

# Board of Crawford County Commissioners

## Commissioners' Journal

2024, **EIGHTY-EIGHTH** MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM  
Girard, KS. **Tuesday, November 26, 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.

Commissioners Tom Moody and Bruce Blair were in attendance.

County Clerk Lisa Lusker was seated with the Board.

Chairman Wood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**On motion (24-494)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **November 22, 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	488	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the November 19, 2024 minutes, and Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers
Motion 24	489	To approve the funding of \$45,000 for the storm siren project
Motion 24	490	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

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Motion 24	491	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
Motion 24	492	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
Motion 24	493	To approve the Supplemental Agreement for the HRRR Project

### 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:** Ms. Melisia Rhodes addressed the Commissioners. She mentioned she had received a lot of the same comments while campaigning and that these comments were about property taxes. She discussed property value increases. Commissioner Moody mentioned that the county lowered their mill levy this year. Ms. Rhodes then discussed homestead exemption. County Clerk Lisa Lusker gave information regarding homestead requirements and general details. Commissioner Blair discussed that over the last couple of years this has been a topic of discussion. Commissioner Wood discussed assessed/ appraised value and requirements with the State of Kansas. Commissioner Wood asked how many people applied for homestead last year and Ms. Lusker mentioned she would say close to 50. Ms. Rhodes said she would like to see an article or something stating that the Commissioners are doing what they can by dropping the mill levy for residents of Crawford County.

**Item Two:** Mr. Tim Viets addressed the Commissioners. He mentioned the paper he handed out is mostly regarding the moratorium. Mr. Viets stated he sees no problem extending the moratorium. Mr. Viets stated his only request is that it be a 6 month extension because that will get the Commissioners past the time of the survey and he stated they will hopefully be able to make a decision after that. Commissioner Blair stated he is hoping they will have a good amount of information gathered after the survey is complete. Mr. Viets asked if county wide zoning has to go to a county wide vote or how that is decided upon and Commissioner Moody stated he doesn't believe that it would go to a vote but that Mr. Emerson would typically be able to answer that question. Commissioner Blair stated he believes what Mr. Viets is requesting is reasonable and that he is hoping too that they have a good amount of information after the survey. Commissioner Blair discussed zoning options. Mr. Viets stated he definitely believes

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zoning questions need to be added to the survey. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Viets if he has looked into zoning and what it is about and Mr. Viets answered he has not looked much into it. Commissioner Wood stated he believes they need to get the word out about what zoning is about. Mr. Viets asked a question about building in a zoned area. Mr. Viets asked if you build a house and it is not done by January 1st does it not go on the tax rolls until the following year and Commissioner Wood answered.

**Item Three:** Ms. Melisia Rhodes addressed the Commissioners again. She stated she would like to some clarification on the moratorium. Commissioner Blair answered regarding the moratorium. Commissioner Blair mentioned he will be taking the time to let people know that they need to fill this survey out. Ms. Rhodes discussed the solar project that would benefit USD 246. Commissioner Wood explained the process after the survey results come in.

**Item Four:** Ms. Judy Prince addressed the Commissioners. She stated she does not know if all the hearings will be done before 6 months is up so she is asking that if the answers remain unknown that the moratorium still be placed. Commissioner Blair mentioned he believes that is the intention and that if they do not have what they need they will extend the moratorium. Ms. Prince stated these projects are going on at a rapid pace in our country so she doubts they would pull out of a project just because a moratorium was extended. Ms. Prince discussed solar projects. Ms. Prince stated she heard the solar project would be gifting money to USD 246 in lieu of paying it at the county and that she believes the money should be given to the county and spent at their discretion for all of the people of the county. Ms. Prince stated she would like the Commissioners to get educated on wind and solar and that they have been found to cause problems in autistic children worsening their condition.

**Item Five:** Ms. Rhodes readdressed the Commissioners. She wanted to clarify there is not a gift from Shasta Power promised to USD 246 as well as no communication between the two. Commissioner Blair clarified. Commissioner Moody asked Ms. Rhodes what she says to the neighboring properties and Ms. Rhodes stated that sacrifices have to be made for the greater good. She stated everybody has to make sacrifices and that the Commissioners make a sacrifice by being here. Commissioner Moody mentioned there is a difference because they chose to make this sacrifice and the others do not get a choice. He clarified he is not saying he is for or against wind and solar. Commissioner Wood asked Ms. Rhodes opinion on small nuclear plants and she answered.

**Item Six:** Mr. Viets addressed the Commissioners again. He discussed the topic of decrease of property value due to wind and solar. Mr. Viets discussed lithium batteries are a concern but so is nuclear power. Mr. Viets asked the Commissioners where the Commissioners get their facts regarding wind and solar and Commissioner Wood answered. Mr. Viets mentioned he has been told in 2025 all the blinking lights will be removed from windmills.

### **MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES**

### **MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

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**Item One:** Ms. Lusker requested a work session for KWORC. She mentioned they previously came but did not get much time in their work session. She asked for December 13th at 9:00 AM and the Commissioners agreed.

**Item Two:** Ms. Lusker wanted to give a reminder that Property, Casualty, and Work Comp bids are due by 10:00 AM on December 17th, 2024.

**Item Three:** Ms. Lusker discussed having a KAC voting delegate selection. She mentioned she will not be attending KAC this year, and Commissioner Moody mentioned having County Counselor Jim Emerson be the voting delegate. Ms. Lusker asked if Commissioner Wood would like to be that back up and he agreed.

**Item Four:** Ms. Lusker presented ARPA requests for Large Childcare from Family Resource Center and Sugarcreek. She explained these requests briefly.

**On motion (24-495)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the November ARPA drawdown requests as presented.

Yeas: Commissioner Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Five:** Commissioner Blair stated he talked to Foreman Josh Peak regarding the hydraulic line equipment and discussed the equipment. He discussed the purchasing of the three quarter inch expansion for the equipment.

**On motion (24-496)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the purchasing of the expansion for the hydraulic hose equipment in the amount of \$1,853.36.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Six:** Commissioner Wood mentioned bids on the Schulte mowers he previously discussed. He discussed possibly having a contract with Schulte.

### OLD BUSINESS

### UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### FUTURE BUSINESS:

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

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**Item Two: December 13, 2024- 9:00 AM** Work Session with KWORC.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Item One: November 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 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 Blair to adjourn the [November 26, 2024](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:23 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.**

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**Lisa Lusker**  
County Clerk

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

Taken RJA 12/4/2024 9:50 AM/amended BKW 12/4/24 10:00 AM