

# Board of Crawford County Commissioners

## Commissioners' Journal

2024, [SIXTY-FIRST MEETING](#)

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM  
Girard, KS. [Tuesday, August 20, 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 Bruce Blair and Tom Moody 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 (24-361)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the [August 16, 2024](#) minutes of the Board of County Commissioners.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, 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	360	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the August 13, 2024 minutes, and Approval of the August 13, 2024 minutes of the Board of County Canvassers, and Approval of the accounts payable warrant numbers 631316 to 631768 dated August 15, 2024 in the total amount of \$444,850.82
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### **UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS**

**PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS**

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

**MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES**

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### MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

**Item One:** Mr. Joshua Albin, Adams Jones Law Firm, P.A., addressed the Commissioners. He stated he was here to discuss comprehensive planning with the Commissioners. Mr. Albin gave some details about comprehensive planning and what it is used for. Mr. Albin then began discussing their process in creating a comprehensive plan and explained each step of the process. Commissioner Moody asked if there would be different surveys sent out and Mr. Albin answered they would create a general survey first and send them out with the individual cities because they have utility information to reach a larger amount of citizens within the county. Mr. Albin then explained after the general survey results they begin to send a second, targeted survey. Commissioner Blair asked if they used a QR code to access an online survey, how do they make sure they do not have one individual that is just taking surveys several times? Mr. Albin stated the survey should use an address component and email component to attempt to avoid this problem, but that they cannot completely avoid this potential issue. Commissioner Wood asked if the main way they are going to promote the survey is with the QR code and Mr. Albin answered no and that is only one way for people to access a survey. Commissioner Wood asked what Mr. Albin would include in the survey and Mr. Albin gave examples of questions that could be included on the survey. Commissioner Wood asked if they will send the survey out to towns and incorporated areas as well or only to unincorporated and rural areas, and Mr. Albin stated they will work as a partnership with the incorporated areas because the comprehensive plan will include them as well. Commissioner Blair asked what the typical timeline for the process of creating a comprehensive plan and Mr. Albin responded that it typically takes between 12 and 18 months. Commissioner Blair asked if there was any way to separate surveys by area and Mr. Albin answered yes and explained how. Commissioner Blair asked in regards to the Commissioners making a decision how soon could Adams Jones Law Firm start, and Mr. Albin answered that they could start after the signing of a contract which would probably be between October 1 and November 1 depending on how soon the Commissioners make their decision. Commissioner Blair asked what other things would occur to get public opinion besides the survey and Mr. Albin explained. Commissioner Blair asked how long Mr. Albin sees the survey being available and Mr. Albin answered surveys typically take about 3 months and gave explanation as to why that time frame is ideal. Commissioner Wood asked if they try to narrow down questions after the first survey and Mr. Albin explained the survey process again. Commissioner Wood asked if one person could be involved in all three surveys and Mr. Albin answered they could participate in all three if they choose to. Ms. Judy Prince addressed the Commissioners and asked Mr. Albin if he is affiliated or partnered with State or Federal agencies and Mr. Albin answered he is a member of a private law firm but that he also works for cities as well. Ms. Prince asked if Mr. Albin is affiliated with any solar or wind companies and Mr. Albin answered he currently does not represent any solar or wind companies or hired by any of them at the moment. Ms. Prince asked if public will have input on preparation of survey questions or if they will be able to preview the selected survey questions before the survey is approved to be sent out to avoid the questions being skewed towards a certain desired outcome. Mr. Albin explained the survey is a broad survey and then has community specific questions added to it. Ms. Prince asked if there would be a board selected to preview this survey and the

