

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2024, **NINETY-THIRD** MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. **Friday, December 20, 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 (24-526) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **December 17, 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	522	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the December 13, 2024 minutes
Motion 24	523	To make it known that the board hereby issues a license to "sell at retail", cereal malt beverages from the place of business as shown in the application APPLICANT: Donna Pichler "Pichler's Chicken Annie's" PREMISES: 1271 S 220th St, Pittsburg, KS (For sale in original and unopened containers and not for consumption on the premises) APPLICANT: Donna Pichler "Pichler's Chicken Annie's" PREMISES: 1271 S 220th St, Pittsburg, KS (For consumption on the premises)

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Motion 24	524	To make it known that the board hereby issues a license to “sell at retail”, cereal malt beverages from the place of business as shown in the application APPLICANT: Pete’s of Erie Inc. “Pete’s #01” PREMISES: 1100 W Hwy 400, Mc Cune, KS 66753(For sale in original and unopened containers and not for consumption on the premises)
Motion 24	525	To approve the Tax Roll Corrections, correcting an error in the assessing of personal property owned by John & Betty Lehman and to request a refund in the amount of \$30.00 from the 2023 tax rolls and authorizing the Chairman to sign

UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD

MESSAGES FROM CRAWFORD CO LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH

MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS

Item One: Budget Hearing to amend the 2024 Budget for the Crawford County General Fund and Crawford County Fire District #3.

On motion (24-527) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to open the Public Hearing to amend the 2024 Budget for the Crawford County General Fund and Crawford County Fire District #3.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The was no public comment.

On motion (24-528) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to close the Public Hearing to amend the 2024 Budget for the Crawford County General Fund and Crawford County Fire District #3.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

County Counselor Jim Emerson mentioned this is routine end of the year budget amendments. He explained the budget increase for Fire District #3.

On motion (24-529) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the 2024 Crawford County Amended Budget and the Crawford County Fire District #3 Amended Budget as published.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

Item One: Mr. Emerson discussed the intergovernmental agreement he passed out. Ms. Kim Froman addressed the Commissioners to discuss this agreement as well. Ms. Froman also gave details regarding the program that is addressed within this agreement. Commissioner Wood asked about delinquent taxes on property within the land bank and Mr. Emerson explained. Commissioner Wood asked about the income of the buyer of these low income housing and Ms. Froman explained. Commissioner Wood asked about number 7 on page 3 of the agreement and Mr. Emerson explained.

On motion (24-530) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the intergovernmental agreement between the City of Pittsburg and Crawford County pertaining to the Housing Incentive Program.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC NEW BUSINESS

Item One: Ms. Lusker presented an application for a 2025 Cereal Malt Beverage License for C & B Investments “Chicken Annies Girard”, to allow them to sell cereal malt beverages for consumption on the premises. Mr. Lusker stated that notices have been sent to the Sheriff, Zoning Administrator, County Attorney, and the Township Clerk and there were no objections to the licenses.

On motion (24-531) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to make it known that the matter of issuing a license to the applicant(s) listed below was discussed and considered by the Board, and there being no objection filed as provided by law and the Board knowing of no reason why a license should not be issued, the board hereby issues a license to “sell at retail”, cereal malt beverages in broken case lots from the place of business as shown in the application as designated and described on the application as herein before set out, and that the County Clerk be hereby authorized and directed to execute the proper license which shall be signed by the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners and the County Clerk of Crawford County, Kansas.

APPLICANT: C & B Investments “Chicken Annies Girard”

PREMISES: 498 E 47 Hwy, Girard, Kansas 66743

(For consumption on the premises)

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson presented an MOU between Crawford County and Greenbush. He explained this agreement, stated that this agreement runs from December 21, 2024 through April 30, 2027, and then explained why this specific date was chosen. Mr. Emerson stated the cost is \$30,000 which the Commissioners have designated through ARPA funding. Commissioner Wood asked what they will do if they need help from Greenbush after the end date of this MOU and Mr. Emerson explained.

On motion (24-532) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the MOU between Crawford County and Greenbush as presented and authorizing the Chairman to sign.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Three: Mr. Emerson discussed the work session this morning regarding ARPA. He stated the first request is from City of Frontenac and the second request is from Sugar Creek.

On motion (24-533) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the ARPA drawdown request for December 2024 as presented.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Four: Mr. Emerson presented the Commissioners with the pricing from Track Star for renewing on GPS for vehicles. He explained the total cost for renewal is \$14,220.00 for 79 licenses. Commissioner Moody asked if he remembers what they paid last year and Mr. Emerson answered he does not. Commissioner Wood asked to table this until they know what they paid last year because he believes it has raised quite a bit.

MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

Item One: Mr. Ron Strahan addressed the Commissioners. He asked if a gentleman gave a speech to the Commissioners about their tax dollars building houses in Pittsburg. Commissioner Moody answered yes they did. Mr. Strahan stated his concern is that his tax dollars will be building houses in Pittsburg and Mr. Emerson explained. Mr. Strahan asked about the taxes going to the reimbursement fund and Mr. Emerson explained it is only the taxes paid on that specific house and not the taxes other residents in Pittsburg pay.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

Item Five: Commissioner Wood mentioned he has the quote on the Schulte mowers to provide the Commissioners. He mentioned he would like to go ahead and order two of them. Commissioner Moody asked if he can speak to his Foreman first.

OLD BUSINESS

Item One: Mr. Emerson presented the additional information that was requested of Explore Crawford County from Mr. Dave Looby. He gave details on the information provided.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson presented the Contract for Services with Crawford County Convention & Visitors Bureau, DBA Explore Crawford County, and the Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce. He explained some details of the contract.

