

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2024, [EIGHTY-SEVENTH](#) MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. **Friday, November 22, 2024 at 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 Tom Moody 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 (24-488) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **November 19, 2024** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners, and
2. Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Blair

The motion prevailed and the consent agenda was approved.

SIGNING OF MOTIONS

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

Motion 24	482	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the November 15, 2024 minutes, and Approval of the November 15, 2024 minutes of the Board of County Canvassers.
Motion 24	483	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson and Emergency Management Director Rusty Akins attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:01 AM. The Motion passed 3-0

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Motion 24	484	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson and Communications Director Rusty Akins attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:15 AM. The Motion passed 3-0
Motion 24	485	To approve the publication of the Notice of Intent to Vacate Platted Streets located in Friskel and Langgeger's Subdivision, Crawford County, Kansas with a public hearing scheduled for Friday, December 13, 2024 at 10:00 AM
Motion 24	486	To accept the low bid from Turnkey LLC of \$10,711 for the Arma Tower Site
Motion 24	487	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 10 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson and County Appraiser Zach Edwards attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:44 AM. The Motion passed 3-0

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 THE PUBLIC

Item One: Mr. Kevin Mitchelson addressed the Commissioners. He introduced Mr. Josh Letner and stated he has a request to present. Mr. Letner explained he is the publisher of The Morning Sun and the Director of Student Publications at Pittsburg State University. He mentioned he is addressing the Commissioners regarding some ARPA funding that has recently been discussed about needing to be reallocated. Mr. Letner stated The Morning Sun would like to request a portion of those funds to help them with equipment upgrades to expand their digital offerings. He explained some of what the new equipment will do for the company. Mr. Letner mentioned the total amount they will need will not exceed \$80,000 and that any remaining funds they would return to the Commission. Commissioner Wood asked if The Morning Sun previously received any funding during and Mr. Letner answered he does not believe they did. Commissioner Wood asked if they ever applied or requested money during covid and Mr. Letner explained he just came on in September so he is unsure. Commissioner Moody asked how this funding would benefit the county and Mr. Letner explained. Commissioner Wood explained his reasoning for asking if they previously applied for funding. Mr. Letner explained that they are also prepared to provide any documentation to prove how the money was spent should they receive any funding. Mr. Mitchelson explained that The Morning Sun works hard for the community and that they also now publish in Joplin, Missouri as well.

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Item Two: Mr. Tim Mikrut addressed the Commissioners. He stated they are here on behalf of the storm sirens for Crawford County and that Mr. Gus Brunetti has received a grant for the county for these storm sirens. Mr. Gus Brunetti, County Grant Writer, addressed the Commissioners. He gave details regarding this grant. Commissioner Wood asked about Phase 1 of this project and Mr. Brunetti explained. Mr. Mikrut discussed some details of Phase 1 and the budget as well. He explained that they are asking for \$45,000 from the Commissioners as the county's portion of this project. Commissioner Moody mentioned that while this is a lot of money if it could save even just one life it would be worth it. Mr. Jeff Edgington from Blue Valley Public Safety mentioned that they have had several counties use ARPA funding for these types of projects. Mr. Brunetti explained that this will put these unincorporated areas on the Crawford County Emergency Management System as well. Mr. Brunetti explained they have to wait for the State of Kansas to send this to FEMA to approve and then they will get an email telling them when they can begin working on this project. He explained the Commissioners can vote on this now but that they just cannot begin construction yet. Commissioner Wood asked what timeframe they are looking at and Mr. Brunetti answered he believes after the first of the year but that he does not have a date for certain yet. Commissioner Wood asked if it will be completed before storm season and Mr. Brunetti mentioned he would believe so. Mr. Jeff Edgington discussed the project with the Commissioners.

On motion (24-489) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the funding of \$45,000 for the storm siren project.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Blair

The motion prevailed.

