

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2024, **FIFTH** MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. **Friday, January 19, 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 Tom Moody and Bruce Blair 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 (24-035) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **January 12, 2024** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners, and
2. Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood and Blair

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	24	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the January 9, 2024 minutes
Motion 24	25	To approve the reappointment of Ms. Stacy Kratz as a General Representative on the Juvenile Corrections Advisory Board for an additional 3 years with the term ending 1/6/2027 and authorize the Chairman to sign.
Motion 24	26	To approve the Kansas Housing Resource Corporation Emergency Solutions Grant Recipient Request for Reimbursement and Financial

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		Status Report in the amount of \$5,701.00 and authorize the Chairman to sign.
Motion 24	27	To approve the 2024 Insurance Proposal from Ryan Insurance
Motion 24	28	To approve the FFY 2026 High Risk Rural Roads (HRRR) Project Funding Applications and authorize the Chairman to sign
Motion 24	29	To approve cancelling the Regularly Scheduled Commission meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2024
Motion 24	30	To approve the Agreement between the Secretary of Transportation and Crawford County, Kansas for Project No. 019 C-5295-01 STP-C529(501) Off System Bridge Program
Motion 24	31	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 an HRRR Contract and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 10:53 AM
Motion 24	32	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 15 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship to discuss county contracts and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 10:55 AM
Motion 24	33	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 15 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship to discuss Elected officials and County Employees and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 11:00 AM
Motion 24	34	To approve the Agreement between the Secretary of Transportation and Crawford County, Kansas for Project No. 019 C-5244-01 HSIP-C524(401) High Risk Rural Roads Project

UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

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

MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Item One: Crawford County Grant Writer Mr. Gus Brunetti gave the commission an update on the Mainstreet Grant. He stated that in order to qualify for the grant, there are several steps to go through; including becoming an affiliate, filling out forms, paying a \$400 fee, and getting 4 people from the community to serve on the committee. Commissioner Blair stated that Girard is already an affiliate and asked Mr. Brunetti to contact the city to inquire about working through them to bypass some of the steps. The Commissioners stated that if awarded grant money, they would like to improve the courthouse lawn by adding a sprinkler system. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Brunetti if the party that had called Commissioner Wood had contacted Mr. Brunetti. Mr. Brunetti

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stated that Pastor Talent had called him to see if Mr. Brunetti could find grant funding to build a storm shelter for his church. Mr. Brunetti stated that he had sent emails to get more information but had run into problems because most funding is for residential storm shelters that are open to the public. Mr. Brunetti said he is looking into finding private sources for funding for Pastor Talent. Mr. Brunetti told the commissioners that he is also working with the City of Mulberry to get CDBG funding for their needs. Commissioner Moody had spoken with Mulberry mayor Pat Walden and asked him to contact Mr. Brunetti to help with finding grants for city improvements.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item One: County Counselor Jim Emerson requested an executive session for 10 minutes to Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (24-036) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood 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 employees and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, and County Attorney Reina Probert and to reconvene by 10:24 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 10:14 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 10:24 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson requested an executive session for 15 minutes to Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (24-037) 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 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel to discuss the GIS Department and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, and GIS Director Kyle Nelson and to reconvene by 10:40 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 10:25 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 10:40 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

Item Three: Mr. Emerson requested an executive session for 15 minutes to Non-Elected Personnel.

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On motion (24-038) 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 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel to discuss the GIS Department and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, and GIS Director Kyle Nelson 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.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 10:40 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 10:53 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

NEW BUSINESS

Item One: County Clerk Lisa Lusker requested a work session to go over Historical, Elderly, Parks and Recreation and Special Alcohol funding requests and presented the Commissioners with the requests. The Commissioners set a work session for Friday, January 26th at 9:30 AM. Ms. Lusker also requested a work session with Ms. Randi Ryan to discuss ARPA funding on Tuesday, January 23rd at 9:45 AM. The Commissioners agreed.

Item Two: Ms. Lusker presented the Commissioners with an invoice from the Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission for 2024 dues in the amount of \$8,245.80.

On motion (24-039) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve payment of the Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission invoice in the amount of \$8,245.80 for 2024 dues.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Three: County Counselor Jim Emerson was notified by the county's lobbyist about an update hearing on the nuisance bill taking place on Tuesday, January 23rd at 9:30 AM in Topeka. Mr. Emerson and Commissioner Wood may be attending the hearing.

