

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, Jason Trego, Emergency Manager, Chelsie Decker, 911 Director, Robert Johnson, County Counselor, Rick Aiello, employee, Terry Call, Zoning Administrator, Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Anthony Maness, Allen County Sheriff, Steve Strickler, Allen County Recycling, Robert Franklin, citizen, Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Robert Johnson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the February 17, 2026, meeting.

Chairman Lee asked for public comment. Steve Strickler, Allen County Recycling, wanted to remind the commission about recycling.

Vince Hill, citizen, wanted to introduce himself to the commissioner. He is requesting to bring back a fly in and car show to the airport as a fundraiser. He would like to split the money between the school district and ACARF.

Vince would also like to speak about the new hangar. He would like to lease this hangar as he wants to expand his maintenance. Discussion followed.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported the annual solid waste plan will be due April 18th. He plans to have it to the commissioners for review next week.

Mitch reported tank management at the airport process has been changed slightly. We now must send it to a certified contractor for \$225 - \$250 a year to fulfil the report for us to send into the state. Discussion followed.

Mitch reported he will be sending an employee to Minnesota for training on the evaporators for the new cell. It is April 14th through 17th. The cost is approximately \$1900 and this is for all expenses associated with the training, only other cost will be fuel to get there.

Mitch reported they are having to fix some concrete work on the west side of the hangar. While inspecting it, they noticed a crack running the length of it, so they will tear it out and repour it.

Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, presented bids for the noxious weed bed and tanks. Fairbanks Big W Sales, Wichita KS, for \$81,026.55 and Norstar Industries, Auburn WA, for \$134,334.00. Discussion followed. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve the bid from Fairbanks for \$81,026.55. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Jeremy stated that a 2007 dump truck catch fire last week. It was at the end of the day, so no one was in it. It looks as though it will be totaled. They believe it was something electrical. Discussion followed.

Chairman Lee asked how the brush cleanup is going. Jeremy stated they are still out there working on that as well as entryways.

Chelsie Decker, 911 Communications Director, following up on her request to attend the Navigator Conference. Chairman Lee stated his thoughts on going this far every year. Commissioner Daniels shared his thoughts and agreed with not sending a third person

this year. Commissioner Brocker voiced his concerns about the location of such training. Commissioner Brocker moved to approve sending Chelsie Decker & Jason Trego to Las Vegas for the Navigator Conference. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 2-1-0. Chairman Lee voted no.

Ron Holman, House & Grounds Director, presented a bid to remove the problem tree out front along with the two shrubs from B&E Services, LLC. Commissioners would like Ron to get one or two more quotes.

Chairman Lee discussed conversations he had with surrounding counties. Something they are doing, that we are not, is they have a county NRP. He is speaking with Shannon, Crickett, and Danielle to do some groundwork to see how this would look for us. He will bring back more information once he has these meetings.

Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk, requested approval for the renewal of a cereal malt beverage license for Humboldt Speedway. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve the license. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chairman Daniels moved to approve the Chairman's signatures on two letters of engagement for Jarred, Gilmore, & Phillips to continue to audit the hospital financials. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Jason Trego, Emergency Manager, reported there is a 30% chance of severe weather for Friday, and Allen County is currently right in the bullseye.

Jason reported the storm siren upgrade install has been scheduled for March 17th and 18th.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for Non-Elected Personnel. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:07 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Chelsie Decker, 911 Communications Director, Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:17 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:18 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Terry Call, Zoning administrator, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:23 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes for Non-Elected Personnel. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:24 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:29 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Lee moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes for Attorney Client. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 9:30 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, and Robert Johnson II, Allen County Counselor. Commissioners reconvened at 9:45 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioners opened a discussion about the airport hangars. Commissioner Lee brought up the hangar rent, stated \$600.00 a month would pay off the hangar in 23 years. Commissioner Daniels stated he doesn't understand why we would rent one for \$600 when a similar hangar is being rented for \$400 a month. Discussion followed. Commissioner Brocker moved to lease the new hangar for \$600 a month. Chairman Lee seconded; motion passed 2-1-0. Commissioner Daniels voted no.

Discussion was had about building another hangar this year as budgeted. Chairmen Lee would like to put it off this year and revisit for next year. Commissioner Brocker would rather see individuals build their own hangars and promote as such. Discussion followed. Commissioner Brocker moved to delay building a new hangar this budget cycle while watching how the newest hangar will be rented out. Chairman Lee seconded; motion passed 2-1-0. Daniels voted no because they had approved a budget consisting of building a hangar and now they are "changing their minds".

Chairman Lee asked how to assign who gets the new hangars. Chairman Lee stated his opinion is that since Allen County tax dollars built the hangar, then an Allen County resident will have priority. Discussion followed.

Daniels moved to approve renewal with BCBS, renewal option increasing our specific deductible to \$75,000 (from \$60,000) and keeping the cost to employees the same for health insurance (dental will increase slightly). Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Chairman Lee reported there were changes to the Southeast Kansas Mental Health Center's bylaws. He would like to be back on the board now that the changes have occurred. Discussion followed on the Chairman being on the board every year, with the vice-chair as an alternate. Commissioner Daniels moved to nominate Chairman Lee to be on the board with the vice chair as the alternate. Commissioner Brocker seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) February dept reports: Noxious Weed, Public Works, Register of Deeds, County Clerk, Attorney, Treasurer
- b) Annual Reports: Iola Twp, Elsmore Twp, Deer Creek Twp, West Cottage Grove Cemetery, Allen County Rural Fire Dist #3

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$745,661.30 signed 2/27/26 for 2/27/26 payout & \$41,050.17 for 3/13/26 payout
- b) Payroll – Mileage reimbursement: Terry Call
- c) Clerks Journal Entries – 2025 #52, 53, 54
- d) Abatements – RE, Value 33,489, \$6,928.12, Year 2025
TR, Value 69, \$10.00, Year 2025

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Daniels moved to adjourn, Chairman Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m. until Tuesday, March 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