

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2025, **FIFTH** MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. **Friday, January 17, 2025 at 9:00 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 Tom Moody served as the presiding officer.

Commissioners Bruce Blair and Carl Wood were in attendance.

County Clerk Lisa Lusker and County Counselor Jim Emerson were seated with the Board.

Chairman Moody led the Pledge of Allegiance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item One: County Counselor Jim Emerson requested an executive session for 60 minutes to discuss Emergency Manager applicants under Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (25-024) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 60 minutes to discuss individual emergency management applicants pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the individual applicants. The County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, and emergency management applicants attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 10:02 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 9:02 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 10:00 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

UNDER THE HEADING BUSINESS FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion (25-025) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **January 7, 2025** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners, and
2. Approval of the accounts payable warrant numbers 635095 to 635328 dated January 15, 2025 in the total amount of \$484,749.46, 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 25	16	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the January 10, 2025 minutes
Motion 25	17	To approve the nomination of Commissioner Tom Moody to serve as Chairman of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners for a one-year term commencing immediately
Motion 25	18	To approve the nomination of Commissioner Bruce Blair to serve as Vice Chairman of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners for a one-year term commencing immediately
Motion 25	19	To name Exchange State Bank of Girard, GNBANK, Commerce Bank and Equity Bank as the official working banks for the business of the taxpayers of Crawford County for a period of one year commencing immediately
Motion 25	20	To name The Morning Sun as the official newspaper publication of Crawford County for a period of one year commencing immediately
Motion 25	21	To approve Resolution #2025-001, a Resolution appointing an emergency management point of contact for Crawford County, Kansas, and appointing County Counselor Jim Emerson as point of contact until an Emergency Management Coordinator is hired
Motion 25	22	To approve the purchasing of a Lithium Jump Start Kit in the amount of \$1,475.00
Motion 25	23	To recess this open meeting and to go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes for legal advice regarding purchasing policy 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 9:56 A.M. The motion passed 3-0

UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD

MESSAGES FROM CRAWFORD CO LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS
MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS
PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS
MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES
MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

Item One: Mr. John Lair, CEO and President of Special Olympics of Kansas, addressed the Commissioners. He stated he would like to discuss the mill levy money for the citizens with intellectual disabilities. He stated Special Olympics have never been part of the mill levy. Mr. Lair gave some details about their organization. He stated they have a lot of great local sponsors but that they would like to have some mill levy funding as well. Mr. Lair explained their organization is not just sports but that they do health exams for their athletes as well as provide hygiene products. Mr. Lair informed the commissioners that Special Olympics of Kansas serves over 1,000 individuals from Crawford county in various age ranges. Mr. Lair explained the other agencies that receive this mill levy money are Medicaid funded and added that Special Olympics of Kansas is not state or federally funded and that they are a nonprofit that receives money through grants, sponsorships, and donations. Mr. Lair said they have big events they would like to bring to Crawford County. He mentioned they are also wanting to hire one additional employee as they only have two staff that currently work from home, and that they would also like to have an office here in Crawford County. Mr. Lair stated there is no accountability right now for the facilities that currently receive the tax levy funds to show how they are spending this money and he mentioned their program would provide receipts with how their money was spent. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Emerson about the mill levy for these organizations and Mr. Emerson answered. Commissioner Moody stated this conversation has really made him think about the accountability and number of people being served. Mr. Lair explained which facilities are for profit and nonprofit. Commissioner Blair asked if Mr. Lair has spoken with Mr. Dave Looby to see if the Crawford County Visitors Bureau to see if they could help fund certain events and Mr. Lair explained that yes they have and that they have provided funding for an event. Commissioner Moody asked if Mr. Lair would be able to come back once the Commissioners find out some additional information and Mr. Lair confirmed he can. Commissioner Blair asked who will reach out regarding the numbers of individuals served and how it is calculated and County Clerk Lisa Lusker stated she has a contact she can reach out to regarding this.

