

# Board of Crawford County Commissioners

## Commissioners' Journal

2020, **FIFTY-THIRD** MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM  
Girard, KS, **Tuesday, July 7, 2020 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 Bruce Blair served as the presiding officer.

Commissioners Tom Moody and Jeremy Johnson were in attendance.

County Clerk Don Pyle and County Counselor Jim Emerson were seated with the Board.

Chairman Blair led the pledge of allegiance.

### **UNDER THE HEADING BUSINESS FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING CONSENT AGENDA**

**On motion (20-270)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Johnson that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **June 30, 2020** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

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 20	267	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the June 26, 2020 minutes
Motion 20	268	To approve the Tax Roll Correction, correcting an error in the assessing of Personal Property owned by Jerald W. Gobl and to request an abatement in the amount of \$34.06 from the 2016 tax rolls, \$30.00 from the 2017 tax rolls and \$30.00 from the 2018 tax rolls and authorize the Chairman to sign
Motion 20	269	To adopt Resolution #2020-011, A Resolution regarding the SPARK Taskforce proposal

### **UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD**

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## MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

**Item One:** Ms. Brooke Powell, Safehouse Executive Director addressed the Commissioners about the Emergency Solutions Grant Application. She explained what the funds are used for. County Counselor Jim Emerson handed out a copy of the grant and stated that it has increased in amount this year and he reviewed the grant with the commissioners. He explained that the shelter grant comes from the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation which comes to the county and that Safehouse is the subrecipient. Ms. Powell explained how the additional funds will be utilized.

**On motion (20-271)** of Commissioner Johnson and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the 2020 Emergency Solutions Grant Application and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

## MESSAGES FROM CRAWFORD CO LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH

**Item One:** Ms. Rebecca Adamson, Health Department Director gave an update on the COVID-19 status. She stated that the KDHE map is updated every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and as of yesterday Crawford County had 278 positive cases and that number changes daily. Ms. Adamson stated that she would like to advertise for 3 additional Epi Nurses and also a contracted Nurse Practitioner position and explained the reasoning for the additional positions. She also discussed purchasing 2 rapid testing machines, one for the Via Christi lab and one for Community Health Center and would like to work with Via Christi lab in ordering this equipment. Commissioner Blair was answered that the Epi Nurses will be used 100% for COVID-19 and the Nurse Practitioner responsibilities will be around 50% for COVID-19. Ms. Adamson explained that her requests for additional employees and the machines will help Crawford County in continuing to meet the 4 metrics that measure the county's ability to respond to the pandemic. She discussed communication issues and contact tracing. Ms. Adamson discussed the numbers of individuals that are in quarantine and said it will take hours to get a definite number and overall, the state map is the best way to get information on the number of cases. She stated that the public needs to be aware that COVID-19 is in the community and to take precautions to protect themselves. County Health Officer Dr. Stebbins explained the difference between isolation and quarantine and the time periods for each and the fluctuations of those numbers each day. Mental Health Executive Director Mr. Michael Ehling discussed hiring an individual devoted to pandemic county communications and Dr. Stebbins added that having that position would be a tremendous help in getting the necessary information to the public to prevent further spread. There was a discussion on the job description of the communications position and the responsibilities that employee would have and Ms. Adamson stated that this person should be the hub of communications for the entire county as a Public Information Officer. There was a discussion of the SPARK funds and how the Commissioners are in charge of this money and how it will be distributed.

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**On motion (20-272)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve an advertisement for the employment of 3 Epi Nurses, one Nurse Practitioner and one Public Information Communications Officer and for the purchase of 2 Rapid Testing machines and supplies for the Health Department.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

Dr. Stebbins discussed the increase in COVID-19 cases in Crawford County and the neighboring counties in Kansas and Missouri. He stated that as of this morning Via Christi had one positive case and 4 persons under investigation and Girard Medical Center has neither at this time. He explained that the medical impact on the community is currently not significant. Dr. Stebbins said that there are a few areas of concern with health providers getting ill and that is being managed. He stated that they are also working on moving as much of the county's case load from KDHE back to the county to have more control and to manage those cases locally. Dr. Stebbins discussed the Governor's Executive Order on universal masking in public and stated that the Crawford County Board of Health has the option to adopt this order. He explained that he encourages the wearing of masks in public and has from the beginning but enforcement will be an issue. He stated that he also strongly recommends all businesses require their employees to wear masks and also recommends that the patrons of these businesses wear masks. He explained that masking has a significant impact and will protect the public, you and your family and help in decreasing the outbreak. He stated that all decisions made are based on science, current data and common sense and the recommendation is mask wearing. Mr. Moody was answered that this can be reviewed weekly or at least every few weeks. Deputy County Health Officer Dr. Linda Bean stated that there are activities that are difficult to wear masks at but staying safe outside of those activities can help. She stated that we want to try to maintain a normal life but we must be smart and use the mitigation strategies. Commissioner Blair addressed his concerns with mask wearing and Dr. Stebbins stated that we are not looking for perfect but we are looking for better. He said that everyone is taking a risk every time they walk out their front door or let someone in their front door but they are trying to mitigate at every thought process by doing risk awareness and risk reduction or risk acceptance at every thought process. Dr. Stebbins discussed the different types of masks available and discussed risk management. Sheriff Danny Smith addressed the Commissioners and read from the Attorney General's memorandum on law enforcement and mask wearing and stated that he agrees with the recommendation of mask wearing but his department has no authority at all to enforce the Governor's Executive Order. Crawford County Attorney Reina Probert addressed the Commissioners and explained that enforcement of the executive order has been changed recently to a civil matter. She stated that the Board of Health can make this order more restrictive. She explained the procedure the Attorney's Office would go through in order to prosecute a civil matter through her office. Mr. Emerson handed out a copy of a house bill that states that the County Commissioners may issue an order relating to public health that includes provisions that are less stringent than the provisions of an executive order effective state wide issued by a governor. He explained that if the Commissioners want to

