail meter is going out of service due to new requirements by the postal service. She explained that the county has 2 options for a new one. Commissioners have approved Shannon to continue with the purchase of the new machine, instead of the leasing option.

Commissioners asked Shannon to get the specific timeline needed to put a special sales tax question on the November ballot. Commissioner Lee will be visiting Mildred Store May 9th at 6:30 pm and will be in Carlyle on Tuesday the 14th for a town hall about this idea. They are considering a .5 cent sales tax to fund the EMS services, in hopes to reduce the mill levy. Discussion followed.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Thank you letter from ACMAT
- b) Sheriff's office monthly reports for January, February and March
- c) Escapes – PP, Value 1023, \$162.48, Year 2022
PP, Value 1182, \$192.76, Year 2023

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$423,124.98
- b) Payroll – Mileage Reimbursements for Terry Call, Jerry Daniels, Bruce Symes, David Lee
- c) Payroll – March Process service for Brian Plumlee, Thad Parker, Wayne Carson, Daren Kellerman, Shane Smith, Steve Womack, Haley Donovan, Brenda Beth
- d) Payroll – Transfer of Leave requests
- e) Abatements – PP, Value 90, \$18.70, Year 2022
PP, Value 90, \$18.52, Year 2023

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Lee moved to adjourn, Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m. until Tuesday, April 30 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly's Room of the courthouse.

Bruce Symes, Chairperson

David Lee, Commissioner

Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner