

# Board of Crawford County Commissioners

## Commissioners' Journal

2024, TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM  
Girard, KS. Tuesday, March 26, 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.

Commissioners Tom Moody and Commissioner Bruce Blair were 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 (24-160)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **March 22, 2024** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners, and
2. Approval of the March 22, 2024 minutes of the Board of County Canvassers.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed and the consent agenda was approved.**

#### SIGNING OF MOTIONS

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

Motion 24 Canvass	152	To Accept the Recommendations of the County Election Officer for the Acceptance and Rejection of Provisional Ballots from the 2024 Presidential Preference Primary held March 19, 2024 in Crawford County
Motion 24 Canvass	153	To Accept the Final Results Report of the 2024 Presidential Preference Primary held March 19, 2024 in Crawford County

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Motion 24	154	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the March 19, 2024 minutes
Motion 24	155	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 10 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel to discuss the IT Department and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, IT Director Brandon Spaur and Mr. Gus Brunetti and to reconvene by 9:32 AM
Motion 24	156	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 10 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel to discuss the IT Department and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, IT Director Brandon Spaur and Mr. Gus Brunetti and to reconvene by 9:43 AM
Motion 24	157	To close the Courthouse in observance of Good Friday, March 29, 2024
Motion 24	158	To approve the purchase of a 2025 Neville 45' x 120" Lowboy Trailer at a price of \$45,275.00 and pay from the Equipment Reserve Fund
Motion 24	159	To recess this open session until 10:00 AM and will reconvene in the Courtroom, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor

### UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

#### PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD

#### MESSAGES FROM CRAWFORD CO LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH

#### MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Item One:** County Counselor Jim Emerson presented the ARPA drawdown request for March 2024. He said that there was only 1 request for March and is for Crawford County Rural Water District #1 in the amount of \$2,439.50. He stated that Water District #1 has a balance remaining of \$78.49 and the district stated that they will be using the remaining funds. Mr. Emerson said that this drawdown is the second project for the district and will almost wrap up their funding which he hopes that more entities do the same this year.

**On motion (24-161)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the ARPA drawdown request for March 2024.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Two:** Mr. Emerson addressed Senate Bill #162. He stated that the bill has made it way through the Senate and is now on the House floor. He said that he spoke to Mr. Shawn Miller, the County's lobbyist, today about the bill and Mr. Miller explained that the House has 2 days left of the main session and if the bill is going to worked, it should be tomorrow. Mr. Emerson said that Mr. Miller is working with Representative Ken Collins and some Wichita delegates but there are no guarantees that the House will run the bill.

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## MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

**Item One:** Mr. Mike Dallman, Field Operations Supervisor, Kansas Division of Property Valuation addressing PVD Compliance via Zoom. Mr. Dallman explained the purpose of the meeting. The Commissioners were presented documents from PVD. Mr. Dallman went through the documents. He discussed the Crawford County 2023 Compliance Review spreadsheet. He explained the statistical portion and the procedural portion of the spreadsheet. Commissioner Wood asked if there is anything that can be done for the people of Crawford county with the cost of everything increasing when the county is already out of compliance. Mr. Dallman stated that's the biggest question right now and that everyone is just kind of stuck at this time. Commissioner Wood asked if other states are increasing the value of homes and Mr. Dallman answered that he has read some articles where other states are facing similar issues. Commissioner Wood asked if the State is going to be harder on the county now because they are not in compliance and Mr. Dallman answered that the appraisers office is doing what they can do and that it is just a matter of trying to keep up with the rising market. Commissioner Blair asked how many are not in compliance out of the 105 counties in Kansas. Mr. Dallman stated there was a total of 7 counties out of compliance and that there probably would have been more had the original formula been used and not the newer formula. Mr. Dallman further explained the difference in the formulas. Mr. Dallman then discussed appeals and how those are broken down and assessed. Commissioner Wood asked if people appeal their assessed value or taxes and the county does not change this can they take another route to appeal higher up. Mr. Dallman answered yes they can further appeal with the Board of Tax Appeals. Mr. Dallman also mentioned that typically residential appeals are handled in a small claims manner. Commissioner Wood asked if the person has to pay a fee for someone to be the mediator in the case and Mr. Dallman answered that there is a fee when someone appeals with the Board of Tax Appeals but that there is a form they can fill out to try and have that fee waived. Commissioner Wood asked if the Commissioners have any say in lowering commercial property taxes by visiting with their appraiser or if that is between the land owner and the appraiser. Mr. Dallman stated he does not know the answer to that question and would have to look into it and get back with Commissioner Wood. Commissioner Blair asked if it was fair to say that Crawford County not being in compliance could be due to properties selling at an inflated price and Mr. Dallman said yes it could be.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Item One:** County Grant Writer Gus Brunetti requested an executive session for 5 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