Item Four: Mr. Emerson presented Progress Billing #4 from Tri-State Building & Supply Co. Inc. for the Health Department project in the amount of \$163,364.57 for work completed through December 31, 2023. He stated that there is \$18,087 left in the balance to finish, and those funds will not be released until there has been a walk-thru with County Maintenance Director Bob Gorentz. Commissioner Moody asked Mr. Emerson if there had been a walk-thru completed for the Freeto building, and Mr. Emerson stated he would find out. Mr. Emerson stated that Mr. Gorentz has approved the Health Department invoice to be paid. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Emerson to have Mr.

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Gorentz attend the commission meeting on Friday, January 26th to give an update on the Health Department building, the Freeto building, and a few other items.

On motion (24-040) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve payment of Progress Billing #4 to Tri-State Building & Supply Co. Inc in the amount of \$163,364.57 for the Health Department Project.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Five: Commissioner Blair discussed a sewer issue in Sewer District #2. He explained that the problem has been located, which was a frozen line and was temporarily resolved, but will need to be addressed long term. Commissioner Blair will update the commission when he has more information.

Item Six: Commissioner Wood discussed the fire that occurred in Pittsburg Sunday evening. He stated that several area fire departments, the sheriff's department, EMS, Everygy and Kansas Gas all worked together in the cold, windy conditions to put the fire out without complaint and without any injuries. Commissioner Wood was pleased with the performance of everyone involved.

Item Seven: Commissioner Wood requested an executive session to discuss the truck he would like to purchase on Purple Wave. Mr. Wood stated the auction is on Tuesday, January 23rd and he has Shop Foreman Josh Peak, his road foreman, and Mr. Emerson involved.

Item Eight: Commissioner Wood would like to discuss the grass at the courthouse and other places with Maintenance Director Bob Gorentz on Friday, January 26th.

OLD BUSINESS

Item One: Mr. Emerson stated that he has emailed Gene Vogler with SEK Recycling Center to set up a date for an update to the commissioners, but has not heard back from him yet. Mr. Emerson stated that he has contacted Tim Dawsey with the National Institute of Materials Advancement at Pittsburg State University to set up a time for a tour, if the commissioners are free next week. Commissioner Blair has already toured the facility, and Commissioners Moody and Wood stated they would like to attend. Mr. Emerson will set up a date for the tour.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson is following up from the last meeting on a request for an executive session with Ms. May Smith with the Zoning Department to discuss codes enforcement.

Item Three: Commissioner Blair discussed culvert inventory. He stated with the cold weather, he has had his crew going around and taking pictures of culverts. Mr. Blair also instructed his crew to report any evidence of water leaks to the water districts.

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Commissioner Blair explained that Road & Bridge Coordinator Alyssa Edwards with and GIS Director Kyle Nelson will work together to link all photos, conditions and location information of the culverts to a map.

EXECUTIVE SESSION continued

Item Four: Commissioner Wood requested an executive session for 30 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (24-041) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 30 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel to discuss county employees and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 11:42 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 11:12 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:42 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

Item Five: Commissioner Wood requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (24-042) 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 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel to discuss county employees and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 11:57 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 11:42 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:56 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

Item Six: Commissioner Wood requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (24-043) 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 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel to discuss the Zoning Department and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson and Zoning Administrator May Smith and to reconvene by 12:11 PM.

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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 11:56 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 12:05 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

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

On motion (24-044) 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 15 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship to discuss equipment purchasing and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 12:21 PM.

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 12:06 PM and reconvened the Open Session at 12:13 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: January 23, 2024 – Opening of Rock Bids.

Item Two: January 23, 2024 at 9:45 AM – Work Session with Fiscal Director Randi Ryan to discuss ARPA requests.

Item Three: January 26, 2024 at 9:30 AM – Work Session with County Clerk Lisa Lusker to discuss 2024 Special Alcohol Funding requests.

Item Three: January 26, 2024 -- Mr. Don Brown, RenoDry USA addressing Courthouse basement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

UNDER THE HEADING MOTION TO ADJOURN MOTION TO ADJOURN

Item One: Adjournment

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On the motion of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to adjourn the [January 19, 2024](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 12:15 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.

Lisa Lusker
County Clerk

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This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.

[Taken LAL 1/19/24 amended LAL 1/22/24/amended BKW 1/23/24](#)