On motion (24-534) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the Contract for Services with Crawford County Convention & Visitors Bureau, DBA Explore Crawford County, and the Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce as presented and authorizing the Chairman to sign.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Three: Mr. Emerson stated he has submitted the Preliminary Survey with the revised questions to Mr. Joshua Albin and told him the Commissioners would like to visit with him before the survey is distributed. Mr. Emerson stated Mr. Albin is available January 17th via zoom at 10:00 AM during the open meeting and the Commissioners agreed.

Item Four: Mr. Emerson discussed the bids on the Property, Casualty, and Work Comp insurance. He gave details regarding the bids. Commissioner Moody mentioned he would like more time to look the bid details over. Commissioner Wood stated he would like to have a work session regarding this and Mr. Emerson stated January 3rd and January 7th are the two options for that. Mr. Emerson recommended work session on January 3rd and if they need additional information to do another on January 7th and the Commissioners agreed.

Item Five: Mr. Emerson presented the year end report for the Kansas Crossing Casino Gaming Revenue. He discussed the details of this report. Commissioner Wood asked about the 15 year contract Kansas Crossing has with State of Kansas and Mr. Emerson explained.

Item Six: Mr. Emerson discussed the early retirement program. He mentioned to the Commissioners he would like an executive session regarding this.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item One: County Counselor Jim Emerson requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (24-535) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:09 AM. The Motion passed 3-0.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 10:54 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:09 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED

Item Seven: Mr. Emerson presented Resolution #2024-044, a Resolution establishing an early retirement program for Crawford County employees. Mr. Emerson gave details on this program. Commissioner Moody stated they have ran this program for quite some time.

On motion (24-536) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve Resolution #2024-044, a Resolution establishing an early retirement program for Crawford County employees.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Eight: Mr. Emerson provided the Commissioners with an invoice he received this week. He discussed this was from sewer and drain issues at the county jail. Mr. Emerson stated this invoice was through November and he believes the work will be finishing up this week. Mr. Emerson mentioned the invoice is for \$75,890.63 and he assumes there will be another bill received as this invoice is only through November. Commissioner Wood asked why this could not have been brought to the Commissioners before this and Mr. Emerson stated he believed it was an emergency. Commissioner Moody stated a project of this magnitude takes some planning and he stated they had only heard that there was a problem and it was being looked at but had not heard anything about it since then. Mr. Emerson gave the options of where to pay the invoice from. Commissioner Wood stated he would like Maintenance Director Robert Gorentz to come discuss with

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

the Commissioners about this project. Mr. Emerson stated they could do 9:30 AM on December 27th and he will see if Mr. Gorentz is available. Commissioner Wood asked if he could rescind some of the designated ARPA money and designate it to this and Mr. Emerson explained that would be difficult.

Item Nine: Mr. Emerson discussed ARPA funding. He discussed the \$41,616.00 recommended for the chiller project. He stated he would like to add \$20,000.00 to this project making it \$61,616.00 and internally they would take that off of Turnkey LLC and he explained why.

On motion (24-537) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve funding an additional \$20,000.00 to Courthouse Maintenance from ARPA funding making a total of \$61,616.00.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Ten: Mr. Emerson stated they have three large childcare MOUs from The Center, New Foundations, and Sugar Creek with an opening date of November 1, 2024. He stated he would like the Commissioners to consider changing the opening dates for these projects to April 1, 2025. Commissioner Wood asked how long they should give Sugar Creek and Mr. Emerson stated he would like to give them until September of 2026. Mr. Emerson stated to satisfy these MOUs he has to have a motion to amend the opening dates. He stated he will present this again on Friday so the Commissioners can think on this. Mr. Emerson explained he is not planning on making new MOUs but that they will just be revising the opening date within the MOU. Commissioner Wood asked if it could be done in two separate motions and Mr. Emerson confirmed.

Item Eleven: Commissioner Blair stated concrete has been completed at the barn and fuel tanks have been ordered. He also mentioned Shop Foreman Josh Peak has gotten bids on two different styles of card readers but that he has not received that information yet.

Item Twelve: Commissioner Wood discussed the condenser project with Courthouse Maintenance Aaron Crozier and that he would like to get this project started sooner rather than later because it is going to take a while. Commissioner Moody mentioned having a work session about this after the first of the year.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: December 27, 2024- 8:30 AM Work session to sign December bills and payroll vouchers.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Item Two: December 27, 2024- 9:30 AM Work session with Maintenance Supervisor Robert Gorentz discussing jail invoice.

Item Three: January 3, 2025- 9:00 AM Work session to discuss insurance.

Item Four: January 13, 2025- 9:00 AM Swearing in Ceremony for the Newly Elected County Officials with the Crawford County Board of Commissioners Reorganization Meeting to follow immediately.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Item One: December 24 and 25, 2024- The Courthouse will be closed in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

Item Two: December 24, 2024- The Regular Session of the Board of County Commissioners will be cancelled due to the Christmas Holiday.

Item Three: December 31, 2024- The Courthouse will close at 10:00 AM due to the year-end audit and the Motor Vehicle Department in the Courthouse and the Motor Vehicle Department in the Judicial Center in Pittsburg will be closed all day. The Register of Deeds Office will be open until 10:00 AM but no recordings will be done due to software updates.

Item Four: December 31, 2024- The Regular Session of the Board of County Commissioners is cancelled.

Item Five: January 1, 2025- The Courthouse will be closed in observance of the New Year Holiday.

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 20, 2024](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:31 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.

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.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Lisa Lusker
County Clerk



This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.

[Taken RJA 12/26/24 10:30 AM/amended BKW 12/26/24 11:50 am](#)