

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2024, THIRTY-NINTH MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. Tuesday, May 28, 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 (24-256) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **May 24, 2024** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners.

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	251	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the May 21, 2024 minutes
Motion 24	252	To approve the May ARPA drawdown request as presented
Motion 24	253	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 HRRR grants and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 10:54 AM
Motion 24	254	To recess this open session for a period of 10 minutes

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Motion 24	255	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 EMS Department and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, EMS Director Randy Sandberg, and EMS Administrator Dr. Tim Stebbins, and to reconvene by 11:36 AM
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UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS

MESSAGES FROM CRAWFORD CO LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH

MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS

MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

Item One: Mr. Dick Horton, Dick Horton Consulting, discussing Zoning Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Emerson gave some information on the moratorium that the county has placed and stated that part of the reason for the moratorium was to allow the county time to update their comprehensive plan. Mr. Horton gave some information on his work experience. He proceeded to also explain some components of their process that they follow and how they would involve the residents of Crawford County. Commissioner Wood asked how the survey would work on a zoned area and an area that is not zoned, and also asked if they were going to try to zone the whole county and Mr. Emerson explained that could be something included within the survey they send out. Mr. Vic Burks addressed the Commissioners next. He discussed zoning on the survey as well. Commissioner Blair asked if the survey itself could be segregated to just certain areas of the county and Mr. Burks explained the results can be. Mr. Horton provided more details of the planning portion. He also explained some other items included on surveys in other counties and went into detail on some of these items. Mr. Burks then added some information to the presentation about items in the comprehensive plan and how they are relevant to the plan. County Counselor Jim Emerson asked about hiring a land use legal consultant as well and if they are familiar with any and Mr. Burk answered they have worked with land use legal consultants mostly out of the Kansas City area. Commissioner Wood asked if they have any advice on if they should send the survey to everyone in the county or just residents in unincorporated areas and Mr. Horton answered that as he stated during his presentation they can send the survey to the entire county and then filter the responses by location. Commissioner Moody asked if they have worked with any other counties besides the two they have mentioned with anything specifically similar to the wind turbine and solar situation in our county and Mr. Horton answered they typically work on other things and not so much the comprehensive plan. Commissioner Blair clarified that the survey would be the first step and Mr. Horton answered crafting the survey as soon as possible would be ideal. Commissioner Blair asked if completing this job in 8 months is realistic and Mr. Horton answered that it is realistic given he has good interaction with the team creating the survey. Commissioner Wood asked what the average timeframe has been in the other counties and Mr. Horton mentioned it is not unusual to take a year's time but that it was individually based on the county. Commissioner Wood stated he hopes they are not just focusing on the wind turbines and

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

solar panels and Mr. Horton mentioned there will be 25 questions on their survey and that the goal is to cover as many topics as needed. Commissioner Blair asked if they will know after the survey if they should modify the existing comprehensive plan or if they should start over in developing a new one and Mr. Burks answered they should do both. Commissioner Moody asked if the survey questions are preformed or if there will be input to craft the survey and Mr. Horton answered they come in with a blank slate for the survey. Zoning Administrator May Smith addressed the Commissioners. Ms. Smith asked if they plan to slim the comprehensive plan down and Mr. Horton answered the previous counties were modified comprehensive plans based on their budgets and that determined the length of their comprehensive plan. Ms. Smith asked if they had to use the planning and zoning board or if they could find other citizens and Mr. Horton answered the other counties have started as a steering committee and evolved legally in to a planning commission but he mentioned it needs to be an equal representation of being for and against current situations. Commissioner Blair asked if they hire Mr. Horton will Crawford County get full attention on this project and he answered that yes they will. Commissioner Wood asked if Mr. Horton has worked with counties in Missouri and Mr. Horton answered the areas in Missouri that he has worked in. Commissioner Wood asked if he could receive a copy of some of the places he has worked around here so they can call for references.

Item Two: Ms. Becky Willard addressed the Commissioners. She asked the Commissioners about the expiration date of the moratorium being on a day that the courthouse is traditionally closed and Mr. Emerson assured her that if they are approaching the expiration date and are not close to having the comprehensive plan finished they will address that before the expiration date. Ms. Willard stated she is disappointed that the Commissioners do not get along better and Commissioner Moody stated they should not get along on everything. Ms. Willard stated it just is not nice to watch. She read from a paper from 2020 from windwatch.org with quotes she stated were from Mr. Emerson. She stated he said the taxes would not be raised but that taxes have been raised every year since and Mr. Emerson mentioned the county has actually lowered their mill levy the previous two years. She asked why their total taxes continue increasing and Mr. Emerson mentioned there are several factors in her tax statement that the county does not control. She then read that Commissioner Johnson stated the money received would benefit the whole county and that Commissioner Blair mentioned he wanted a portion of the money to benefit the residents in the immediate area of the wind turbines. She mentioned that the representative of the wind farm stated the money would go into the general fund for the whole county and Mr. Emerson stated that is not up to the representative and is up to the Commissioners. Ms. Willard stated at least two Commissioners agreed it would go into the general fund and she believes it is odd the money got earmarked for one location and Mr. Emerson stated that is not true and that it is earmarked in the Operating Reserve account and that the money has bought equipment to benefit the entire county. Ms. Willard said the steering committee is stating they have several people wanting to be apart of the survey crafting with different views.

Item Three: Mr. Michael Diskin stated he is curious if an area is not zoned can there still be regulations put on wind turbines and Mr. Emerson answered that is why he asked the consultants about a land use expert so that they know what they can and cannot do if county wide zoning does not take place. He asked if there are regulations in not zoned

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

areas and Mr. Emerson listed some that are in place. Mr. Diskin discussed data integrity as well in reference to the survey.

NEW BUSINESS

Item One: Commissioner Blair asked if there is any update on the asphalt plants and Commissioner Wood stated it looks like they are still being worked on along with some details.

Item Two: Commissioner Wood stated he is going to talk to Mr. Aaron Crozier about getting a new clock in the Commission room.

OLD BUSINESS

Item One: Commissioner Wood asked about pug rock and Commissioner Moody stated they are currently working on the ditches and that there is a problem with the gas line they are getting taken care of before.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

On motion (24-257) 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 HRRR and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 11:33 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 11:18 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:23AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

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

On motion (24-258) 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 consultant and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 11:38 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:23 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:31 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: May 31, 2024 – 8:30 AM Work Session to sign May 2024 bills and payroll vouchers.

Item Two: May 31, 2024 – Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for the Crawford County Conservation District Mr. Mark Lehman addressing the 2025 Conservation District Budget.

Item Three: June 7, 2024 – 9:00 AM Work Session with Director of RJA Angie Hadley and Program Director Heidi Moody.

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 28, 2024](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:31 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.

Lisa Lusker
County Clerk

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This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.

[Taken RJA 05/30/2024 10:30 AM](#)