

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 Road & Bridge Director, Misty Rice, Allen County Register of Deeds, Robert Johnson, County Counselor, Sarah Haney, Iola Register, Rickie Aiello, Allen County employee, Marcia Davis, Thrive Allen County, Terry Johnson, citizen, and Paul Zirjacks, citizens, was present to observe the meeting.

Commissioner David Lee led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the October 8, 2024 meeting.

Chairman Symes asked for public comment. There was none.

Misty Rice, Register of Deeds, presented bids for new indexing books. Two bids were received, Navrats and Salina Blue. She will be purchasing them from Navrats as they were a couple thousand dollars cheaper.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported the pad for the new hangar has been poured. It will need 14 days before they will put the building up.

Mitch presented new information on generator bids, these prices are good for 30 days and they cannot guarantee any pricing for after the first of the year. Commissioner Lee moved to accept the bid from Stout Electric for \$30,818.33 for a natural gas generator. This could possibly be paid out of either PILOT funds or the general fund. Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioners asked about the approach to the new hangar. Discussion followed.

Chairman Symes asked how the work at the landfill is coming along. They are running a little behind and now saying a couple more weeks. Discussion followed.

Debbie Bearden, GROW Council, joined the meeting.

Jeremy Hopkins, Road & Bridge Director, reported chip sealing is completed for the season. His crews are out patching pot holes and getting ready for cooler weather.

Commissioner Lee asked Jeremy when we will need to turn in our leased tractors. Discussion followed.

Marcia Davis, Thrive Allen County, reported on the Mildred community conversation. They love that their area is quiet, residents are helpful and support each other well, and they love their Mildred Store. Some needs or concerns would be more funding, blighted properties, lack of housing. With the blighted property concerns, they are worried about squatters staying in those properties. One of the items needed for funding would be the fire contract with Moran City. Roads were another concern, the block from the store to the highway. Some items they would like would be a walking trail, signs, working on getting a non-profit for Osage Township to apply for grants, gas station, develop the old community building. Top priorities were town cleanup, blighted properties, street repairs, and recreation. Discussion followed.

Marcia stated the next conversation will be October 22 at 6:30 in Elsmore.

Debbie Bearden, GROW Council, requesting to hold a Summer Food Festival, next summer. She is requesting use of the square to hold the on June 21, 2025. They are hoping to pass out save the date cards during Farm City Days this weekend. Commissioners asked Ron Holman, House and Grounds Director, his thoughts on if it would be an issue with the electrical outlets that we have on the square. Discussion followed. Commissioners approved Debbie's request to use the square on June 21, 2025.

Chairman Symes read a proposed letter of commitment for local matching funds for the 5310-grant application. Commissioner Lee moved to approve Chairman Symes' signature on the letter of commitment. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) September Hospital Board financials
- b) September monthly report for Noxious Weed
- c) Thrive Allen County Annual Award Celebration invitation

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$680,567.67
- b) Payroll – Change forms for Colton Slocum, Mandy Smoot, Hector Tornel
- c) Payroll - Mileage reimbursement for Terry Call
- d) Payroll – Motor vehicle compensation for Darolyn Maley
- e) Payroll – Election compensation for Shannon Patterson
- f) Clerks Journal Entries -
- g) Abatements

With no further business to come before the board, Chairman Symes moved to adjourn, Commissioner Lee seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:09 a.m. until Tuesday, October 22 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the courthouse.

Bruce Symes, Chairperson

David Lee, Commissioner

Shannon Patterson, Allen County Clerk

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner