

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

Mitch Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Mark Griffith, Allen County Road and Bridge Director, Rick Aiello, Allen County employee, Tim Stauffer, Iola Register Representative, Robert Johnson, Allen County Counselor, Jared Wheeler, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director, Terry Johnson, citizen, and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Mark Griffith led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Symes asked for public comment. There was none.

Mitchell Garner, Public Works Director, reported the contractors are not able to work at the landfill right now because of the cold temperatures. March may not be the finish date any longer. We may be looking at end of April before it is finished. Discussion followed.

Mitch reported the electric at the airport is being scheduled. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Lee asked what the procedures are for extreme cold weather when it comes to the machinery. Mitch explained the ones that fit into the barns go in and get plugged in. The larger machinery stays out.

Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, reported that the trucks were out this morning.

Mark stated he will be sending out for bids for oil and dust abatement.

Mark reported our 1993 Chipspreader is down and parts are no longer available to fix it. He received a quote from Van Keppel for a new one for \$419,750.00. He is also going to look for used ones that maybe will not have a lot of hours. Discussion followed. Mark will follow up with Van Keppel on time frame of getting the new one, as well as continue looking at the used ones.

Commissioner Lee asked how the county roads were looking. Mark stated not good with the weather but once the grounds thaw out, they will be hitting them hard.

Commissioner Lee asked about the leased tractors. They are at the hours and those leases were only for a year. Mark will be speaking with John Deere on options. Discussion followed.

Commissioners asked about the MowerMax and how that worked for its first season. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Lee asked if there was any other machinery or equipment that Mark anticipates purchasing this year, aside from the chipspreader. Mark stated he was thinking about trading in a backhoe for a mini excavator. Discussion followed.

Robert Johnson, County Counselor, stated they will be sending out 265 letters regarding delinquent taxes. The letters are for properties that are three years delinquent for an estimated total of \$865,000 in delinquent taxes. Discussion followed on the time frame for holding another tax sale.

Chairman Symes reported he spoke with Job Springer regarding our Environmental fund with the Your Community Foundation. Allen County originally invested \$50,000 and has

earned about \$30,000 in interest. The interest, if not spent, is added to the principle to earn interest. However, the \$30,000 can still be spent. Discussion followed.

Chairman Symes moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes for Trade Secrets. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:03 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Jared Wheeler, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:08 a.m. No action taken.

Chairman Symes moved to go back into executive session for 5 minutes for Trade Secrets. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:09 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Jared Wheeler, Thrive Allen County Economic Development Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:14 a.m. No action taken.

Chairman Symes moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes for non-elected personnel. Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:14 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:19 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Lee moved to make Commissioner Daniels vice-chair. Chairman Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioner Lee asked Chairman Symes how his testimony went for SB196 hearing, Chairman Symes was testifying in favor of re-instating LAVTR. Chairman Symes stated he did not go in person but he submitted his written testimony. Senator Tyson deemed there was not time for online testimony, which is what Chairman Symes would have done, so his written testimony is what they used. Discussion followed.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) December monthly reports from Larry Peterson for Hospital Bond Reporting
- b) December monthly report for Clerk's office
- c) Annual report for Clerk's office

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$72,591.79
- b) Payroll – Enrollment form for Jason Harris
- c) Payroll – Change form for Danielle Louk
- d) Payroll – Meal reimbursement for Chelsie Decker
- e) Annual reports from Iola Township and Allen County Rural Volunteer Fire
- f) Abatements: PP, Value 432, \$88.88, Year 2023  
TR, Value 7133, \$990.06, Year 2023  
Oil, Value 6971, \$935.80, Year 2023

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Lee moved to adjourn, Commissioner Daniels seconded, and motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:37 a.m. until Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly's Room of the courthouse.

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Bruce Symes, Chairperson

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David E. Lee, Commissioner

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Shannon Patterson, County Clerk

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Jerry Daniels, Commissioner