

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2025, **FIRST** MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. **Friday, January 3, 2025 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 (25-001) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **December 27, 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	538	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the December 20, 2024 minutes, and Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers
Motion 24	539	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: Jo's One Stop LLC PREMISES: 401 N 69 Hwy, Arma, Kansas 66712 (For sale in original and unopened containers and not for consumption on the premises) APPLICANT: Kim Brewer "Countryside Golf Course" PREMISES: 469 E 520th Ave, Pittsburg, Kansas 66762 (For consumption on the premises)

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		APPLICANT: Mary E Gebhardt “Gebhardt’s Chicken Dinners” PREMISES: 124 N 260th St, Mulberry, Kansas 66756 (For consumption on the premises)
Motion 24	540	To approve the payment of 2025 County Member Dues to Kansas Association of Counties in the amount of \$8,459.45
Motion 24	541	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 10 minutes to discuss individual employees’ performance regarding EMS 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, and EMS Director Randy Sandberg attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 10:24 AM. The Motion passed 3-0
Motion 24	542	To approve the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services Revolving and Assistance Fund (KRAF) grant application and authorizing the Chairman to sign
Motion 24	543	To approve Resolution #2024-045, a Resolution authorizing the transfer of funds from the Special Ambulance Reserve Fund to the County Ambulance Special Revenue Fund
Motion 24	544	To approve the Addendum to Memorandum of Understanding between Family Resource Center and Crawford County regarding the subaward of the American Rescue Plan Act Recovery Funds and authorizing the Chairman to sign
Motion 24	545	To approve the Addendum to Memorandum of Understanding between Sugar Creek Packing Company and Crawford County regarding the subaward of the American Rescue Plan Act Recovery Funds and authorizing the Chairman to sign
Motion 24	546	To approve the Addendum to Memorandum of Understanding between New Foundations and Crawford County regarding the subaward of the American Rescue Plan Act Recovery Funds and authorizing the Chairman to sign
Motion 24	547	To pay the invoice to Mid Central Contract Services in the amount of \$75,890.63 out of the Building Improvement Fund
Motion 24	548	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 20 minutes to discuss Emergency Management applicants protected information pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). The County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:37 AM. The Motion passed 3-0

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

MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

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Item One: Ms. Melesia Rhodes addressed the Commissioners. She stated she spoke to someone regarding adopting a highway in reference to picking up trash. Ms. Rhodes gave details regarding how much trash has been picked up previously. Ms. Rhodes stated something needs to be done about the trash trucks causing the littering of the highway. Commissioner Moody mentioned increasing security out along these areas and having something done when the trash is witnessed coming out of the trucks. Ms. Rhodes mentioned asking the owner of the landfill to require trucks to be tarped going in and out of the landfill. Ms. Rhodes stated the truck drivers will not care if they get ticketed by the sheriff's office. She discussed the need for volunteers to pick up trash. Commissioner Moody stated he would like to speak with KDOT.

Item Two: Mr. Jeff Fischer with KDOT addressed the Commissioners. He stated KDOT does get involved with cleaning roadways but that it is typically animal carcasses, commercial tires, etc. but that picking up litter along the highway is not within the scope of what KDOT's maintenance staff typically does. He stated he wonders if this is a conversation to have with the highway patrol to discuss penalties for hauling an unsecured load. Commissioner Wood discussed the out of county hauling of trash into Crawford County. Commissioner Wood stated the landfill has to get stricter. Commissioner Wood stated he believes the landfill should have to pick up the trash since they are the ones making money off the trash haulers. Commissioner Moody stated we are very fortunate to have people that have volunteered their time previously to help pick up some of the trash. Commissioner Moody asked Mr. Emerson if there is anything they can do and Mr. Emerson answered. A member of the crowd asked if there are any no littering signs around and a KDOT representative answered her. Commissioner Moody asked if they could get more of these signs put up and the KDOT representative stated he will look into this. Mr. Fischer stated he will also look into this. Mr. Emerson discussed how much the county makes from the landfill. Commissioner Blair stated that he does not believe volunteers can handle the volume of trash.

Item Three: Ms. Debbie Deal addressed the Commissioners. She stated she believes the best thing that can be done is community service through the schools to pick up the trash and Commissioner Moody stated the thing that worries him is having kids on the highway. Commissioner Blair stated he believes the highway is a concern with kids and also some of the material being on the side of the road is not kid friendly such as needles. Commissioner Blair stated they are going to need equipment to help handle this. Commissioner Moody stated at this point he is willing to try all avenues. Commissioner Moody thanked the volunteers that help pick up this trash. Ms. Lusker stated Mr. Matt Vanbecelaere asked what the regulations are regarding interstate transfer of solid waste besides just needing a permit and Mr. Emerson stated to his knowledge they only need a permit. Mr. Fischer stated he would have to research the answer as he does not know. Mr. Emerson stated KDHE receives revenue from the landfill as well.

