

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2024, [FIFTY-SIXTH](#) MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. **Friday, August 2, 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 (24-336) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **July 30, 2024** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners, and
2. Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers.

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	332	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the July 26, 2024 minutes
Motion 24	333	To approve the FY2025 Adult Comprehensive Plan Revised Grant Signature Approval Form as presented and authorize the Chairman to sign

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Motion 24	334	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 20 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 10:41 AM
Motion 24	335	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 legal matters and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 10:55 AM

UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD

MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS

MESSAGES FROM CRAWFORD CO LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH

MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Item One: Crawford County Grant Writer Gus Brunetti addressed the Commissioners. He stated that he was recently contacted by Ms. Caitlin Fanning from Animal Advocates in reference to new clinic that was established in Arma. He explained that the group is looking for funding to pursue a spay/neuter program for the community. Mr. Brunetti said he did come up with some grant opportunities. He said that members of the group are present today to address the Commissioners and he is available to answer any questions.

MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

Item One: Ms. Caitlin Fanning addressed the Commissioners and explained that she is as a resident of Frontenac and is here today as a citizen of Crawford County and is not representing any group. She spoke to the Commissioners about the overpopulation of dogs and cats in the county and stated that the only solution to this problem is spay and neuter. She gave the Commissioners some statistics on the cost of spaying and neutering and stated that there are two low income programs available in the county for spaying and neutering and she spoke about these programs. She explained that she is here today to ask for the Commissioners immediate help with the overpopulation and also to request that funds are set aside for this problem when setting the 2025 County Budget. Commissioner Moody asked Ms. Fanning what kind of immediate help she is looking for and Ms. Fanning spoke about the small area that she SEK Animal Advocates in Arma are operating out of and asked the Commissioners to possibly help with a larger location. She also stated that any financial assistance from the Commissioners would be put to great use. Ms. Fanning stated that the SEK Animal Advocates is a 501c3 and is 100% volunteer with no paid employees. Ms. Elizabeth Kutz addressed the Commissioners spoke about the SEK Animal Advocates and the reasons the group was established. She addressed working with Mesa Animal Clinic and Girard Animal Hospital with spaying and neutering. She spoke about the Advocates foster program and stated that last year the group saved 647 dogs which means the dogs are fixed, healthy, have all their shots and then they are moved on to no kill rescues all over the United States. She explained the

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costs involved that the volunteers from the group pay out of their pockets and how financial assistance from the Commissioners would be helpful. Commissioner Moody asked about working with the Humane Society and Ms. Kutz explained why they do not work with the Society. She spoke about working with dog pounds and taking the animals that are going to put down and networking with people all over the county to save the animals and these people are all volunteers working all hours of the day and night. She explained how the financial assistance from the Commissioners could be put to use. Ms. Fanning spoke about Pawprints and how they are overbooked and booked up 2 ½ months in advance and still can't keep up with the overpopulation of the animals. She spoke about unwanted animals and residents not being able to afford to spay and neuter their animals. Ms. Jennifer Mowdy addressed the Commissioners and stated that she is owner of the Literally Cat Company in Pittsburg which is a book store and foster home for cats. She spoke about the shortage of veterinarians in the area and countrywide and discussed the need for funding for high volume spay/neuter vets. She gave some statistics on the intake of cats for Pawprints.

MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS continued

Item One continued: Mr. Brunetti readdressed the Commissioners He gave information on grant opportunities for animal rescue/spay/neuter programs. He spoke about the Binky Foundation/Forward Steps Program, the Summerlee Foundation and the Bissell Foundation. He explained that these are foundation grants and not governmental grants and he will be willing to help the groups with the grants and explained the necessity of being a 501c3 to apply for the foundation grants. The Commissioners discussed the foundation grants with Ms. Mowdy and Mr. Brunetti. The Commissioners stated that they will discuss this issue and will get back with the group.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item One: County Counselor Jim Emerson requested an executive session for 30 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (24-337) 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 30 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel to discuss the Health Department and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, and Health Department Director Debra Anthony, and to reconvene by 11:07 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 10:37 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:07 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

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NEW BUSINESS

Item One: County Clerk Lisa Lusker presented the July 2024 Clerk's report. She provided the Commissioners with a copy and explained the report. She also presented the Commissioners a copy of the June 2024 to July 2024 Clerk's Report of Changes in Expenditures for comparison.