**On motion (24-162)** of Commissioner Moody 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 5 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel to discuss a grant writing conference and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, and County Grant Writer Mr. Gus Brunetti and to reconvene by 11:05 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

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Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:00 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:03 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

**Item Two:** EMS Director Randy Sandberg requested a 10 minute executive session to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

**On motion (24-163)** of Commissioner Moody 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 10 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel to discuss EMS and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, and EMS Director Randy Sandberg and to reconvene by 11:14 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:04 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:11 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

### NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

**Item Three:** Mr. Emerson stated he has a lease purchase agreement for the two Caterpillar Motor Graders with Clayton Holdings, LLC. He said they were the low bid at 4.64% which is under the quote that was received from Foley. Mr. Emerson mentioned the lease agreement is for 60 months in the amount of \$11,722.63 per month with the first payment being due in May. Mr. Emerson talked the Commissioners through the agreement. Commissioner Wood asked about the payments on other equipment soon and Mr. Emerson says by January 2025 about \$16,000 worth of payments will be coming off on other equipment. Commissioner Wood asked if any of the other Commissioners have talked to Foreman Josh Peak about if any of the graders that are being traded in are better than the spare grader the county has and Commissioner Blair said they discussed holding on to the graders without the admissions for as long as possible because they are easier to maintain.

**On motion (24-164)** of Commissioner Moody and second of Commissioner Wood to approve the lease purchase agreement with Clayton Holdings, LLC for 60 months at \$11,722.63 per month and authorizing the Chairman to sign and to adopt Resolution #2024-005, a Resolution included in the agreement Schedule E-1 to State & Municipal Lease/Purchase Agreement Lease No. 55000355-002.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

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**Item Four:** Commissioner Wood wanted to reiterate that on Tuesday, April 2nd the county is going to take two pieces of equipment to the SEK Recycling Center to remove some debris.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Item One:** Mr. Emerson brought up the SEK Recycling Center. He mentioned when they visited with Dr. Triplett they had discussed meeting with other entities after the Pittsburg City meeting tonight to discuss the Recycling Center. Mr. Emerson stated he will be working on arranging these meetings.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION CONTINUED**

**Item Three:** Mr. Emerson requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship.

**On motion (24-165)** of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 15 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship to discuss storage building bids and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, and County Clerk Lisa Lusker and to reconvene by 11:38 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Moody, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:23 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:36 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

**Item Four:** Commissioner Moody requested an executive session for 10 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship.

**On motion (24-166)** of Commissioner Moody 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 10 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship to discuss ATC Building and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 11:46 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:36 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:44 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: April 2, 2024** – CEO of SEKCAP Mr. Jamey Whitney and Executive Mental Health Director Ms. Heather Spaur discussing a collaborative grant.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Item One: March 27, 2024** – City/County Luncheon hosted by the City of Girard from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM at the Girard Civic Center, 102 N Ozark, Girard. All three Commissioners may be in attendance.

**Item Two: March 29, 2024** – The Crawford County Courthouse will be closed in observance of Good Friday and the regularly scheduled meeting will be cancelled.

## UNDER THE HEADING MOTION TO ADJOURN MOTION TO ADJOURN

**Item One:** Adjournment

**On the motion** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to adjourn the [March 26, 2024](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:46 AM and to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled time with open doors.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**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.**

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**Lisa Lusker**  
County Clerk

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**This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.**

Taken RJA 4/01/24 10:30 AM/amended BKW 4/1/24 3:30 PM