Item Four: Mr. Scott Crain addressed the Commissioners. He stated we are fortunate to have a landfill and that it gets taken for granted. Mr. Crain stated he followed a truck one day with the back opened and trash flying out. Commissioner Wood asked what Mr. Crain believes is the best way to control it and he stated back when he worked for the landfill it was his responsibility along with a couple others to clean up the trash. He believes if you own the landfill you pick up the trash. Commissioner Moody stated he

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believes they need to have a representative from GFL present at a meeting.
Commissioners thanked everyone for coming today to discuss the trash issue.

Item Five: Ms. Rhodes discussed the preliminary survey. She asked if they could front load the information they receive regarding wind and solar so that they can begin looking at regulations on wind and solar before the rest of the Comprehensive Plan is done. Commissioner Wood asked how are they going to have regulations without the Comprehensive Plan done. Ms. Rhodes asked if the county is in favor of wind and solar will they be able to go ahead and break ground on projects without the Comprehensive Plan being done. Commissioner Moody clarified that she is not asking to have the moratorium lifted and Ms. Rhodes confirmed and explained her question.

NEW BUSINESS

Item One: Ms. Lusker presented the December 2024 Clerk's Report. She explained the report to the Commissioners.

On motion (25-002) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the December 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: Mr. Emerson presented a Notice of Intent to Vacate Platted Streets in Gross' 1st Addition in Gross Subdivision, Crawford County, Kansas. He explained where the streets were located to the Commissioners and discussed the request to vacate. He explained it will be 3 alleys and a street. Mr. Emerson explained the public hearing over this vacate will be on January 31, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.

On motion (25-003) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the publication of the Notice of Intent to Vacate Platted Streets located in Gross Subdivision, Crawford County, Kansas with a public hearing scheduled for Friday, January 31, 2025 at 10:00 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Three: Mr. Emerson discussed Local Government Day through Kansas Association of Counties on Wednesday, January 22, 2025. He asked the Commissioners to let him know if they would like to attend so that they can get registered. Mr. Emerson stated KAC is also hosting County Day at the Capitol on Thursday, February 6th, 2025 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

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OLD BUSINESS

Item One: Mr. Emerson discussed raises again. He stated they have about two weeks to make a decision before payroll checks go out. Mr. Emerson stated he is hoping they can come to an agreement on this by next Friday.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson mentioned the federal offices and the court being closed on Thursday, January 9th, 2025 as a National Day of Mourning for the passing of President Carter. Commissioner Moody asked if he has heard what the cities in the county are doing and Mr. Emerson stated he is not aware of what the cities are doing. Commissioner Moody asked if he could reach out to the City of Pittsburg and Mr. Emerson stated he has and they have not made a decision.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

On motion (25-004) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Emergency Management applicants protected information pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). The County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:22 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 11:07 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:22 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

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

On motion (25-005) of Commissioner Wood and second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open meeting and to go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes for legal advice regarding bidding which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), with the County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson present. The open meeting will resume at 11:39 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.

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The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:24 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:39 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

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

On motion (25-006) of Commissioner Wood and second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open meeting and to go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes for legal advice regarding an insurance claim which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), with the County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson present. The open meeting will resume at 11:55 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 11:40 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:55 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

Item Four: Mr. Emerson stated he would like a work session with Zoning Administrator May Smith to discuss nuisances and the new Senate Bill passed regarding nuisances within the next couple weeks. Commissioner Moody mentioned that his crew was picking up tires on Highway 160. Mr. Emerson mentioned they are in court regarding this issue. Mr. Emerson stated he will present a possible work session date to the Commissioners next week.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: 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.

Item Two: January 17, 2025- Mr. Joshua Albin discussing survey distribution via zoom.

Item Three: January 21, 2025- Rock bids due by 10:00 AM.

Item Four: January 31, 2025- 10:00 AM Public Hearing on Vacating Platted Streets located in Gross' Subdivision, Crawford County, Kansas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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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 [January 03, 2025](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:57 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.

Lisa Lusker
County Clerk

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This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.

[Taken RJA 1/03/2025 1:30 PM](#)