

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2024, [NINETIETH MEETING](#)

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. **Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 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 (24-504) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **December 6, 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	497	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the November 26, 2024 minutes, and Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers
Motion 24	498	To open the Public Hearing on Vacating Platted Streets in Starina's Subdivision, Crawford County, Kansas
Motion 24	499	To close the Public Hearing on Vacating Platted Streets in Starina's Subdivision, Crawford County, Kansas
Motion 24	500	To adopt Resolution #2024-041, A Resolution on Closing and Vacating certain Platted Streets in Starina's Subdivision, Crawford County, Kansas
Motion 24	501	To approve the November 2024 Clerk's Report as presented

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Motion 24	502	To approve Resolution #2024-039, A Resolution Adopting the Kansas Homeland Security Region H Hazard Mitigation Plan
Motion 24	503	To approve Resolution #2024-040, A Resolution Approving the Crawford County Local Recovery Plan

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 ELECTED OFFICIALS

MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS

MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

Item One: Director of Restorative Justice Authority Ms. Angie Hadley addressed the Commissioners. She provided the Commissioners with two handouts. She explained the first one is conditions for a grant that RJA has applied for that requires the Chairman's signature. Commissioner Moody asked if this is a grant that RJA has previously received and Ms. Hadley answered it is a new grant for RJA and that they discussed it the previous time she attended a commission meeting. Commissioner Wood asked Ms. Hadley to explain the grant and she explained. Commissioner Blair asked if there is a match required for this grant and Ms. Hadley explained that as far as the county's contribution there is no match. Commissioner Moody asked when they should have an answer on if they received this grant and Ms. Hadley explained they should know in January 2025. Commissioner Moody stated he sees RJA is asking for \$75,820.19 of ARPA funding for their Truancy Program and Ms. Hadley explained why they are seeking ARPA funding and how it would be used. Commissioner Moody asked if there is any way for RJA to gauge their success with the truancy program and Ms. Hadley said since September 2022 they have had a 86% success rate. Commissioner Wood asked what is the process if a child in the truancy program is not successful and Ms. Hadley explained. Commissioner Wood asked if the school districts help with this program financially and Ms. Hadley answered that the school districts do not help financially. Commissioner Blair stated if there is no match from the county he does not see a problem with signing the grant conditions. Ms. Hadley explained it is a grant the county has already signed off on but that they had to submit additional information so another signature is required. Commissioner Blair stated in terms of the ARPA funding request would it be fair to ask for a letter of support from the school districts that have used the truancy program. Ms. Hadley agreed to reach out to the schools for support letters to give to the commission.

On motion (24-505) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair authorizing the Chairman to sign the KDOC Grantee Conditions of Agreement and Signature Page.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

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MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

Item One: Mr. Leif Clark and Mr. Alan Blaesser with EDF Renewables addressed the Commissioners. Mr. Clark read the letter to the Commissioners. He discussed how extending the moratorium would be harmful to their project and Commissioner Moody asked if they were aware no decision would be made until the Comprehensive Plan was complete and Mr. Clark confirmed. Mr. Clark stated they are asking that the Commissioners consider front loading renewable energy specific surveys and land use regulations so that their project can remain viable. He also stated they are pushing for only a 6 month moratorium extension as they believe a 12 month extension is not fair. Commissioner Wood asked if they donate to SEK Recycling monthly or if it was a one time donation and Mr. Clark explained. Commissioner Wood mentioned he does not like the wording from their letter stating they are concerned with the county's ability to complete the Comprehensive Plan in a timely manner. Commissioner Wood discussed money contributed from wind farms and asked if the company dictates where the money goes during the 10 years of tax exemption and Mr. Clark explained that would be negotiated in a contract.

Item Two: Mr. Paul Christman addressed the Commissioners. Mr. Christman asked the Commissioners why they would consider extending the moratorium for any less than 12 months since the 12 month extension was recommended by Mr. Albin who is being paid for his expertise. He asked the Commissioners if any recommendation other than 12 months was made to the Commissioners by Mr. Albin and Commissioner Blair answered. Mr. Christman stated he just would like to see the Commissioners take advice from legal counsel and not rush a decision based on outside pressure. Mr. Christman asked if they passed a resolution for a 12 month moratorium and they get their information quicker could they repeal it and Mr. Emerson answered that yes they could. Commissioner Wood asked if it has to be mentioned in the moratorium resolution that they can repeal if desired and Mr. Emerson mentioned that no, it does not have to be included.

Item Three: Mr. Randy Geier addressed the Commissioners. He stated if EDF Renewable representatives state they will do payment in lieu of taxes during their 10 year tax exempt period he wants a guarantee that EDF will still own the mentioned wind farm in 10 years. He asked Mr. Clark if they can guarantee that and Mr. Clark answered no they cannot.

Item Four: Commissioner Blair stated he would like to make one statement before they continue and that what happened to Bourbon County will not happen here. He mentioned they will not be attempting to sneak in a decision.

