

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2024, FIFTY-FOURTH MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. Friday, July 26, 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 (24-324) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the July 23, 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	322	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the July 16, 2024 minutes
Motion 24	323	To approve a donation of \$500 out of the Miscellaneous Fund to the Girard Warrior's Track Club

UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

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PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

Item One: Ms. Becky Willard addressed the Commissioners. She stated she was just checking in with them and to show them the signs that Crawford County Coalition Against Industrial Wind and Solar have created. She asked about the Comprehensive Plan and mentioned they could create a committee to help with part of the process. Ms. Willard stated EDF Renewables has been west of Girard doing some surveying but that nobody knows what they are surveying for. She stated she would like to know what these companies can still do and cannot do with the moratorium in place. County Counselor Jim Emerson mentioned they have been getting information on a couple of consultants before they select one, but that they are working to get this completed. Mr. Emerson stated that he is open to an evening meeting but that he would rather do that once they have a consultant selected so that they have a little more information to provide to the public. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Emerson if the county can stop these companies from going and surveying on private property and Mr. Emerson stated they cannot stop that and that the companies can still visit with land owners. Mr. Emerson stated building and construction can be stopped because it is included in the moratorium. Ms. Willard asked if the companies are aware of the moratorium and Mr. Emerson answered he believes they are aware of this situation. Ms. Willard asked Commissioner Blair about the power line in his district and she asked if they could do drone footage of what the roads and bridges look like before they begin and Commissioner Moody answered this has already been done. Commissioner Wood asked if they are having trouble putting signs up and Ms. Willard stated they have had no trouble and that residents have been asking for them.

Item Two: Ms. Karen Parente addressed the Commissioners. She mentioned for several years she has lived in Franklin. She stated she has purchased a travel trailer and is wanting to place it on her property and live there and is now being told she cannot do this. Ms. Parente mentioned she has went around and taken pictures of people who have been living in travel trailers. She wants to know why the county has the right to tell her she cannot live in a travel trailer on her own property. Mr. Emerson stated through zoning the county is allowed to make regulations on several things including homes. He stated there is a process to appeal the Zoning Administrator's ruling in the Zoning office. Mr. Emerson stated she can also file to amend the zoning regulations through their office as well. Mr. Emerson mentioned Zoning Administrator May Smith would be the person to discuss this with. She again mentioned other people who are living in different things that were not intended to be lived in such as a storage shed. Mr. Emerson stated it is news to him that a resident is living in a storage shed. Commissioner Wood asked she has spoken with Ms. Smith about the lady living in the storage shed and if she was permitted or not and Ms. Parente stated this individual works with her sister and told her sister that she was permitted to live in it. Commissioner Wood asked if this was recently and she stated yes it was. Ms. Parente stated the last name of this individual is Hudson. Mr. Emerson asked where this is and Ms. Parente stated it is in Franklin and gave some details. Commissioner Moody stated one of the properties she is discussing is not in the zoned area which is why the county has no control over that. Ms. Parente asked what decides which areas will be zoned and not zoned and Mr. Emerson stated that was decided back in the 1960's when zoning began. Mr. Emerson mentioned there has been an attempt at

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county wide zoning and that failed. Commissioner Wood asked the address where she wants to place the travel trailer and Ms. Parente provided it. Commissioner Wood stated they will check into the permit for the individual living in a storage shed. Commissioner Wood asked if she would be against going before the zoning board to get anything approved and Ms. Parente said she would do whatever was necessary. Mr. Emerson stated he believes Ms. Smith will be back on Tuesday.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS

Item One: Public hearing on Closing and Vacating a Platted Street in the First Addition to South Radley, Crawford County, Kansas.

On motion (24-325) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to open the Public Hearing on Closing and Vacating a Platted Street in the First Addition to South Radley, Crawford County, Kansas.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

There was no public comment.

On motion (24-326) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to close the Public Hearing on Closing and Vacating a Platted Street in the First Addition to South Radley, Crawford County, Kansas.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

County Counselor Jim Emerson presented Resolution #2024-015, A Resolution on Closing and Vacating a Platted Street in the First Addition to South Radley, Crawford County, Kansas.

On motion (24-327) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to adopt Resolution #2024-015, A Resolution on Closing and Vacating a Platted Street in the First Addition to South Radley, Crawford County, Kansas.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

**MESSAGES FROM CRAWFORD CO LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH
MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC
MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES**

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MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS NEW BUSINESS

Item One: Mr. Emerson presented the ARPA Drawdown request for July 2024. He mentioned there was a work session in regards to this draw down this morning and that Director of Fiscal Services Randi Ryan has corrected the Health Department's request. Mr. Emerson gave the details about each request presented.

On motion (24-328) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the ARPA drawdown request for July 2024 as presented.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson mentioned SEK Recycling Center was supposed to attend the meeting today but that they needed to reschedule. He stated he will be contacting them next week to get them rescheduled.

Item Three: Commissioner Blair asked Mr. Emerson how hard it would be to get data on what other counties have spent their ARPA money on. Mr. Emerson said that it should be public information and that they may be able to obtain this information through the state portal.

Item Four: Commissioner Blair presented a CTEC Official Director Designation Form. He mentioned it is being presented for approval of appointing Ms. Susie Boldrini as a representative to the Southeast Kansas Career and Technical Education Center of Crawford County Board of Directors.

On motion (24-329) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the appointment of Ms. Susie Boldrini as a representative to the Southeast Kansas Career and Technical Education Center of Crawford County Board of Directors.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Five: Commissioner Wood discussed a board meeting with CTEC. He stated there is paperwork that needs completed but that the meeting overall went well. He mentioned also that there was a good turn out for the meeting.

Item Six: Commissioner Wood stated Emergency Management Director Rusty Akins wants to come and discuss with the Commissioners about an EOP grant. He stated he is passing the information along and that Mr. Akins will give details.

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OLD BUSINESS

Item One: County Clerk Lisa Lusker gave a reminder that advance voting for the 2024 Primary Election is open in the County Clerk's Office from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday, as well as an open polling site at Home Cole Center in Pittsburg Saturday, July 27th from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson mentioned the Commissioners have been invited to a ribbon cutting ceremony with Crawford County Mental Health for their new children's services moving to a new location. He mentioned this will be on Tuesday, July 30th at 3:00 PM at 710 N Broadway Pittsburg, KS.

Item Three: Mr. Emerson stated that he received an email from Crawford County Mental Health Director Heather Spaur in regards to the lunch on August 13th at 12:00 PM. He mentioned they have moved the tour of the building after the lunch.

Item Four: Commissioner Blair presented the Commissioners with a paper including the equipment on Purple Wave. He discussed the grader they have debated on keeping. Commissioner Wood stated he cannot see having two spare graders. Commissioner Blair stated it would be used often. Commissioner Moody suggested looking at it and that it can always be sold at any time. Commissioner Blair mentioned his road and bridge district is responsible for 120 miles which is by far the most.

Item Five: Commissioner Blair readdressed Hepler's request for help with the fire truck utilizing the money that the county receives from the wind farm in Hepler. He mentioned they are asking for \$35,700.00 but that they have been making payments on the truck so it may be less now. Commissioner Blair stated he just wanted to readdress this request. Commissioner Moody asked Mr. Emerson if they previously discussed putting some money back in to Hepler from the wind farm money and Mr. Emerson stated yes they had discussed that previously. Commissioner Moody asked if they had used similar money in Farlington at one time and Mr. Emerson explained.

On motion (24-330) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to pay up to \$35,700.00 to the Hepler Fire Department for the fire truck replacement from the funds produced by the Hepler wind farm.

On a Roll Call Vote

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Moody

Nays: Commissioner Wood

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item One: County Counselor Jim Emerson requested an executive session for 20 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

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On motion (24-331) of Commissioner Blair 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 20 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel to discuss EMS and Maintenance Department and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson, and to reconvene by 11:17 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Moody, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 10:57 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:25 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: July 30, 2024 – 9:00 AM Work session with County Clerk Lisa Lusker regarding budget.

Item Two: August 2, 2024 – 9:00 AM Work session with Ryan Insurance in regards to quarterly report.

Item Three: August 2, 2024 -- Ms. Caitlin Fanning discussing the issue of stray animals in the county.

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 [July 26, 2024](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:25 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.

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Lisa Lusker
County Clerk



This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.

[Taken RJA 7/26/24 2:00 PM/amended BKW 7/29/24 9:00 AM](#)