

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2024, SEVENTEENTH MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. **Friday, March 1, 2024 10:00 AM**

The Crawford County Board of Commissioners met pursuant to Kansas Statutes.

Annotated Chapter 19, Article 2, Section 18 in due and regular session with open doors.

Commissioner Carl Wood served as the presiding officer.

Commissioner Bruce Blair was in attendance.

County Clerk Lisa Lusker and County Counselor Jim Emerson were seated with the Board.

Chairman Wood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

UNDER THE HEADING BUSINESS FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING CONSENT AGENDA

On motion (24-110) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **February 27, 2024** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners, and
2. Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

The motion prevailed and the consent agenda was approved.

SIGNING OF MOTIONS

The County Clerk presented the following motions for Commissioners' signatures:

Motion 24	105	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the February 23, 2024 minutes
Motion 24	106	To recess the open meeting for a period of 5 minutes
Motion 24	107	To approve the KDHE Rural Hospital Innovation Grant Application with Freeman Health Systems and authorize the Chairman to sign
Motion 24	108	To approve payment of invoice #1998 and Invoice #1999 from Wallace Tower Specialists and Repair for the Communications Tower

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		Project near Arma in the amount of \$26,490 and authorize the Chairman to sign
Motion 24	109	To approve the repair of a fence located in Franklin

UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD

MESSAGES FROM CRAWFORD CO LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS

Item One: Public hearing on Crawford County Solid Waste Plan 5-year update.

On motion (24-111) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood to open the Public Hearing on the Crawford County Solid Waste Plan 5-year update.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

The motion prevailed.

Mr. Dennis Meier with Triad Environmental Services addressed the Commissioners. Mr. Meier explained that every 5 years KDHE requires them to hold a public meeting to accept public input about solid waste needs in the county. Mr. Meier provided some updates on local landfills and stated the biggest concerns and complaints they have are in regards to the trash that blows out of the trucks onto the roads and land surrounding the roads. Mr. Meier also discussed how important it is that SEK Recycling Center has the Commissioners support to remain open and functioning. Commissioner Wood mentioned that Crawford County gets hounded with the cost of household hazardous waste and asked if the other counties have this same issue or what they do with their household hazardous waste. The representatives of Triad Environmental Services mentioned the cost reflects the cost of disposal for the facility that is ran by them on behalf of the county. Mr. Meier also discussed pricing of lithium battery disposal and explained they cannot dispose of these the same as other batteries so the community needs to dispose of them correctly.

On motion (24-112) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood to close the Public Hearing on the Crawford County Solid Waste Plan 5-year update.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

The motion prevailed.

On motion (24-113) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the Crawford County Solid Waste Plan update as presented.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

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The motion prevailed.

**MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS
MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC
MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES
MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS
NEW BUSINESS**

Item One: County Clerk Lisa Lusker presented the February 2024 Clerk's Report. She stated that this report summarizes the total amounts spent by departments for payroll and bills during the month of February. Ms. Lusker also gave the Commissioners a copy of the January 2024 to February 2024 Clerk's Report of Changes in Expenditures for comparison. County Counselor Jim Emerson mentioned that this was the month insurance was allocated so that some of the line items may appear higher than usual for this month.

On motion (24-114) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Wood to approve the February 2024 Clerk's Report as presented.

On a Roll Call Vote.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

The motion prevailed.

Item Two: Ms. Lusker presented a Tax Roll Correction, correcting an error in the assessing of Personal Property owned by Scott Cuthbertson and to request a refund in the amount of \$203.98 from the 2021 tax rolls and the amount of \$705.70 from the 2022 tax rolls. Ms. Lusker explained that the 2011 Dodge Ram had been double assessed.

On motion (24-115) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the Tax Roll Correction, correcting an error in the assessing of Personal Property owned by Scott Cuthbertson and to request a refund in the amount of \$203.98 from the 2021 tax rolls and the amount of \$705.70 from the 2022 tax rolls and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

The motion prevailed.

Item Three: Ms. Lusker mentioned that in office voting has begun for the Presidential Preference Primary Election. She stated the office is open to the public from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Commissioner Blair asked what this election consists of and Ms. Lusker explained that if a voter is registered with either the Democratic or Republican party that person can vote on the presidential candidates for that party. She also mentioned if a voter is registered as unaffiliated, they are able to come in to the office and affiliate so that they can vote, or they may also affiliate at the polling place on election day.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item One: County Counselor Jim Emerson requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (24-116) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Blair to recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel to discuss GIS and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, and Mr. Coby Hinton and to reconvene by 10:52 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 10:37 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 10:46 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

NEW BUSINESS continued

Item Four: Mr. Emerson presented a petition signed by 51% or more of the owners of certain streets in Quail Hollow Subdivision, Crawford County, Kansas requesting the county to provide for the apportionment of the cost of the completed improvement of the streets noted in the petition. Mr. Emerson said that the streets include Pinehurst Drive, Sawgrass Court, Spyglass Court, and Augusta Court. He explained that the estimated cost of the improvement is \$286,771 and will be assessed equally to the parcels of land over a 5-year period.

On motion (24-117) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the petition for the county to provide for the apportionment of the cost of completed improvements of the streets noted in the petition in Quail Hollow Subdivision, Crawford County, Kansas.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

The motion prevailed.