Item Five: Ms. Desiree Humble addressed the Commissioners. She mentioned they do not have two days a week every week to come to the meetings to discuss this topic. Ms. Humble stated she feels like there is a good representation of what the county wants here today. Commissioner Wood stated he understands that people are leaving their jobs to attend the meetings but that as Commissioner Blair said nothing is going to be snuck by the people of the county and that everything will be very public. Commissioner Blair discussed the survey participation. Commissioner Wood discussed zoning.

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Item Six: Mr. Ray Huff addressed the Commissioners. He asked how the six month moratorium extension came about and Commissioner Blair explained a county resident came to a meeting and asked about a 6 month extension instead of a 12 month extension. Mr. Huff stated he has a petition with over 700 signatures on it to have a 12 month extension versus the 1 person asking for a 6 month extension. Mr. Huff expressed that he believes it does not seem very transparent for the EDF representatives to state they will not be taking questions from the public today. Mr. Huff asked if the moratorium is tied to the survey or if it is tied to the Comprehensive Plan and Commissioner Blair answered. Mr. Huff discussed zoning. Commissioner Wood explained some aspects of zoning. Mr. Huff discussed possible long term outcomes of zoning. Commissioner Moody discussed the two prior attempts at county wide zoning. Mr. Huff stated he would like to see minimum of a year extension so that they can educate the county residents about zoning before the survey. Commissioner Moody confirmed with Mr. Emerson that they could repeal if they did a 12 month extension and he answered yes. Commissioner Moody confirmed that if they do a 6 month extension that they can extend again if necessary and Mr. Emerson confirmed.

Item Seven: Mr. Jeff Murphy addressed the Commissioners. He stated the Commissioners have say in all areas and Commissioner Moody discussed that Mr. Albin explained the difference in cases in zoned and not zoned areas. Mr. Murphy discussed the survey and taking the opinions of residents not in same area as the wind and solar farms. Mr. Murphy expressed his concern on the weight that Pittsburg will have in this survey. Mr. Murphy provided the Commissioners with handouts. Mr. Murphy discussed his handouts involving the effects of wind turbines on weather and climate.

Item Eight: Mr. Michael Diskin addressed the Commissioners. He stated it seems like EDF Renewables is attempting to buy their way in to the county. He also debated that this topic has been big this entire time and has never died out. Commissioner Blair stated he cannot pick a side and he will be doing what is best based off of results. Mr. Diskin asked Commissioner Blair to give clarity on what he meant by a difference between wind and solar and Commissioner Blair explained. He asked Mr. Clark if their studies state how far away you can see the wind turbines and Mr. Clark elaborated. Commissioner Blair explained why he wants to be able to separate the surveys received. Mr. Diskin stated his main point is that you cannot completely remove Pittsburg's opinions because they will be impacted as well. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Diskin what he believes would be the best way to get the survey out to the residents of Crawford County and Mr. Diskin answered mailing. Mr. Huff gave his opinion on this as well.

Item Nine: Mr. Larry Myer addressed the Commissioners. He mentioned he is here to speak in favor of wind and solar. Mr. Myer stated he sees more people than just himself benefiting from these projects. He also said he agrees with the 6 month extension rather than the 12 month extension of the moratorium.

Item Ten: Ms. Becky Willard addressed the Commissioners. She discussed the amount of turbines EDF Renewables has planned to have. She stated her questions for EDF to the Commissioners. Commissioner Wood asked Zoning Administrator May Smith if she has been approached by any of these companies and Ms. Smith answered she is typically approached more by the landowners. Ms. Willard discussed wanting a 12 month

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extension to the moratorium. Commissioner Blair mentioned he has had other residents of the county call and ask for a 6 month extension as well. Ms. Willard mentioned she has lived in a zoned area for 40 years and did not know it until recently.

Item Eleven: Mr. Leif Clark readdressed the Commissioners. He and Mr. Blaesser answered a few of the questions that were asked previously. Commissioner Wood asked if wind turbines and solar farms could exist in the same area and Mr. Blaesser answered yes, they could.

Item Twelve: Ms. Judy Prince addressed the Commissioners. She discussed eminent domain with utility companies purchasing these wind and solar projects. Ms. Prince asked if the Commissioners have seen any proof of the amount of money EDF Renewables says they invested in the county. Ms. Prince discussed the wind and solar survey question.

Item Thirteen: Ms. Tracy Stahl addressed the Commissioners. She discussed the survey and wind and solar question. She talked about decrease in property value due to wind and solar projects. Commissioner Wood asked Ms. Stahl if property owners that live somewhere else should be allowed to fill out the survey and she answered she does not believe they should.

Item Fourteen: Ms. Jill Delange addressed the Commissioners. She stated she is pro wind and solar. Ms. Delange gave her opinion on people filling out the survey who own land here but do not live in Crawford County.

Item Fifteen: Mr. Ray Huff readdressed the Commissioners. He stated he does not agree that landowners who do not live in Crawford County should have an input on this situation. He mentioned he is also here on behalf of Ms. Janet O'Brien who was not able to attend the meeting today and that he is going to read the Commissioners some information provided by Ms. O'Brien.

Item Sixteen: Mr. Eddie Weber addressed the Commissioners. He discussed noise and shadows from wind turbines.