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Commissioners explained they are the board in which Mr. Albin is referring to. Ms. Prince asked if the Commissioners will accept public input when it comes to reviewing survey questions and the Commissioners as well as Mr. Albin answered. Ms. Prince then asked after previewing survey questions would they be allowed to add, remove, or change wording on questions and Mr. Albin explained the Board of Commissioners get to make that decision, and Commissioner Wood said he doesn't see a problem in allowing public input. Commissioner Blair addressed Ms. Prince and stated if the public points out a topic that they do not believe is represented as it should be then questions can be made by creators of the survey to address these topics in a nonbiased way. Mr. Albin further elaborated on survey questions. Ms. Prince stated she does not understand the 3 tiers of surveys and why the third survey would target business owners who may be more interested in industrial growth than the general public and Mr. Albin explained why this is done. Mr. Gus Brunetti asked Mr. Albin if he would say the Comprehensive Plan is indifferent and Mr. Albin agreed the Comprehensive Plan is indifferent. Ms. Becky Willard addressed the Commissioners and asked what percent of the survey will be fractioned in to the final recommendations and Mr. Albin answered. Ms. Willard asked if land owners who do not live in Crawford County will be able to fill out the survey and Mr. Albin asked if these land owners pay taxes here, Ms. Willard stated she assumes they do but that they do not live here, and Mr. Albin gave explanation. Commissioner Wood asked if foreign countries that own land in Crawford County can take this survey and Mr. Albin explained. Ms. Willard asked when the Commissioners will decide who they are going to hire for the Comprehensive Plan and if they have a timeline and Commissioner Blair answered they will be discussing it after this meeting. Ms. Willard stated she and the other members of Crawford County Coalition Against Wind and Solar would like to request an extension of the moratorium because she stated there is only 133 days left and that it is not looking promising. Commissioner Wood stated that the way he understands that if they have nothing in motion by December 31, 2024 that it will be harder to extend and Mr. Emerson gave some clarity on this situation. Ms. Prince brought up the issue of foreign land owners again and asked more questions regarding this. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Albin for his presentation today.

**On motion (24-362)** of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Blair to recess the open meeting for a period of five minutes.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Blair, and Moody

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**The Commissioners called the meeting back to order.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Item One:** County Counselor Jim Emerson mentioned some documents were previously approved for Ms. Tracy Harris for Community Corrections a few weeks ago. He mentioned the budget amendment report was overlooked and it is needing approval from the Commissioners. Mr. Emerson mentioned their total amended budget amount was \$34,867.00 and has already been approved by the State.

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**On motion (24-363)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the Budget Amendment Report for Community Corrections as presented and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

### OLD BUSINESS

**Item One:** Mr. Emerson handed out the map he presented at the previous meeting. He mentioned every 10 years they're asked to review county roads and make sure they are properly designated within the State system. Mr. Emerson gave details about the map he presented and stated he needs the Commissioners to review and that they have until the end of September to make any changes regarding these roads.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

**On motion (24-364)** of Commissioner Blair 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 consultant contracts and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 12:07 PM.

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 11:52 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 12:03 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

**Item Two:** Commissioner Wood requested an executive session for 30 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship.

**On motion (24-365)** 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 30 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship to discuss EMS and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 12:34 PM.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Moody, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

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Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 12:04 PM and reconvened the Open Session at 12:22 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

### **UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **FUTURE BUSINESS:**

**Item One: August 27, 2024- 9:45 AM** Work session with Director of Fiscal Services Randi Ryan to discuss ARPA.

**Item Two: August 30, 2024- 10:00 AM** Ms. April Swartz with Varney & Associates presenting the 2023 audit.

**Item Three: October 1, 2024- 9:00 AM** Work session with KCAMP and KWORC to discuss insurance.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Item One: August 27, 2024- 3:00 PM** Ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Addiction Treatment Center at the Richard H Pfeiffer Recovery Complex. One or more Commissioners may be in attendance.

**Item Two: September 2, 2024-** The Crawford County Courthouse will be closed in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.

**Item Three: August 27, 2024- 1:00 PM** Point Forward Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Washington School Project. A tour of the facility will follow the ribbon cutting. More than one Commissioner may be in attendance.

### **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 [August 20, 2024](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 12:24 PM 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



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

[Taken RJA 8/22/24 9:30 AM/amended BKW 8/22/24 1:00 PM](#)