

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. Brocker, and Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk.

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Jeremy Hopkins, Allen County Road & Bridge Director, Chelsie Decker, 911 Director, Chase Vaughn, County Counselor Representative, Rick Aiello, employee, Marcia Davis, Thrive Allen County, Kim Peterson, Iola City Council Representative, Mark Peters, Iola City Council Representative, Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Steve Strickler, Allen County Recycling, Janie Works, Allen County Recycling, Dan Davis, Allen County Recycling, Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Chase Vaughn led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the January 27, 2026 meeting.

Chairman Lee asked for public comment. Marcia Davis, Thrive Allen County, reported there will be a community conversation in Carlyle on February 10th at 6:00 p.m.

Janie Works, citizen, wanted to thank the county the road crew for grading the shoulder on.....ask Jeremy.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported the bobcat has been delivered to the airport.

Mitch reported the concrete crew was around the T-hangar yesterday to prep the area.

Mitch stated he is still waiting on the bid for the spray tanks, the truck is already here. He stated once the bed is placed on the truck, it will not fit in the current building. He suggested getting a carport, as this would be cheaper than trying to extend the building.

Mitch asked if the commissioners wanted to proceed with a new hangar this year since it was in the budget. Commissioners would like to look at the figures from the last one before they proceed.

Chairman Daniels asked about a brush for the front of the bobcat. Mitch stated they were looking more at a blower instead, he feels it would work better. Discussion followed.

Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, reported they are out picking up the brush from the mower max.

Chairman Lee asked how the roads were looking after a week of the snow. Jeremy stated he is pleased with them.

Steve Strickler, Allen County Recycling, presented a proposal for a recycling plan. Chairman Lee asked about the baler, who owns it, how old is it, what condition is it in, and who would be responsible for repairs. Steve stated that Allen County Recycling owns it. They purchased it from Green Environmental. They have not had to do anything to it. Chairman Lee asked if the intent is for the County/City to take ownership of it? Steve stated yes, he hoped so.

Chairman Lee stated he thought the intent was to just "dip our toe" in and he feels like this plan requires us to "jump fully in." Discussion followed on why he proposed this plan.

Chairman Lee stated he has received quite a few phone calls stating that they felt if someone wanted to recycle, they are already doing so. He explained their concerns.

One other thought was that 13 other counties use our landfill, so are we really saving that much of our landfill from recyclables.

Chairman Lee stated this is a little more involved than what he was hoping. Steve stated he is very open to suggestions to make this easier/cheaper.

Commissioner Brocker stated he does not like the fact that Steve has been asked multiple times for a plan, and he is just now getting it to them, after stating he was upset the county had not started yet. Discussion followed.

Stephen Euston and Joe Holdenried, Bukaty Companies, joined the meeting.

Karen Gilpin, Allen County Recycling, joined the meeting.

Commissioner Daniels stated his frustration on how the conversation has changed from 2 employees, 1 county and 1 city, part time a couple days a week; to now being just 1 employee from the county 3 days a week.

Chairman Lee stated he does not feel like the issue is dead, it just needs refined.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes for Contract Negotiations. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:04 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Stephen Euston, Bukaty Companies, and Joe Holdenried, Bukaty Companies. Commissioners reconvened at 9:19 a.m. No action taken.

Stephen Euston and Joe Holdenried, Bukaty Companies, presented the 2026 Health and Welfare Plan Pre-Renewal information. Joe started off the discussion with historical figures to show how the plan has been running. Discussion followed.

Richard Works, citizen, joined the meeting.

Bob Franklin, citizen, joined the meeting.

Joe and Stephen began discussing the renewal proposals. They explained how the renewal numbers came in and how BCBS looks at the pool we are in for those numbers.

Stephen and Joe went over the dental and other employer paid ancillary coverage renewals.

Richard Works, citizen, reported on his time in front of legislation when working on getting the sales tax set up for our landfill and how it concerns recycling efforts as well. Discussion followed.

Dick wanted to thank the road crew for fixing his mailbox after knocking it over when doing snow removal. He had gone out to fix it himself, however the crew had already taken care of it.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Annual rpts: LaHarpe Elm Cemetery, Marmaton Twp, Geneva Twp, Fire Dist #2 (City), Osage Twp, Rural Fire Dist #2 (Volunteer), Fire Dist #4
- b) Solid Waste Assurance annual report
- c) January Department Rpts: Public Works, County Clerk

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – 1/29/2026-\$243,703.67 & 2/2/2026-\$234,784.80
- b) Payroll – Enrollment Form: Thomas Roush, Isaac Hopkins
- c) Payroll – Reimbursements: Levi Seilonen (boots), Chris Craft (boots)

- d) Abatements – RE, Value 22,347, \$4,355.76, Year 2025
PP, Value 13,058, \$1,874.46, 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 10:18 a.m. until Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

David Lee, Chairperson

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner

Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk

John F. Brocker, Commissioner