Item Two: Mr. Joshua Albin addressed the Commissioners via zoom. He stated that they have the updated Preliminary Survey with the proposed corrections. He mentioned what they really need to do today is try to get the survey approved so that they can get the site ready to be uploaded and ready to distribute the first week of February. Mr. Emerson explained that the board already approved the survey with those proposed changes but that they have not seen the updated survey itself. Mr. Albin explained some of the structure of the survey. Commissioner Wood asked if they will allow students at the college to fill out these surveys and Mr. Albin explained. Commissioner Wood stated he just does not want students of PSU making a decision for what the county is going to be like for the next 10 years when they will be leaving the county in four years. Commissioner Wood asked if they are going to do mailers and Mr. Albin explained they want it electronic as much as possible but that there is a paper version as well.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioner Blair asked the negative side to doing a mailer and Mr. Albin explained cost is the only downside to a mailer. Commissioner Blair asked if they provided him numbers to property owners if he could provide the Commissioners with the additional cost that would take place with doing mailers and Mr. Albin stated he can provide those numbers. Commissioner Wood asked if Mr. Albin would be sending out the survey or if he would be sending a postcard about the survey and Mr. Emerson answered that it would be up to the Commissioners which to send out. Commissioner Wood asked about there only being 5,000 households in Crawford County and Mr. Albin explained that is referring to permanent households. Commissioner Wood asked about rentals and Mr. Albin explained. Commissioner Blair stated he is not even sure where they could get addresses for people living in rentals. Mr. Albin stated he will get the website ready and uploaded and that he plans on being at the February 7th meeting with the hopes that the Commissioners will completely approve and they can launch the survey. Ms. Judy Prince addressed the Commissioners. She asked about a question on the survey and she asked how the response is set up and Mr. Albin explained. Ms. Prince asked about certain questions being included and Mr. Albin explained. Ms. Prince asked if there will be public comment sessions and Mr. Albin explained per law they will have public comment sessions as necessary.

Item Three: Mr. Jeff Murphy addressed the Commissioners. He stated he thinks the question on the survey addressing how important wind and solar is to future development of Crawford County does not address the issue and is too general. He stated he believes the surveys need to be sorted by township. Mr. Murphy asked if the Commissioners would be comfortable with voting online and stated he does not believe an online survey to vote for these things is correct. Commissioner Wood asked if he had the choice to do the survey how would he do it and Mr. Murphy stated he would do it a lot like voting. Mr. Gus Brunetti addressed the questions and concerns regarding someone filling out several surveys with IP addresses attached to the survey being a way to discover that. Mr. Murphy asked if there are any questions regarding zoning on the survey and the Commissioners answered that yes there is.

Item Four: Ms. Melesia Rhodes addressed the Commissioners. She asked the Commissioners what their timeline is for the surveys and the return rate and Mr. Emerson answered. Mr. Emerson answered the goal is to have it out 60 days total but to check in on it at 30 days.

Item Five: Commissioner Wood asked Ms. Lusker if she was stating they cannot use the voting machines to tabulate this survey and she confirmed. Commissioner Wood asked why not and Ms. Lusker answered it is a state law and explained further why this is not allowed even if the county owns the machines.

Item Six: Sheriff Billy Tomasi addressed the Commissioners. He stated some things are missing and there are some things they are trying to find. He stated they were left with a big mess. Mr. Tomasi also stated he encourages the Commissioners to attend some of the Special Olympics events as it is very special to those individuals. He stated they will keep the Commissioners updated.

EXECUTIVE SESSION CONTINUED

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Item Two: Commissioner Wood requested an executive session for 30 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship.

On motion (25-026) of Commissioner Wood and second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open meeting and to go into a closed executive session for 30 minutes for legal advice regarding issues at the county jail 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, County Counselor Jim Emerson, Sheriff Billy Tomasi, Undersheriff Jason VanBecelaere, and Maintenance Supervisor Robert Gorentz present. The open meeting will resume at 11:48 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 11:18 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:48 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Item One: Ms. Alyssa Edwards addressed the Commissioners. She stated she received the Trackstar agreement and is needing it approved. Commissioner Wood asked what the agreement is for and Commissioner Blair answered that it's the GPS system on the vehicles. Commissioner Wood asked who all can see the locations and Ms. Edwards explained that she and IT Director Brandon Spaur can view this.

