The Allen County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. with Chairman William “Bill” H. King, Commissioner Jerry Daniels, and Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk. Commissioner Bruce Symes was absent.

Nick Reynolds, Humboldt Union, Trevor Hoag, Iola Register, Robert Johnson, II, Allen County Counselor, Bryan J Murphy, Allen County Sheriff, Terry Call, Allen County EMS Financial Director, Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Ron Holman, Allen County House and Grounds Director, Traci Plumlee, St. Luke’s Allen County Regional Hospital Marketing and Public Relations Director, Elmore Patterson, St. Luke’s Allen County Regional Hospital Administrator, Lisse Regehr, Thrive Allen County Executive Director, Jonathon Goering, Thrive Allen County Economic Director, Carl Slaugh, Michelle Meiwes, Juanell & Robert Garrett, Jennifer Coltrane, David Gant, Ronald Burris, and Paul Zirjacks, citizens, was present to observe the meeting.

Chairman King led the flag salute.

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, reported reclamer is in Wichita for repair. A grader at John Deere for repair; they will be picking both up soon, He commented he has a mower or two down as well. The crews are out fixing pot holes. Chairman King stated he had visited with other land owners along New Hampshire Road between 200 and 400 Streets that were not interested in the county taking out the concrete road and turning it in to gravel. Mitch commented they will try to keep it patched. Discussion followed.

Chairman King commented on a comment of the Allen County Airport that it was only a playground for local people. He stated there are people and companies that use that for economic purposes. Doctors fly in when traveling, jets are able to land and Allen County Regional Airport has some of the lowest gas which some pilots stop and fuel while traveling through the area. Mitch said they sold over 32,000 gallons of fuel in 2019, Chairman King stated they have sold as much as 100,000 in a year. Mitch state they have had 21 out of state customers that utilize the courtesy vehicles. Commissioner Daniels stated the military uses it sometimes as well because Allen County’s runway is longer than most area airports. Mitch mentioned all the hangers are rented out and they could rent more if they had them.

Max Turner, Veteran’s Committee member, presented the Allen County Commission with a new flag; a Space Force, 6th Division of the US Military. Commissioners expressed their appreciation. The flag will fly by the Veteran’s Wall. Ron Holman, Allen County House and Grounds Director, stated where it will be place and the changes with the POW flag.

Traci Plumlee, St. Luke’s Allen County Regional Hospital Marketing and Public Relations Director, introduced Elmore Patterson, St. Luke’s Allen County Regional Hospital Administrator. Elmore is from Savannah, Georgia and is happy to be coming to Allen County. He will be working hard to make St. Luke’s Allen County Regional Hospital number 1. He said he know there is COVID and people need to stay 6 feet away from each other but don’t stay 6 feet away from health care. Commissioners welcomed Director Patterson to Allen County and invited him to come to the commission meeting whenever he or his staff would like.

Terry Call, EMS Financial Director, discussed another issue at the Humboldt Ambulance Station that happened when it rained this weekend. He stated a boot around a vent pipe leaked but it is taken care of now.

Terry stated Koehn will be ready for the “punch list” on Moran Ambulance Station on Monday, July 20, 2020. He stated Mitch had his crew bring more rock to the station.

Juanell Garrett, citizen, presented more COVID data for commissioner review.
Lisse Regehr, Thrive Allen County Executive Director, discussed SPARKS/CARES funding contract with Thrive. She presented a contract for review. Commissioners and Counselor Johnson will review for next week. A steering committee has been set up and will be meeting this week.

Sherrie asked if one of the commissioners will be setting on the Transportation Task Force for Allen County. She explained Jill Allen, Allen County Deputy Clerk, will be one member of the Task Force. Lisse the Task Force is part of a test project for county-wide transportation and has several different types of entities represented on the task force. She explained the intent is to help locals get to doctor appointments, grocery stores and etc.

Chairman King stated the commission wants to uphold the health official’s recommendation to uphold Governor Kelly’s executive order for the next 30 days.

Chairman King commended Bob Johnson, Iola Register journalist, for all the years he has represented Allen County on reporting minutes and news.

Sherrie informed the commissioners on a nomination from Iola Township to appoint Jayme Lauren Hunt as Iola Township Clerk. Commissioner Daniels moved to appoint Jayme Lauren Hunt as Iola Township Clerk. Chairman King seconded; motion passed 2-0-0.

Sherrie explained to the Assembly Room will be used for Advanced Voting for the next two weeks so the commission meetings will be upstairs but in the conference room. Advanced voting will be from 8-5 July 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 and from 7-7 July 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31. August 3 advanced voting will be from 7 to noon. She also discussed ballots requested by mail have reached about 450 for Allen County and much more for the entire state. Advanced Ballots can be requested to be mailed up until July 28, 2020, mail has to go out by 3:30 p.m.

Bryan J. Murphy, Allen County Sheriff, requested permission to use the assembly room for concealed carry class on August 8. Only 8 people in the class. Commissioners approve.

Lisse reminded the first-round of the CDBG-CV Funding closes on July 17, 2020. There was an error of the email listed. Lisse stated she knows there are still businesses working on submitting applications. Discussion followed.

Cole Herder, City of Humboldt Administrator, updated the commission with Census 2020 stats.

Cole discussed a Grand Opening for the Humboldt Ambulance Station. Discussion followed.

Jenna Higginbotham, USD 257 Curriculum Director, updated the commission on USD #257 current plan for schools. A group will be meeting on Thursday of this week and then Monday, Commissioner Symes will be setting on that committee. She discussed staff meetings and the thought to how to best do them with social distancing. Jenna mentioned the state is discussing having students 6 grade and up wear masks and doing common grouping. Discussion followed.

Chairman King moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss Attorney-Client Privilege. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 2-0-0. Those in the room will be Chairman King, Commissioner Daniels, Jami Clark, Allen County Appraiser and Robert Johnson, II, Allen County Counselor. The time is now 9:03 a.m. Commissioners reconvened at 9:13 a.m. No action was taken.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss Attorney-Client Privilege. Chairman King seconded; motion passed 2-0-0. Those in the room will be Chairman King, Commissioner Daniels, Lisse Regehr, Thrive Allen County Executive Director and Robert Johnson, II, Allen County Counselor. The time is now 9:25 a.m. Commissioners reconvened at 9:30 a.m. No action was taken.

Commissioners approved the following documents:
a) Clerks Vouchers – 7/10-$501,694.26 & 7/13-$2,535.76
b) Payroll – Vacation carryover of 81.75 hours for Brenda Beth to be used by 12/23/2020.
c) Payroll – reimbursement for mileage – Bill King
d) Journal Entries - #31 & #32
e) Monthly Treasurer’s reports for June 2020
f) Annual report – Osage Twp.- 2019

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Daniels moved to adjourned, Chairman King seconded, and motion passed 2-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m. until July 21, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. in the upstairs Conference Room of the courthouse.

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William H. King, Chairperson                  Jerry Daniels, Commissioner

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Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk              Bruce Symes, Commissioner

Absent

William H. King, Chairperson
Jerry Daniels, Commissioner
Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk
Bruce Symes, Commissioner