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they can issue an order that is less restrictive than the Governor's Executive Order. Dr. Stebbins stated that his recommendation is to follow the Governor's Executive Order. Commissioner Blair stated he would like to see a copy of an order that a neighboring County has done in opting out of the governor's order. Commissioner Moody stated that he agrees with our health care professionals and if they strongly recommend following the Governor's Executive Order then he is behind them 100% and we are fortunate to have the health care professionals we have to lead us through this. Mr. Blair stated that he would still like to see the verbiage in some of the other counties orders before making a decision. The Commissioners decided to recess the open session for a period of 15 minutes and reconvene at 11:43 AM.

The Commissioners called the meeting back to order at 11:43 AM.

Mr. Emerson stated that after looking over some of the other orders, most of them just opted out of the Governor's Executive Order and issued no other orders. There was a discussion of the contents of the Governor's Executive Order and Dr. Stebbins stated that they are still strongly recommending following that order. Commissioner Blair stated that he still has concerns with individuals wearing dirty masks and improper hygiene with masks. Mr. Blair also had concerns that some people will not comply with the order simply because it is an order and that a recommendation for face masks from the Governor may have been more effective. Ms. Adamson explained that masking can be a bandana or a homemade mask or anything that can cover your nose & mouth.

**On motion (20-273)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Johnson to follow the recommendations of the County Health Officer that Crawford County follow the Governor's Executive Order.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody and Johnson

Nays: Commissioner Blair

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

The Commissioners decided to revisit this issue in 2 weeks.

The Commissioners approved Ms. Adamson and Emergency Management Director Rusty Akins to move forward with a memorandum of understanding with a local hotel.

Commissioner Johnson asked if the communication process is working well with the Health Director, the Health Officer and the Deputy Health Officer and Ms. Adamson stated the communication is going well with email and 3-way calls and that they communicate almost daily. Dr. Stebbins and Dr. Bean discussed the communication between the three health officials and felt that it worked well.

**MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC**  
**MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS**  
**MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS**  
**NEW BUSINESS**

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**Item One:** County Clerk Don Pyle presented the June 2020 Clerk's Report. Mr. Pyle stated that this report summarizes the total amounts spent by departments for payroll and bills during the month of June. Mr. Pyle also gave the Commissioners a copy of the May 2020 to June 2020 Clerk's Report of Changes in Expenditures for comparison. Mr. Pyle reviewed the changes with the Commissioners and discussed some of the reasons for the changes in expenditures.

**On motion (20-274)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Johnson to approve the June 2020 Clerk's Report as presented.

**On a Roll Call Vote.**

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Two:** Mr. Pyle stated that there will be webinars on the SPARK CARES Act Funding on Thursday at 3:00 PM and on Friday at 10:00 AM. He explained what each webinar will cover.

**Item Three:** Mr. Emerson reminded the Commissioners that there will be a 9:00 AM Work session on Friday with Ryan Insurance to review the quarterly loss report. He also stated that the fence viewing scheduled for Friday at 11:30 AM has been cancelled as Mr. Ron Albertini will not be able to attend. He stated that he will work with both parties to get this rescheduled as soon as possible.

**Item Four:** Commissioner Moody requested a list of the members of the Recovery Task Force and Commissioner Johnson stated that he has emailed a list of members to Mr. Pyle. Mr. Pyle said he will forward a copy of the list to Commissioner Moody and Commissioner Blair.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Item One:** Commissioner Moody asked about the status of the CDGB CV program and Mr. Emerson stated that he is still working with the City of Frontenac issue and he will be checking into that today. He stated that after that issue is settled the committee can be selected and then the process can be started.

**Item Two:** Commissioner Johnson stated that the Recovery Task Force met yesterday and discussed allocations and the hiring of a consultant for the CARES Act funds. He discussed the options the task force recommends in allocating the funding. There was a discussion on the allocation of funding and how it can be applied for.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **FUTURE BUSINESS:**

## Board of Crawford County Commissioners

**Item One: July 10, 2020 – 9:00 AM** Work Session with Ryan Insurance to discuss the quarterly loss report.

**Item Two: July 14, 2020 – 9:00 AM** Work session with a representative from the Arnold Group.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Item One:** The Courthouse in Girard is open to the public from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM until further notice. The Motor Vehicle office at the Judicial Center in Pittsburg will remain closed but residents may use the drop box at the Security Desk at the Judicial Center for motor vehicle and tax payments to be processed at the courthouse.

### **UNDER THE HEADING MOTION TO ADJOURN MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**Item One:** Adjournment

**On the motion** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Johnson to adjourn the [July 7, 2020](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 12:12 PM and to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled time with open doors.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

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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**Don Pyle**  
County Clerk

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**This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.**

Taken by BKW 7/07/2020/amended BKW 7/9/2020 2:30 PM