Item Three: Mr. Greg Stiles and Mr. Andrew Bonet with Scotwood Industries addressed the Commissioners. Mr. Stiles explained they are visiting to discuss dust control. Mr. Stiles discussed the previous issue of having delays on receiving dust control products with Scotwood Industries. Mr. Stiles explained that they are in a better position now than they have been in the past due to having their new equipment. Commissioner Wood mentioned there has been a little bit of discussion about the county getting out of dust control and allowing residents to do it themselves. Commissioner Moody asked if that would work if they were able to give them a list of individual residents interested in it and Mr. Stiles explained they do have country ran dust control and resident ran dust control. Commissioner Wood mentioned they would still be obligated to do some dust control still. Mr. Stiles mentioned if this were the situation they would like the information by January or February so they can carry out that process. Commissioner Wood asked if this is something they should bid in January or February and Mr. Emerson explained they would have to choose a bidder before they provided information to the company. Mr. Stiles and Mr. Bonet discussed product.

Item Four: Ms. Becky Willard addressed the Commissioners. She stated they are here again to ask to have the moratorium extended sooner rather than later and that they would like battery storage and carbon capture added to it. She asked if they could set the

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moratorium until Mr. Josh Albin is done with the Comprehensive Plan and Mr. Emerson answered they are going to follow Mr. Albin's recommendation of 12 months. Mr. Emerson mentioned he will need to draft the resolution to extend the moratorium in December. Commissioner Wood asked if we could have the resolution ready by December 10th and Mr. Emerson answered that yes that will work.

Item Five: Ms. Jovanna Brackett-Oetinger addressed the Commissioners. She made a comment about ARPA money being available and she did not realize you could put in for it as a for profit organization. She mentioned she is here to discuss zoning aspect of the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Brackett-Oetinger discussed how they seem to prefer zoning and if they have a plan moving forward and Commissioner Moody answered at this time they do not have an exact plan. She mentioned they are on a timeline and if they need to approach zoning they need to be prepared. Ms. Brackett-Oetinger said she requests we begin looking at zoning issues and educating the residents about zoning. Mr. Emerson stated his thought is moving some things around in the Comprehensive Plan and that he could maybe ask Mr. Albin to move zoning to the front of the plan discussion. Mr. Emerson gave information on how to request zoning. Commissioner Wood mentioned he would like more people to get familiar with what zoning is about. Ms. Brackett-Oetinger said she just wants to see some education on zoning for county residents. Commissioner Moody said even making the benefits of zoning known would help. Commissioner Wood asked if Mr. Albin can help with zoning information and Mr. Emerson confirmed and said Zoning Administrator May Smith could also help as well.

Item Six: Mr. Donnie Talent addressed the Commissioners. He thanked Mr. Emerson for the ARPA list he received on Tuesday or Wednesday. He said he has a couple of follow ups from Tuesday and a couple of questions to ask. Mr. Talent discussed the October 15th meeting regarding Point Forward's MOU being created. Mr. Emerson explained he sent the MOU to Mr. Matt Burton and Mr. Ron Scripsick. Mr. Emerson explained they did not write their own MOU. Mr. Talent asked who removed the child care license requirement from Point Forward's MOU. He mentioned his MOU had a child care license requirement and that theirs does not. Mr. Emerson mentioned it was removed but that it was discussed several times. Mr. Talent asked about the ARPA large child care formula again. Mr. Emerson clarified if they do not have a document they do not have a document to provide and are not required to do so. Commissioner Moody stated he feels like Mr. Talent is accusing this Commission of doing something wrong. Mr. Talent stated it is questions he has regarding the process. Commissioner Moody asked if Mr. Talent feels like they have not been fair with him regarding funding. Mr. Talent declined. Mr. Talent said he wants to clarify past remarks and asked Commissioner Wood to clarify that he has not been hired to be his henchman and Commissioner Wood answered no and that he did not like that. Mr. Talent asked why there is no large child care formula on file with Crawford County or Greenbush and Mr. Emerson stated he provided what he could. Mr. Talent discussed some details regarding Harmony's original information. Mr. Emerson mentioned when the Commissioners voted they were aware of all differences. Mr. Talent asked about the SEKCAP money that was returned to the county and asked if the Commissioners have to decide what to do with this money by the end of the year and Mr. Emerson confirmed. Mr. Emerson mentioned they discussed that on Tuesday. Commissioner Wood asked about the remaining money that has been allocated but has not been used and Mr. Emerson explained. Commissioner Moody asked if money comes

