

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2024, FIFTEENTH MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. Friday, February 23, 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 (24-098) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the February 20, 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	96	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the February 16, 2024 minutes
Motion 24	97	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 10 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel to discuss Road and Bridge and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 10:33 AM

UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

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**PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD
MESSAGES FROM CRAWFORD CO LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH
PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS
MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS
MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC
MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES**

Item One: Manager of the City of Pittsburg Daron Hall speaking in regards to the grant proposal from the City of Pittsburg also possibly including both City of Frontenac and the county as well. Mr. Hall reported that City of Frontenac passed a letter of support for the City of Pittsburg. Mr. Hall mentioned the City of Pittsburg is looking at applying to the State of Kansas for some funding for the road projects as well. Commissioner Moody asked how long it will be until the City of Pittsburg finds out if they are granted any money from this grant application that they are filing and Mr. Hall believes a decision will not be made for a couple of months but that he believes with TranSystems filing the grant on behalf of the City of Pittsburg that the City stands a better chance of being awarded some money. Commissioner Wood asked if the county has to file a grant application on their own and Mr. Hall stated it will be a large group effort and that the county will not be responsible for anything other than working with the City of Pittsburg on this project. Commissioner Wood asked if the county needed to get County Grant Writer Gus Brunetti involved in this process and County Counselor Jim Emerson answered that Mr. Brunetti does not need to be involved at this time but that if Mr. Jay Byers with the City of Pittsburg needs additional information, he will be referred to Mr. Brunetti. Commissioner Moody clarified with Mr. Hall that all the City of Pittsburg was needing at this time is a letter of support and Mr. Hall stated they are looking for anything that gives commitment that the county will agree to pay for half of the grant preparation which Mr. Hall believes is \$53,000. Mr. Emerson stated he has a letter of support to provide the City of Pittsburg with that is very similar to City of Frontenac's letter of support and also in the same letter mentioning the county's portion of the grant preparation in the amount of \$26,563.16 and that he will need a motion from the Commissioners to approve both of these things. Mr. Emerson stated TranSystems does a lot of work with KDOT and that he feels it is good to have a grant application written by them that could even be used in the future if this attempt at grant funding is unsuccessful.

On motion (24-099) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the letter of support to the Secretary of Transportation in support of the City of Pittsburg's grant application for funding for the Pittsburg Industrial Corridor Upgrade project and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

On motion (24-100) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve funding to the City of Pittsburg in the amount of \$26,563.16 from the Operating Reserve funds for the county's portion of the grant preparation for the Pittsburg Industrial Corridor Upgrade.

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Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Moody, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS NEW BUSINESS

Item One: County Clerk Lisa Lusker presented the February 2024 ARPA drawdown. She mentioned there was a work session prior to the meeting to discuss the contents of the ARPA drawdown. Ms. Lusker stated this drawdown includes one payment to the City of Cherokee in the amount of \$27,580 for water projects and that they had turned in the appropriate paperwork as well as the bill for this amount. Ms. Lusker then discussed there were two public health requests with the first one being from EMS in the amount of \$8,835 for iSimulate reimbursement and the second for the Health Department in the amount of \$680 for privacy windows. She stated this makes the total amount of ARPA requests \$37,095.

On motion (24-101) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the ARPA drawdown request for February 2024.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Two: Ms. Lusker stated she had a request from Kansas Department of Revenue Property of Valuation Department wanting to speak with the Commissioners during a meeting in regards to Crawford County's compliance with property valuation. She stated in September 2023 the county was sent a notice that they were out of compliance and the state would like to follow up. Ms. Lusker mentioned KDOR suggested a date of March 26th during the open meeting and the Commissioners agreed that would work for them.

Item Three: Ms. Lusker mentioned the pre-bid meeting on Thursday the 29th at 10:00 AM for the storage building that will be out for bid the first week of March. Commissioner Moody stated he would like Maintenance Director Robert Gorentz to be aware of this meeting and Ms. Lusker said she will inform him.

Item Four: Ms. Lusker stated that she would like to have the Canvass for the 2024 Presidential Primary Election on Friday, March 22nd, 2024 at 9:00 AM. She discussed that it is a really tight schedule and that the Canvass and all other things have to be completed by March 27th. The Commissioners mentioned that date will work for them and Ms. Lusker stated she will get it published.

Item Five: County Counselor Jim Emerson mentioned a date change he needs to make. He stated the public meeting on land use issues was originally set and advertised for March 12th but that certain people that need to attend this meeting have conflicting

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schedules with this date so he proposed rescheduling this meeting to March 22nd at 10:00 AM during the open meeting. Commissioner Moody clarified with Mr. Emerson that this is the meeting in regards to the possible county wide zoning and Commissioner Moody stressed the importance of advertising and informing the public that the date of this meeting is being changed. Mr. Emerson assured him that the public will be notified of this change. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Emerson if they can change it to where the discussion will be wind turbines and solar panels and Commissioner Moody said no, they will be discussing zoning outside of the already zoned areas. Mr. Emerson said they will take comments on all of this but the original issue is the county wide zoning. Commissioner Blair also mentioned public input will also be accepted via letters, emails, etc. Mr. Emerson stated emails can be sent to Zoning Administrator May Smith and that her email is [msmith@crawfordcountykansas.org](mailto:msmith@ crawfordcountykansas.org).

Item Six: Mr. Emerson presented the Commissioners with the 5 Year Solid Waste Plan that will be discussed next week during the public meeting on Friday March 1st.

Item Seven: Commissioner Wood presented a map provided to him by Emergency Management Director Rusty Akins that provides the locations of all storm sirens in Crawford County.

OLD BUSINESS

Item One: Mr. Emerson provided the Commissioners with the mowing bid specifications with the changes he made per the Commissioners request after the discussions during last weeks meeting. Mr. Emerson mentioned he also went back to last years mowing records so that he could mention in the contract that the number of times being mowed will be determined by Maintenance Director Mr. Robert Gorentz. Mr. Gorentz will be responsible for informing the contractor if the area does not need mowed at the time. Commissioner Wood asked if the contractors could pick and choose which areas they want to bid on if they do not want to bid on all of them and Mr. Emerson confirmed that is correct.

Item Two: Commissioner Blair stated Foreman Josh Peak would like to have a work session on February 27th at 9:30 AM to discuss rotation and the Commissioners agreed this date and time would work.

Item Three: Commissioner Wood mentioned he received a phone call with a resident asking if the wind turbines or solar panels are placed in Crawford County will they be taxed and Commissioner Wood said he told them that he believes they are tax exempt so that he discussed this with Mr. Emerson so that he could better answer residents. Commissioner Moody said just for clarification the county has not been notified of any wind farms or solar panels and no applications for placement of these have been filed at this time.

Item Four: Mr. Emerson mentioned he has been working with Mr. Mike Reece who is on the Crawford County Fair Board and that the Fair Board has some money with the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas in the amount of \$36,911.42 for their capital campaign fund. Mr. Emerson said the Fair Board has expressed interest in wanting to be

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able to control this money or even invest it while they are waiting on projects and the only way they can do this is if they run it through another non-profit organization or a governmental entity. Mr. Emerson mentioned the county has done this before and that the Fair Board would write a check to the county in this amount and then the Commissioners would make a motion to grant this money to the Crawford County Fair Board. Mr. Emerson stated this is the only way to legally get the Fair Board this money.

On motion (24-102) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the disbursement of \$36,911.42 to the Crawford County Fair Board from the funds from the capital campaign fund from the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Five: Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Emerson to provide the other two Commissioners with an update on Senate Bill 162. Mr. Emerson mentioned that Senate Bill 162 passed the Senate yesterday 34 to 5 and is now out of the Senate and will move to the House and that the county's lobbyist is already visiting with representatives in the House in regards to this. Mr. Emerson stated the bill will be assigned to a committee and then a hearing will be scheduled which he will attend but that the county is half way through the process and this is good news.

Item Six: Commissioner Moody mentioned that over the next couple of weeks Road and Bridge District #2 and hopefully some other employees will be going to clean up the property located along the Franklin bypass. Commissioner Wood stated he noticed when he was coming back from Topeka that there was trash and he believes it is coming from transfer trucks. Commissioner Moody mentioned he saw it also on his way to Kansas City, and Mr. Emerson mentioned he received a couple of phone calls about it and that he has informed the Crawford County Sheriff's Department of this issue as well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item One: Commissioner Moody requested an executive session for 20 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship.

On motion (24-103) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair 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 zoning and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 10:55 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

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The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 10:35 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 10:51 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

Item Two: Commissioner Wood requested an executive session for 10 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (24-104) 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 10 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel to discuss Road and Bridge and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, and to reconvene by 11:01 AM.

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 10:51 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:01 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: February 27, 2024- 9:30 AM work session with Shop Foreman Josh Peak.

Item Two: February 27, 2024 – Large Childcare ARPA update.

Item Three: March 1, 2024 – 10:00 AM Public hearing on Solid Waste Plan 5-year update.

Item Four: April 18, 2023 – 9:00 AM The Board of County Canvassers will meet to canvass the ballots from the 2024 Presidential Preference Primary Election with the Regular Session commencing immediately after the canvass.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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 [February 23, 2024](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:03 AM and to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled time with open doors.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

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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 2/26/24 12:00 PM/amended BKW 2/26/24 12:25 PM