

# Board of Crawford County Commissioners

## Commissioners' Journal

2024, **EIGHTY-THIRD** MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM  
Girard, KS. **Friday, November 8, 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.

Commissioner Bruce Blair was 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 (24-464)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood that the consent agenda be approved including:

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

Yeas: Commissioners Wood and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

**The motion prevailed and the consent agenda was approved.**

### **SIGNING OF MOTIONS**

The County Clerk presented the following motions for Commissioners' signatures:

Motion 24	460	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the October 29, 2024 minutes, and Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers
Motion 24	461	To approve the October 2024 Clerk's Report as presented
Motion 24	462	To approve a purchasing card for Crawford County Fire District #3 with a credit limit of \$2,500 through GNBANK
Motion 24	463	To approve requesting resubmittal of concrete bids on the Arma Tower project from the companies that previously bid

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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 ELECTED OFFICIALS

#### MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS

#### MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

**Item One:** Ms. Becky Grey, CHCSEK/Building Health Inc., addressed the Commissioners. She stated she is here today to discuss further the letter of support that was requested for Kansas Department of Transportation grant application. Commissioner Wood asked how this organization got started and Ms. Grey explained. Commissioner Wood also asked what this organization will do and Ms. Grey provided more information on this. County Counselor Jim Emerson asked if this is the same request as they have always had before or if this is a request for support towards a new grant and Ms. Grey explained. Commissioner Wood asked how many communities in the area they serve and Ms. Grey elaborated on their main focus being Crawford County but that they do some service in other counties as well. Commissioner Wood asked about some of the funding. Commissioner Wood asked if they are building a homeless shelter in the same area that Ms. Grey had mentioned and she explained it is not a homeless shelter. She mentioned the funding received is considered home funding to build rental housing, that they will be building 10 units, and that the people that will be eligible to live there will be exiting homelessness. Commissioner Wood asked if this is similar to HUD and Ms. Grey explained. Commissioner Wood stated he has been told that CHCSEK will be building two houses by Wesley House and asked if she can clear that up and Ms. Grey explained that the houses on 12th street were built by a private individual but that CHCSEK/Building Health Inc. provided labor. Commissioner Wood asked who is on the board that supports this project and Ms. Grey explained there are 9 board members in total, 3 representing local community, 3 representing local business, and 3 representing low income community. Commissioner Wood stated his concerns with grants and funding and Ms. Grey gave input regarding this. Commissioner Wood asked if down the road they will be wanting the county to support these projects with taxpayer money and Ms. Grey gave an explanation to this. Ms. Grey wanted to reiterate she is not asking for funding for the transportation program, just support.

**On motion (24-465)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the letter support for Building Health Inc.'s General Public Transportation and authorizing the Chairman to sign.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

**The motion prevailed.**

#### MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

#### NEW BUSINESS

## Board of Crawford County Commissioners

**Item One:** Mr. Emerson discussed the burn ban. He stated there was a request Monday from the fire chiefs to remove the burn ban.

**On motion (24-466)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood to remove the burn ban placed on October 25, 2024.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Two:** Mr. Emerson mentioned Mr. Joshua Albin will be attending the regular meeting on November 19, 2024 to discuss the Preliminary Survey, the Comprehensive Plan, and to answer questions anyone may have for him.

### MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

**Item One:** Ms. Becky Willard addressed the Commissioners. She stated the reason she came today was to find out when Mr. Albin would be attending a meeting. She also wanted to know if they could do the evening meeting the same day that he comes to the Commission meeting. Mr. Emerson stated he can call Mr. Albin and ask him if that is possible and that he will also check with the court to see if they can have the meeting upstairs in the court room. Commissioner Wood asked if Ms. Willard believes they should have an evening meeting before doing the survey and Ms. Willard stated that is what they prefer. She also asked when the Commissioners will be readdressing the moratorium because her and some others will have some requests to change and add a few things within the moratorium including topics like carbon capture, CO2, and battery storage. Mr. Emerson asked Ms. Willard if she has his email and asked her to send this information to him. Commissioner Wood asked how these companies can claim eminent domain if they are not an energy company and Ms. Willard explained.

**Item Two:** Ms. Pam Curdy addressed the Commissioners. She stated she is also here in regards to the moratorium being renewed.

**Item Three:** Ms. Jovanna Brackett-Oetinger addressed the Commissioners. She stated she is concerned about the same things the other two ladies are concerned about. She discussed property tax increase. Ms. Brackett-Oetinger stated she is also in favor of renewing the moratorium.

### NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

**Item Three:** Mr. Emerson stated Mr. Joshua Albin is available to stay the evening of November 19, 2024 and that he will have to confirm with court that the court room will be available for the evening meeting.

**Item Four:** Mr. Emerson presented a Notice of Intent to Vacate Platted Streets located in Starina's Subdivision, Crawford County, Kansas. He presented a map, explained where the streets were located, and stated it was landowner request. Mr. Emerson stated a public hearing is scheduled for Friday, December 6, 2024 at 10:00 AM.

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**On motion (24-467)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the publication of the Notice of Intent to Vacate Platted Streets located in Starina's Subdivision, Crawford County, Kansas with a public hearing scheduled for Friday, December 6, 2024 at 10:00 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Five:** Mr. Emerson presented Kansas Housing Grant Agreement for the Emergency Solutions Grant. He explained there is not hurry to approve this today but that he wanted to discuss it. Mr. Emerson gave details regarding this agreement and explained the grant begins July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. Mr. Emerson stated this is the same agreement they have had for 30 years and have had no issues with it previously.

**Item Six:** Commissioner Wood stated the new Sheriff is wanting to go to Sheriff's Academy the first of December. He mentioned it costs \$1,000 to go. Commissioner Wood stated he would like to see about getting a credit card for the new Sheriff and Mr. Emerson answered he is for paying expenses but does not know that we can issue a card until he takes office. Commissioner Wood asked if he can be reimbursed for using his own financials and Mr. Emerson explained he could do that or the county could send a check for the cost. Commissioner Wood stated he could use his card if it is legal for hotel and other expenses and asked if that can be done and Mr. Emerson stated the Commissioners would have to vote to approve that but that he really is not sure that he should have a card until he takes office. Commissioner Wood asked if the new Sheriff can turn his mileage in as well and Mr. Emerson stated all expenses for it can be turned in. Commissioner Wood asked if the county can pay for the academy then and Mr. Emerson confirmed and stated if they have it ahead of time they could probably go ahead and get the hotel taken care of as well. Mr. Emerson stated they need paperwork for the academy to get it approved.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Item One:** Ms. Lusker gave an update on the 2024 General Election. She stated voter turnout was a little bit lower on Election Day than expected but that other counties shared that as well. She did mention early voting turnout was great. Ms. Lusker said around 520 provisional ballots are being processed and will be completed by Canvass on November 15. Commissioner Blair asked if there was quite a few advanced ballots completed and Ms. Lusker confirmed there was around 5,000 advanced ballots between the early polling sites, early voting in office, and early mail in ballots. Ms. Lusker stated her office has been very busy and she is also thankful for security putting in a lot of work for this as well.

**Item Two:** Mr. Emerson mentioned there should be revised bids turned in by Tuesday at 9:00 AM for the Arma Tower project.

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**Item Three:** Mr. Emerson mentioned the Commissioners received a notice from the City of Pittsburg to issue industrial revenue bonds. He mentioned there is a notice of hearing that they are required to send and it will be on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 5:30 PM. Mr. Emerson gave some information regarding the bonds. Mr. Emerson mentioned they are also notifying the Commissioners because the applicant is requesting a 10 year 100% property tax abatement and sales tax exemption on construction materials.

### UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### FUTURE BUSINESS:

**Item One: November 15, 2024 - 9:00 AM** The Board of County Canvassers will meet to canvass the ballots from the 2024 General Election with the Regular Session commencing immediately after the canvass.

**Item Two: November 15, 2024-** Honorable Lori A. Bolton Fleming, Chief Judge, 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Kansas and Daniel S. Creitz, Chief Compliance Officer SEK/CHC discussing Recovery Court update.

**Item Three: November 19, 2024-** Mr. Joshua Albin discussing Comprehensive Plan.

**Item Four: December 6, 2024- 10:00 AM** Public Hearing on Vacating Platted Streets located in Starina's Subdivision, Crawford County, Kansas.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Item One: November 11, 2024-** The Courthouse will be closed in observance of the Veteran's Day Holiday.

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

**Item One:** Adjournment

**On the motion** of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Blair to adjourn the [November 8, 2024](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:03 AM and to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled time with open doors.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

**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.**

# 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 RJA 11/8/2024 12:00 PM/amended BKW 11/8/24 2:50 PM](#)