

# Board of Crawford County Commissioners

## Commissioners' Journal

2024, [NINETY-FIRST MEETING](#)

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM  
Girard, KS. **Friday, December 13, 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 (24-509)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **December 10, 2024** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners, and
2. Approval of the accounts payable warrant numbers 634530 to 634788 dated December 13, 2024 in the total amount of \$586,375.58, and
3. 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	504	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the December 6, 2024 minutes
Motion 24	505	Authorizing the Chairman to sign the KDOC Grantee Conditions of Agreement and Signature Page
Motion 24	506	To extend the moratorium for a period of 12 months
Motion 24	507	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

## Board of Crawford County Commissioners

		directing that potential land development regulations be developed
Motion 24	508	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

### **UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS**

**Item One:** Public Hearing on Vacating Platted Streets in Friskel and Langgeger's Subdivision, Crawford County, Kansas.

**On motion (24-510)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to open the Public Hearing on Vacating Platted Streets in Friskel and Langgeger's Subdivision, Crawford County, Kansas.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**There was no public comment.**

**On motion (24-511)** of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Moody to close the Public Hearing on Vacating Platted Streets in Friskel and Langgeger's Subdivision, Crawford County, Kansas.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

County Counselor Jim Emerson presented Resolution #2024-043, a Resolution closing and vacating certain platted alleys and Catalpa street in Friskel and Langgeger's Subdivision, Crawford County, Kansas. He provided information regarding this resolution and that there was no comment regarding this.

**On motion (24-512)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to adopt Resolution #2024-043, a Resolution closing and vacating certain platted alleys and Catalpa street in Friskel and Langgeger's Subdivision, Crawford County, Kansas.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

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

## Board of Crawford County Commissioners

**MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS  
MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS  
MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES  
MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Item One:** H.R. Partners requested an executive session for 30 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

**On motion (24-513)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 30 minutes to discuss an individual employee's job performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the individual employee. The County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, H.R. Partners President Kristina Dietrick, and H.R. Partners Managing Partner John Dietrick attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 10:37 AM. The Motion passed 3-0. 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 10:07 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 10:37 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

**Item Two:** H.R. Partners requested an executive session for 30 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

**On motion (24-514)** of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 30 minutes to discuss an individual employee's job performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the individual employee. The County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, H.R. Partners President Kristina Dietrick, and H.R. Partners Managing Partner John Dietrick attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:07 AM. The Motion passed 3-0. 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 10:37 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 10:59 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

## Board of Crawford County Commissioners

**Item One:** County Clerk Lisa Lusker presented a Tax Roll Correction, correcting an error in the assessing of personal property owned by Gary Semonick and to request a refund in the amount of \$22.12 from the 2022 tax rolls and the amount of \$21.38 from the 2023 tax rolls. Ms. Lusker explained the property has been assessed incorrectly since 2017 in both Motor Vehicle and Personal Property.

**On motion (24-515)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the Tax Roll Corrections, correcting an error in the assessing of personal property owned by Gary Semonick and to request a refund in the amount of \$22.12 from the 2022 tax rolls and the amount of \$21.38 from the 2023 tax rolls authorizing the Chairman to sign.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Two:** Mr. Emerson presented the Commissioners with two documents. One document was the original Preliminary Survey and the other was a revised Preliminary Survey. Mr. Emerson discussed how much feedback they received regarding the survey during the open meetings and that Mr. Albin presented the revised Preliminary Survey. He also presented the Commissioners with a document including questions recommended by the Zoning Administrator that they could choose to add or not to add to the survey. Commissioner Moody stated he thinks the proposed questions to be added looked good. Commissioner Blair confirmed that Mr. Emerson is stating they are wanting to move the wind, solar, and zoning questions to come after the demographic questions on the survey. Mr. Emerson read the questions aloud. Commissioner Wood asked if the way they revised the survey will change the way people answer and Mr. Emerson discussed. Commissioner Blair asked if they approve changes today will they still discuss how the survey gets distributed before it goes out. Ms. Melesia Rhodes addressed the Commissioners and she suggested adding a disclaimer that names and addresses off of the survey will be for internal use only and not for public knowledge.

**On motion (24-516)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the revisions and addition of questions regarding wind, solar, and zoning to the Preliminary Survey.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Three:** Mr. Emerson discussed early retirement. He presented Resolution #2024-044, a Resolution establishing an early retirement program for Crawford County employees. He discussed the details of this Resolution and early retirement program. Commissioner Wood discussed qualifications and Mr. Emerson answered. Commissioner

## Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Wood asked if he can take some time to review and Mr. Emerson said they can readdress next Friday.

**Item Four:** Mr. Emerson discussed the holiday schedule. He presented the Commissioners with an email from 11th Judicial District Court Administrator stating that 11th Judicial District Court offices will be closed on Tuesday, December 24th. Mr. Emerson mentioned on December 31st the Courthouse is typically open until 10:00 A.M. and then closed for the year end audit but that Christmas schedule is up to the Commissioners. Commissioner Moody asked for any thoughts and Commissioner Wood mentioned his district is having a Christmas celebration and then he was going to allow them to leave early. Commissioner Moody mentioned closing both December 24th and December 25th and both Commissioner Blair and Commissioner Wood agreed.