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back if Mr. Talent interested in more ARPA funding and Mr. Talent stated they are done with building and the only funding they would take is for staffing. Mr. Talent discussed October 15th meeting and that Mr. Jay Byers said two big needs in the county are housing and child care but he would like to know how much ARPA funding they gave towards child care and how much money they gave towards pickleball courts. Commissioner Moody answered that would be a question for the City of Pittsburg. Mr. Talent asked if there is any documentation or email stating that any applicant could change their MOU and Mr. Emerson answered. Mr. Talent asked if Harmony's MOU is the same as Point Forward's MOU and Mr. Emerson answered he is unsure if Harmony had an MOU but he will have to go back and look. Mr. Talent discussed section D on Point Forward's MOU that discusses a budget and that he did not receive this information in his KORA request and he would like to receive their budget and Mr. Emerson answered he can get a copy of it. Commissioner Wood asked what budget he is discussing and Mr. Talent explained. Mr. Talent who produced the September 24, 2024 Point Forward MOU and explained he has one from this date and one from October 15th, 2024. He asked if September 24th MOU was the Greenbush template and Mr. Emerson confirmed. Mr. Talent asked why there are different highlighted parts under both MOUs under payment and term agreement and Mr. Emerson explained. Mr. Talent asked if Greenbush had any suggestions or remarks on the approved October 15th Point Forward MOU and Mr. Emerson stated he was told they did not. Mr. Talent asked if they saw it before approval and Mr. Emerson confirmed. Mr. Talent questioned if Point Forward needs a licensed childcare provider before December 31, 2024 and Mr. Emerson stated no they do not. Mr. Talent asked why they do not need this and Mr. Emerson explained. Mr. Talent read from previous meetings about having a licensed child care provider.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

On motion (24-490) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 20 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, EMS Director Randy Sandberg, and EMS Training Supervisor Kenny Yoakum attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:35 AM. The Motion passed 2-0.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Blair

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:15 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:35 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

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

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On motion (24-491) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 20 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, EMS Director Randy Sandberg, and EMS Training Supervisor Kenny Yoakum attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:58 AM. The Motion passed 2-0.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Blair

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:38 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:58 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

NEW BUSINESS

Item One: Mr. Emerson stated he is presenting Resolution #2024-038, a speed limit resolution. He mentioned it was a landowner request on 630th avenue. Mr. Emerson gave details on the location and explained there is a sheriff's letter included. Mr. Emerson referred the Commissioners to the map included.

On motion (24-492) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to adopt Resolution #2024-038, a Resolution establishing a maximum speed limit on a portion of the 500 through 700 east blocks of 630th Avenue, Crawford County, Kansas.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Blair

The motion prevailed.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson presented the Commissioners with a Supplemental Agreement for the HRRR Project. He noted any changes in the agreement and explained the change. Commissioner Wood asked about the cost change and Mr. Emerson answered. Commissioner Wood asked if this project comes in lower than estimated cost will the county's percentage go down and Mr. Emerson confirmed. Commissioner Wood asked if any of the county's responsibilities have changed in the agreement and Mr. Emerson confirmed the responsibilities have stayed the same.

On motion (24-493) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the Supplemental Agreement for the HRRR Project.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

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Absent or not voting: Commissioner Blair

The motion prevailed.

Item Three: Commissioner Moody mentioned he received a call from a Mr. Reeves regarding slow children playing signs on a street where several families live. He mentioned he cannot think of the address but he will find out. Mr. Emerson stated they can work with Sign Foreman Dale Shireman and see what he recommends.

Item Four: Commissioner Wood discussed the mowers and stated he will be discussing this with Shop Foreman Josh Peak.

OLD BUSINESS

Item One: Mr. Emerson announced he will not be at the open meeting on Tuesday, November 26th, 2024.

Item Two: Commissioner Wood said he received a call that KDOT was cleaning the trash on the highway. He said he is unsure how much they cleaned up but he was told they were cleaning.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: November 26, 2024- Work Session to sign November bills and payroll vouchers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Item One: November 28th and 29th, 2024- The Courthouse will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Item Two: November 29, 2024- The Regular Session of the Board of County Commissioners will be cancelled due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Item Three: December 3rd-5th, 2024- Kansas Association of Counties Annual Conference. All three Commissioners may be in attendance.

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 [November 22, 2024](#) 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 and Wood

Nays:

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Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Blair

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 11/25/2024 12:00 PM/amended BKW 11/25/24 1:00 PM](#)