On motion (25-027) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the quote from Trackstar in the amount of \$14,220.00 authorizing the Chairman to sign.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

NEW BUSINESS

Item One: Mr. Emerson stated the Sheriff's department is requesting three purchasing cards for their department. He explained one is for Sheriff Billy Tomasi with a limit of \$2,500, one for Undersheriff Jason Vanbecelaere with a limit of \$2,500, and one for the Sheriff department itself with a limit of \$5,000. Mr. Emerson mentioned they have an overall credit limit through GNBANK of \$80,000 and that these cards will put them over the limit. He stated he is going to work on this and that they have a program where they can add as many cards as they want but the overall cap is \$80,000.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

On motion (25-028) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve a purchasing card for Sheriff Billy Tomasi with a credit limit of \$2,500, Undersheriff Jason Vanbecelaere with a credit limit of \$2,500, and Crawford County Sheriff's Office with a credit limit of \$5,000 through GNBANK.

Yeas: Commissioner Blair, Wood, and Moody

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson presented the Kansas Housing Resource Corporation Emergency Solutions Grant Request for Reimbursement and Financial Status Report in the amount of \$7,909. He explained this is draw down for October, November, and December of 2024. Mr. Emerson mentioned he has receipts for these expenses for the state if they require an audit. He also mentioned he will go on site and do an auditing visit.

On motion (25-029) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the Kansas Housing Resource Corporation Emergency Solutions Grant Recipient Request for Reimbursement and Financial Status Report in the amount of \$7,909.00 and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Three: Mr. Emerson reminded the Commissioners before adjournment they will be going into a work session to discuss raises.

Item Four: Mr. Emerson discussed Evergy safety classes in McCune and also in Parsons. He explained a little of what this class entails. Commissioner Moody stated for Mr. Emerson to have Ms. Edwards reach out to the Foremen to inform them of this opportunity. Mr. Emerson then discussed City of Pittsburg hosting class on Asphalt Road and Street Maintenance.

Item Five: Mr. Emerson stated Mr. Albin was discussing attending the meeting on February 7th but that he does not believe that will work for him because he will not be able to attend the meeting that day. Commissioner Blair also discussed that County Day at the Capitol in Topeka is on February 6th as well. Mr. Emerson stated he will ask Mr. Albin if he can attend the meeting on February 4th instead.

Item Six: Commissioner Moody stated he made contact with some of the CARDS executives. He stated they are willing to come talk during an open meeting possibly next Tuesday. Commissioner Wood spoke with someone at KDHE regarding the trash on the roads and that the person he contacted gave him someone else to get in to contact with. Commissioner Moody stated he will provide Mr. Emerson a phone number after the meeting.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

OLD BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SESSION CONTINUED

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

On motion (25-030) of Commissioner Wood and second of Commissioner Blair to recess this open meeting and to go into a closed executive session for 20 minutes for legal advice regarding equipment 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 12:50 P.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 12:30 PM and reconvened the Open Session at 12:45 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

On motion (25-031) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood to recess the open meeting for a period of 15 minutes to go in to a work session to discuss employee raises.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Wood and Moody

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners called the meeting back to order.

OLD BUSINESS

Item One: Mr. Emerson discussed the work session to discuss raises. He stated they are looking at a 3% increase with a \$0.60 minimum base raise.

On motion (25-032) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve a cost-of-living increase for county employees at a rate of 3% with a minimum raise of 60 cents per hour.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Moody, and Blair

Nays:

Present and not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

Item Seven: Mr. Emerson mentioned he had a request for a work session on January 28th at 9:00 AM with Communications Director Tim Mikrut, Sheriff Billy Tomasi, and Undersheriff Jason Vanbecelaere to discuss Tyler Technologies cloud-based system.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: January 21, 2025- 9:00 AM Work Session with Zoning Administrator May Smith and County Counselor Jim Emerson to discuss nuisances and zoning.

Item Two: January 21, 2025- Rock bids due by 10:00 AM and will be opened during the regular session.

Item Three: January 28, 2025- 9:00 AM Work Session with Communications Director Tim Mikrut, Sheriff Billy Tomasi, and Undersheriff Jason Vanbecelaere to discuss Tyler Technologies cloud-based system.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Item Two: January 22, 2025- Kansas Association of Counties Local Government Day. All three Commissioners may be in attendance.

UNDER THE HEADING MOTION TO ADJOURN MOTION TO ADJOURN

Item One: Adjournment

On the motion of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to adjourn the [January 17, 2025](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 1:03 PM and to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled time with open doors.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Wood

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 1/17/2025 3:00 PM](#)