On motion (24-338) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the July 2024 Clerk's Report as presented.

On a Roll Call Vote.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Two: Ms. Lusker requested a work session on the budget. The Commissioners scheduled a work session for Friday, August 9, 2024 at 9:00 AM with Ms. Lusker to address the budget.

Item Three: County Counselor Jim Emerson presented the Risk Management Overview through the first week of August and discussed this with the Commissioners. He stated that this is trending in a very good direction.

Item Four: Mr. Emerson presented a Notice of Intent to Vacate a Platted Street located in the Town of Croweburg, Crawford County, Kansas. He presented a map and explained where the street is located and stated that this is a landowner request. Mr. Emerson said a public hearing is scheduled for Friday, August 30, 2024 at 10:00 AM.

On motion (24-339) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the publication of the Notice of Intent to Vacate a Platted Street located in the Town of Croweburg, Crawford County, Kansas with a public hearing scheduled for Friday, August 30, 2024 at 10:00 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Five: Mr. Emerson presented a Notice of Intent to Vacate a roadway and right-of-way located in Martin Kane's 2nd Addition to the City of Arma, Kansas. He presented a map and explained that in 1933 there was a deed filed deeding this roadway to the County and that it is not a platted roadway. He said that because the deed was a dedication deed for road purposes it is required to follow the road vacate procedures. He explained that this vacate involves 1 landowner only. Mr. Emerson stated a public hearing is scheduled for Friday, August 30, 2024 at 10:00 AM.

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On motion (24-340) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the publication of the Notice of Intent to Vacate a roadway and right-of-way located in Martin Kane's 2nd Addition to the City of Arma, Kansas with a public hearing scheduled for Friday, August 30, 2024 at 10:00 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Six: Commissioner Moody requested that Zoning Administrator May Smith address the Commissioners on Tuesday, August 6, 2024 to give an update on a nuisance on 160 Highway.

Item Seven: Commissioner Wood discussed the list for Purple Wave.

On motion (24-341) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve listing items for sale on Purple Wave.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

OLD BUSINESS

Item One: Ms. Lusker explained that in person early voting in the County Clerk's office closes at 12 Noon on Monday, August 5, 2024. She stated that Tuesday, August 6, 2024 is 2024 Primary Election Day and all polls will be open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson stated he received a call from Adam Jones Law Firm on the Comprehensive Plan. He will readdress this on Tuesday.

Item Three: Ms. Lusker stated that she was contacted by the County's auditing firm that stated they were finished with the audit and would like a date to meet with the Commissioners. Ms. Lusker will schedule this.

EXECUTIVE SESSION continued

Item Two: Commissioner Wood requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (24-342) 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 Non-Elected Personnel to discuss the EMS Department and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 11:35 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Moody, and Blair

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Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:25 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:33 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: August 6, 2024- Ms. May Smith, Zoning Administrator presenting 2 Planning & Zoning cases.

Item Two: August 6, 2024 – Ms. May Smith, Zoning Administrator with update on nuisance on 160 Highway.

Item Two: August 9, 2024 – 9:00 AM Work Session with County Clerk Lisa Lusker to address the budget.

Item Three: August 13, 2024- 9:00 AM The Board of County Canvassers will meet to canvass the ballots from the 2024 Primary Election with the Regular Session commencing immediately after the canvass.

Item Four: August 13, 2024- Mr. John Copyak with Shasta Power addressing solar panels.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Item One: August 13, 2024- 12:00 PM Lunch with Crawford County Mental Health, Mental Health Governing Board, Agency Directors, and Crossland Construction at Pallucca's Event Center. One or more Commissioners may be in attendance. There will be tour of the facility after lunch.

UNDER THE HEADING MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Item One: Adjournment

On the motion of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to adjourn the [August 2, 2024](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:35 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.

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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 BKW 8/02/24 10:00 AM/Amended RJA 08/05/24 3:00 PM