

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2015, **SPECIAL** MEETING FOR CRAWFORD COUNTY MUSEUM

MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM BASEMENT, PITTSBURG, KANSAS

Tuesday, August 4, 2015, 6:30 PM

The Crawford County Board of Commissioners met pursuant to Kansas Statutes

Annotated Chapter 19, Article 2, Section 18 in special session with open doors.

Commissioner Carl Wood served as the presiding officer.

Commissioner Tom Moody was in attendance.

County Counselor Jim Emerson, County Special Projects Manager Tom Ragonese and Convention and Visitor's Bureau Director B. J. Harris were seated with the Board. County Clerk Don Pyle was seated at the registration table.

County Commission Chairman Carl Wood called the meeting to order. Mr. Wood discussed that this special meeting had been called to work on the reorganization of the Crawford County Museum. Mr. Wood asked that everyone present introduce themselves to the group. Mr. Wood asked that B. J. Harris review the Crawford County Museum Proposal for the audience. Mr. Harris discussed how the proposal was adopted and how it was proposed to be used to help provide a more reliable source of funds for the museums.

An individual in the audience asked if the goal of 2,000 visitors was attainable and if any records of attendance at the museum had been kept. Mr. Harris stated that the Miner's Hall Museum in Franklin had 3,000 visitors in the last year and that they have had that many per year for the past few years. It was also discussed that attendance records had not been kept at the Crawford County Museum for several years.

Another individual asked if relocation of the museum to a location that is more accessible to the public has been considered. There was a discussion of a few locations in downtown Pittsburg that had been considered. Commissioner Wood emphasized that the commissioners will not allow the collection of the museum to be split up which would require a new location to have enough room for the entire collection. He did state that all ideas are on the table so long as it does not include dividing the collection. A couple of locations including the old Frisco Depot and the Bowlus School Supply Building were discussed.

Commissioner Moody stated that he felt that an executive board needs to be formed so that it can take over the operations of the museum and start to make plans for it's reopening. It was discussed that a board is needed to get the museum organized and to start promoting it. Many ideas were discussed involving events that the museum could hold to promote it and to attract visitors.

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Mr. Tom Ragonese stated that the current building that housed the museum collection is in pretty good shape and it was built to be a museum. He also stated that with some good promotion it could be a very good attraction and that the other buildings and the grounds around it make it an area that could host many different activities.

Mr. Jerry Lomshek stated that he felt that a steering committee should be formed first that could research all the steps that should be taken for a 501c(3) organization to be formed and the other steps necessary in order to get the organization started. Mr. Lomshek stated that this would be a short term committee that would then turn over the operations to a board after the organization is set up. It was discussed that the ownership of the property and other issues need to be addressed by the steering committee. Mr. Zagonel of the SEK Tractor Club stated that their organization already has 501c(3) status and felt they could assume the responsibility for the property. County Counselor Jim Emerson stated that he felt that it would be best if a separate and new organization was set up for the sole purpose of managing the museum but if that cannot be done they would have to look at other options.

Someone asked if the museum was currently being used for local school field trips and it was discussed that the lack of volunteers had made it hard to have someone available for school field trips over the last couple of years.

Ms. Linda Grilz stated that the Miner's Hall Museum had grown and developed in the last few years and that this group needs to have a passion for the development and growth of this museum. Ms. Grilz stated that they need to sieze this opportunity.

The notes and main talking points of the meeting were reviewed and it was discussed that anyone that wanted to be on the steering committee would need to give the county clerk their contact information. The commissioners would review the list of interested individuals and hold another meeting to organize the steering committee. It was felt that the next meeting could be held at the museum and there was a discussion of the reasons that holding a large public meeting in the museum was not proposed. The meeting was adjourned.

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:

Don Pyle
County Clerk

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This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.

Taken by DPP 08/04/2015 at 7:25 PM, Amended by DPP 08/05/2015 at 2:15 PM