**On motion (24-517)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the closing of the Courthouse on both December 24th and December 25th in honor of the Christmas Holiday.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**On motion (24-518)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the closing of the Courthouse on December 31st at 10:00 A.M. for the year end audit.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Five:** Mr. Emerson discussed yearly raises. He mentioned last year they took a little longer than they should have, which put some strain on the Fiscal Office to back pay employees. Mr. Emerson stated they do have some time to discuss the raises, but he just wanted to get it brought up. Commissioner Wood stated he thought they agreed to doing what they did last year and Mr. Emerson stated that if he remembers correctly there was no motion made during budget time. Commissioner Moody stated 3% was put in to each budget for raises.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION CONTINUED

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

**On motion (24-519)** of Commissioner Moody and second of Commissioner Blair to recess this open meeting and to go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes for legal advice regarding an equipment contract which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception, K.S.A.

## Board of Crawford County Commissioners

75-4319(b)(2), with the County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson present. The open meeting will resume at 11:50 A.M. The motion passed 3-0.

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 11:35 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:50 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

### OLD BUSINESS

**Item One:** Mr. Emerson presented the Commissioners with a paper containing ARPA fund amounts. He stated they have until the end of the month to at least allocate these funds. Mr. Emerson first discussed the unencumbered funds in the total amount of \$366,538.00. He stated this has to be spent or have an agreement on spending by the end of the month. Mr. Emerson discussed some potential county projects to allocate the money to. Mr. Emerson explained for funds to be obligated they must have an MOU for the project. Commissioner Moody asked if they have the Comprehensive Plan Contract and Mr. Emerson confirmed. Commissioner Moody asked if we can discuss any of these now. Commissioner Blair mentioned they have been trying to figure out the sewer district problem for a while now. He stated his opinion is that the money coming back needs to be spent on the county. Commissioner Moody asked for thoughts on the RJA truancy program and Commissioner Blair stated he was impressed and that he sees the importance of the program. Commissioner Wood asked what the process is to take the \$200,000 from SEK-CAP that was returned and move it to the county because he believes some of these county projects need completed such as the storm sirens. He mentioned the sewer districts might just have to have their rates raised to pay for their needs. Commissioner Moody asked about the sewer rates and Mr. Emerson answered. Mr. Emerson reiterated all they need is an internal MOU by December 31st. Commissioner Wood asked if it could be placed in County Administrative and Mr. Emerson stated he would like it all spelled out and for all the money to have a purpose. Commissioner Wood stated he feels the sewer district is on the people using it and if they have to pay a little more than they need to pay a little more. Commissioner Blair stated if that is the precedent they are going to set for sewer districts then he expects to see that for all of the sewer districts. Commissioner Wood said he would like to help truancy but that hopefully they can get a grant and Commissioner Moody clarified they are applying for a grant. Commissioner Wood asked what the match funding is and Commissioner Moody explained there is not a match required. Commissioner Moody explained how the truancy project helps taxpayers. Mr. Emerson stated the truancy program was originally funded through ARPA and does go along with what they have already funded previously. Commissioner Wood discussed the sewer districts again. Mr. Emerson stated he would like answers on which projects to fund by December 20th. Commissioner Wood and Commissioner Blair discussed sewer districts again. Commissioner Wood asked about already allocated funds not being spent and Mr. Emerson explained.

## Board of Crawford County Commissioners

**On motion (24-520)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve ARPA funds for Comprehensive Plan in the amount of \$150,000.00, Storm Sirens in the amount of \$45,000.00, the consulting contract with Greenbush in the amount of \$30,000.00, RJA Truancy Project in the amount of \$75,850.19, Sewer District 4 in the amount of \$24,102.00, and the remaining \$41,615.81 earmarked for condensers for the Courthouse.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Two:** Commissioner Blair discussed the fuel tanks they previously discussed for the Crawford County barn. He mentioned prior fuel tank violations and the fact that the fuel tanks have already been removed. Commissioner Blair stated the price of one tank is \$8,187.50 and that Foreman Josh Peak is recommending three tanks for clear diesel, dyed diesel, and gasoline. He mentioned that it was discussed in a prior meeting but that no motion was ever made. Commissioner Wood asked where the money will come out of and Mr. Emerson explained several places it could come out of. Commissioner Wood asked if the tanks will have meters and Commissioner Blair answered yes. Commissioner Wood asked about card readers.

**On motion (24-521)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the purchasing of three fuel tanks from Fleet Fuels in the total amount of \$24,562.50 from the Road and Bridge account.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Wood, and Moody

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Three:** Commissioner Blair discussed the trash along 69 Highway. He mentioned maybe trying to discuss with KDOT again regarding this issue. Commissioner Moody said he received a video of the trash recently. Commissioner Moody stated he knows there are some people who pick up some of the trash and that he wished he knew who it was so he could tell them thank you. Commissioner Moody asked what options they have regarding this and Mr. Emerson explained.

### UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### FUTURE BUSINESS:

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

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

## Board of Crawford County Commissioners

**Item Three: December 20, 2024-** Budget hearing to amend the 2024 Budget for the County General Fund and Fire District #3.

**Item Four: December 20, 2024-** Representative from City of Pittsburg present at meeting to discuss an intergovernmental agreement.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Item One: 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 Blair to adjourn the [December 13, 2024](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 12:37 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

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

[Taken RJA 12/16/2024 10:00 AM](#)