Item Seventeen: Ms. Becky Willard readdressed the Commissioners. She discussed the set timeline of when the Katy Wind Project will be set to become operational.

Item Eighteen: Mr. Stan Clausen addressed the Commissioners. He discussed weather change from wind turbines as well as health and well being of residents. Mr. Clausen also said he would like to know how old or solid EDF Renewables is.

Item Nineteen: Mr. Steve Garner addressed the Commissioners. He discussed the weighting system of the survey results based off of location. Commissioner Blair discussed zoning. Mr. Huff discussed the weighting system as well. Commissioner Wood discussed Pittsburg survey turn out.

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Item Twenty: Ms. Jill DeLange readdressed the Commissioners. She asked what happens if part of her acreage is zoned and part is not zoned Commissioner Blair answered.

Item Twenty One: Mr. Jeff Murphy readdressed the Commissioners. He stated he thinks the survey would be better if it had to be physically dropped off at the courthouse or mailed in. He also discussed educating county residents on zoning. Commissioner Blair discussed zoning.

Item Twenty Two: Ms. Melissia Rhodes addressed the Commissioners. She discussed Shasta Power wanting to have community engagement meetings. Commissioner Wood discussed a property owned by Evergy.

County Counselor Jim Emerson mentioned he has two resolutions wrote up for six month moratorium extension and a twelve month moratorium extension. Commissioner Moody mentioned he is not prepared to make a decision until the Comprehensive Plan is done. He stated if they go for six months he will extend the moratorium again if the Comprehensive Plan is not done, and likewise if they choose 12 months he will consider rescinding the moratorium if the Comprehensive Plan gets done before those 12 months are up. Commissioner Blair mentioned he has some questions written down to ask Mr. Joshua Albin.

On motion (24-506) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Moody to extend the moratorium for a period of 12 months.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Moody, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Commissioner Moody wanted it noted that if the Comprehensive Plan is done before the 12 months is up he will consider rescinding the moratorium extension. Commissioner Blair also stated he would like it readdressed after the survey if there is an overwhelming amount of responses regarding the zoning issue.

County Counselor Jim Emerson presented Resolution #2024-042, a Resolution extending a moratorium and providing for the suspension of certain types of improvements on any land within the unincorporated area of Crawford County; and directing that potential land development regulations be developed.

On motion (24-507) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Moody to adopt Resolution #2024-042, a Resolution extending a moratorium and providing for the suspension of certain types of improvements on any land within the unincorporated area of Crawford County; and directing that potential land development regulations be developed.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Moody, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

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Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

NEW BUSINESS

Item One: County Clerk Lisa Lusker presented the county dues for National Association of Counties in the amount of \$779.00. She also presented the 2025 County Membership Dues for The League of Kansas Municipalities in the amount of \$1,176.40. Ms. Lusker explained she cannot have these dues paid until she has the approval of the Commissioners.

On motion (24-508) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the payment of dues for National Association of Counties in the amount of \$779.00 and the dues for The League of Kansas Municipalities in the amount of \$1,176.40.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present or not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson mentioned HR Partners will be present at the meeting on Friday at 10:00 AM. He also stated they will be requesting an executive session first thing.

Item Three: Commissioner Blair asked Mr. Emerson if he could put together some information regarding RHID.

Item Four: Commissioner Moody mentioned he was asked by a board member at CTEC if the county could haul in some dirt behind the facility for their heavy equipment class.

Item Five: Commissioner Blair mentioned the old landfill and the county's responsibility. He mentioned he discussed with Noxious Weeds Director Tommy Scales and that he believes the county is about done with their portion.

OLD BUSINESS

Item One: Commissioner Moody discussed the dump truck. He mentioned they now will not get the dump truck until February. Commissioner Moody brought up that the truck will be 2 years old by the time they receive it and that he could probably go get a truck that is a year old for less than what was paid for this dump truck. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Emerson to find out if the dump truck was paid through the dealer and Mr. Emerson confirmed. Commissioner Moody stated he would like Foreman Josh Peak present at next Tuesday's meeting.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

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Item One: December 13, 2024- 9:00 AM Work Session with KWORC.

Item Two: December 13, 2024- 10 :00 AM Public Hearing on Vacating Platted Streets in Friskel and Langgeger’s Subdivision, Crawford County, Kansas.

Item Three: December 13, 2024- 10:00 AM HR Partners present at meeting.

Item Four: December 17, 2024- Crawford County Conservation District Chairperson Mark Lehman discussing the conservation district.

Item Five: December 17, 2024- Mr. Dave Looby and Mr. Blake Benson discussing Year-End Summary, Advisory Board Roster, 2025 Budget, and 2025 Chamber/County contract.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Item One: December 10, 2024- 1:30 to 3:30 PM KDOT Listening Session on Local Consult Project Scoring at the Pittsburg State Overman Student Center. All three Commissioners may be in attendance.

Item Two: December 17, 2024- Property, Casualty and Work Comp bids are due by 10:00 AM and will be opened in the Regular Session.

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 [December 10, 2024](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 1:48 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.

Lisa Lusker
County Clerk

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This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.

[Taken RJA 12/12/24 11:55 AM](#)