

# Board of Crawford County Commissioners

## Commissioners' Journal

2023, THIRTY-SIXTH MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM  
Girard, KS. Friday, May 12, 2023 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 Carl Wood were in attendance.

County Clerk Lisa Lusker 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 (23-208)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **May 9, 2023** 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 23	203	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the May 5, 2023 minutes
Motion 23	204	To approve the 2023 Kansas Emergency Solutions Grant Application and authorize the Chairman to sign
Motion 23	205	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 the Road & Bridge Department and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 10:42 AM

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Motion 23	206	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 30 minutes to discuss EMS staffing under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 11:09 AM
Motion 23	207	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 15 minutes to discuss courthouse employees under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 11:13 AM

**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 APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

**MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC**

**Item One:** Mr. Quentin Holmes, President of Equity Bank spoke to the commissioners about helping builders create some different options for housing in Crawford County. In order to do this, Mr. Holmes stated that the county would have to get a survey done to determine what kind of housing is needed and where. Mr. Holmes has worked with a company called Novogradac and the study would most likely cost around \$30,000. Mr. Holmes stated he is not asking the commission for anything, he just would like to make the commission aware of the opportunities in housing development. Commissioner Blair stated this is something he is willing to look into. The commission decided to have Mr. Holmes work directly with County Counselor Jim Emerson to go over details of the programs to present to the commissioners.

**Item Two:** County resident Dan Muter spoke about the 69 Western Corridor proposal. Mr. Muter summarized several reasons as to why the western corridor is not supported by the community as a whole, except for a few people on the Highway 69 commission. Mr. Muter stated that the idea is unpopular and expensive, and referenced a County Commission meeting on June 16, 2020 where Commissioner Jeremy Johnson relayed information from a KDOT meeting. He said that during that meeting, KDOT was leaning towards abandoning the western corridor and using the middle route. Mr. Muter said that the plan is fiscally irresponsible, and bad for businesses. Mr. Muter stated that twenty years ago, the county made a resolution to support the western bypass. Mr. Muter challenged the commission to think about rescinding that resolution.

**Item Three:** Mr. David Fornelli, City of Frontenac Mayor spoke about the 69 Western Corridor proposal. He agreed with Mr. Muter’s previous statements, and said he would like the commission to rescind their support for the western bypass. Commissioner Moody asked Mr. Fornelli if he had spoken to any of the local businesses. Mr. Fornelli responded that he had spoken to most of them, and that most businesses were unaware of the KDOT Western bypass proposal. Mr. Fornelli stated that the people that are not supportive of this project are citizens. Commissioner Moody stated that he had 10 phone

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calls regarding this project and none of them are supportive of the western route. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Fornelli if he supports expanding the current bypass. Mr. Fornelli answered that yes, the area has grown and should be enlarged from Atkinson to the casino. Commissioner Blair told both Mr. Fornelli and Mr. Muter that the commission has built a survey to gather more information on public input. During discussion of the survey questions, Commissioner Wood asked to change the wording from US 69 Pittsburg Bypass to US 69 County Bypass.

### MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Item One:** Commissioner Blair requested an executive Session for 20 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship.

**On motion (23-209)** 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 items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship to discuss the Freeto contracts and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson and Maintenance Director Robert Gorentz and to reconvene by 11:21 AM.

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 11:01 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:16 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

**Item Two:** Commissioner Blair requested an executive Session for 20 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

**On motion (23-210)** 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 EMS staffing under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson and EMS Director Randy Sandberg and to reconvene by 11:39 AM.

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 11:19 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:39 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

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**Item One:** Commissioner Bruce Blair stated that Public Information Officer Samantha Norris redid the survey and implemented the changes requested, and to make the survey available to the public for a few weeks.

**On motion (23-211)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the survey to be posted on the county website and available to the public.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Two:** County Counselor Jim Emerson gave an update on the recently attended LEPC and 911 meeting. Mr. Emerson stated the meetings went well, Southern Star discussed responding to emergencies, and Tim Mikrut showed the attendees two apps recently rolled out in the county. The first app is called Pulsepoint AED and will show first responders if the site of an emergency has an AED machine and where it is located. The second app is What Three Words. If someone gets lost, they can log in to the app and report to first responders the three words on the screen to help pinpoint their location.

**Item Three:** Commissioner Wood agreed with Mr. Emerson, and said the meetings went well. He commended 911 Communications Director Tim Mikrut and also Southern Star for their presentation and said there was a good crowd. Commissioner Wood stated that the issue an employee had getting their CDL has been resolved.

**Item Four:** Commissioner Blair mentioned that when it comes to windfarms, solar farms, and crypto mining in the un-zoned parts of the county, there is little the commission can do. There was discussion on wind farms and solar farms, and the disposal process of the equipment.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Item One:** Commissioner Moody asked about iPads for their road foreman. Commissioner Blair also is interested in getting them.

**Item Two:** Commissioner Wood would like to discuss the timeclocks again. He would also like to ask IT Director Brandon Spaur what happened to the phone and server system the day it was struck by lightning.

**Item Three:** Commissioner Blair discussed the equipment financing spreadsheet. There was discussion about the availability of new trucks, and the difficulty in finding anything in inventory.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION continued

**Item Three:** Commissioner Blair requested an executive Session for 20 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

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**On motion (23-212)** 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 Road and Bridge Department under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 12:21 PM.

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 12:01 PM and reconvened the Open Session at 12:20 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

### UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### FUTURE BUSINESS:

**Item One: May 16, 2023 – 9:00 AM** work session with Shop Foreman Josh Peak to discuss equipment.

**Item One: May 16, 2023 – 9:30 AM** work session with IT Director Brandon Spaur to discuss technology.

**Item Two: May 19, 2023 – 9:00 AM** work session with County Clerk Lisa Lusker and Fiscal Director Randi Ryan to discuss ARPA invoices for May.

**Item Three: May 19, 2023 – 9:30 AM** work session with Road Foreman Randy Chiartano to discuss asphalt projects.

**Item Two: May 19, 2023** – Mr. Mac Young, Community Corrections Administrator presenting the Fiscal Year 2024 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Community Corrections Comprehensive Plan Grant Application and Budget.

#### 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 [May 12, 2023](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 12:22 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.**

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**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

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

Taken LAL 5/12/2023 12:22 PM/amended LAL 5/15/2023 2:30 PM