Item Five: Mr. Emerson explained that Crawford County high schools will be hosting a Government Day on Wednesday, April 10th at PSU. Mr. Emerson mentioned that Mr. Brady Hill with Frontenac High School sent an email asking if the Commissioners would be willing to attend to speak to students at this event. Mr. Emerson gave a brief explanation of what the Commissioners would be doing at this event and said Mr. Hill stated he would provide more information if the Commissioners were available to attend. Commissioner Blair and Commissioner Wood stated they will make themselves available for this event.

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Item Six: Mr. Emerson stated that SEKCAP would like a work session with the Commissioners in regards to the ARPA Large Childcare update that took place in the previous open meeting. He mentioned they would like this work session on March 8th at 9:00 AM if available. Commissioners Blair and Wood said this time would work for them.

Item Seven: Mr. Emerson said he had a few people reach out in regards to the upcoming public hearing on land use with concerns on a space large enough to accommodate a crowd if several people from the public attend. He mentioned he looked into seeing if the court room would be available to be used for this and that it has been reserved for them on the day of the public hearing. Commissioner Wood mentioned he had ten to twelve calls yesterday on the topic of land use with mixed opinions.

Item Eight: Mr. Emerson mentioned this is the time when books get finalized for the previous year. He said Director of Fiscal Services Randi Ryan wanted him to discuss with the Commissioners on if they wanted to make a transfer out of the Road and Bridge budget to put in reserve. Mr. Emerson mentioned there is \$61,000 to transfer and then \$320,000 of cash on end. Commissioner Wood asked if there is leftover money in the General Fund is there somewhere they can move that money so that it is not included in the next year's budget. Mr. Emerson explained they partake in budget carry over in an attempt not to have to raise the Mill Levy. Mr. Emerson mentioned he hates to transfer too much out of General Fund because any bill can be paid out of this funding and he prefers to keep it at a healthy and safe number.

On motion (24-118) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the transfer of \$61,000 out of Road and Bridge fund in to the Equipment Reserve fund.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

The motion prevailed.

Item Nine: Mr. Emerson mentioned he had a nice conversation with Representative Kenneth Collins in regards to Senate Bill 162. Mr. Emerson said Mr. Collins understands the need for this bill and believes he will be writing a testimony in favor of Senate Bill 162. Mr. Emerson said the confirmed hearing date for Senate Bill 162 will be on March 11 at 9:00 AM. Mr. Emerson stated he will visit more with the county's lobbyist to prepare the testimony for this hearing. Commissioner Wood praised Mr. Emerson for the hard work he has done when it comes to this bill as well.

Item Ten: Mr. Emerson informed the Commissioners that he had heard from their current mowing company and he was informed that there are some other properties this company mows and then bills it to the courthouse as well. Mr. Emerson said he is going to amend this into the bids so that they are included in the properties that need to be mowed. Mr. Emerson mentioned he has received two people inquiring about this information for bidding.

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Item Eleven: Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Emerson if he can get into contact with the representative from Evergy in regards to the street lights in Prairie View area. Mr. Emerson mentioned he visited with one of the landowners at the Highway 69 meeting and he is going to get back into contact with Mr. Emerson about this. Mr. Emerson said after they are ready, they will schedule a hearing about this. Commissioner Wood then stated he had complaints from the public in regards to dump trucks not tarping the back of their trucks causing trash and debris to fly out. Commissioner Wood asked if Mr. Emerson has spoken with someone at the landfill and Mr. Emerson said he mentioned something during the solid waste meeting but he can call again and that he has also spoken with the Sheriff about this issue. Mr. Emerson said they can send out the memo again for new haulers as well to make them aware.

OLD BUSINESS

Item One: Mr. Emerson said he attended the Highway 69 Association meeting on Tuesday as well as Commissioner Blair and Commissioner Wood and the State of Kansas is going to begin scheduling more public meetings in regards to the Corridor study being conducted on the highways so that they need to keep an eye out for when these meetings will be.

Item Two: Commissioner Blair said he spoke with Triad Environmental Services in regards to the old landfill and they will be working on a plan for identifying and taking care of these areas. Commissioner Blair stated they will conduct soil testing for this as well. Commissioner Blair also mentioned Triad will be sending soil samples off for 70th street as well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION continued

Item Two: County Counselor Jim Emerson requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (24-119) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Blair to recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel to discuss emergency management and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, and Emergency Management Director Rusty Akins, and to reconvene by 11:24 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:09 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:21 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

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UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: March 8, 2024 – Honorable Lori Fleming Chief Judge for the 11th Judicial District discussing Drug Court MOU.

Item Two: March 8, 2024 – Opening of bids on Storage Building.

Item Three: March 8, 2024 – Opening of bids for foundation work on communications tower near Arma.

Item Four: March 8, 2024 – 9:00 AM Work session with SEKCAP regarding Large Childcare.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

UNDER THE HEADING MOTION TO ADJOURN MOTION TO ADJOURN

Item One: Adjournment

On the motion of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood to adjourn the [March 1, 2024](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:22 AM and to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled time with open doors.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

The motion prevailed.

In Testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed my official seal and submitted these minutes for the approval of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners.

Lisa Lusker
County Clerk

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This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.

Taken RJA 3/4/2024 2:00 PM/amended BKW 3/4/2024 3:00 PM