

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2023, [SEVENTY-SEVENTH](#) MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. **Friday, October 13, 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.

Commissioner Carl Wood was in attendance.

County Clerk Lisa Lusker was seated with the Board.

Chairman Blair led the Pledge of Allegiance.

UNDER THE HEADING BUSINESS FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING CONSENT AGENDA

On motion (23-440) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Wood that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **October 10, 2023** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners, and
2. Approval of the accounts payable warrant numbers 625031 to 625329 dated October 13, 2023 in the total amount of \$596,229.39, and
3. Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Wood

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 23	438	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the October 6, 2023 minutes
Motion 23	439	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel to discuss the Health Department and to include the Board of County Commissioners and Health Department Director Debra Anthony and to reconvene by 10:18 AM

UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

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**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 THE PUBLIC
MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Item One: Senator Tim Shallenburger, Representative Kenneth Collins, and Representative Chuck Smith discussing upcoming legislative session. Mr. Shallenburger spoke first of the three. He discussed that he does hear most feedback in regards to property tax and that he believes something needs to be done to get counties and cities more money in hopes that it will in some way reduce property tax. Commissioner Wood brought up assessed appraised value for property and stated he has had property go up twice in recent years and that he is hearing it will be increased again. He expressed to Mr. Shallenburger that at some point the increase has got to be stopped. Mr. Shallenburger also explained to Commissioner Wood that while other states such as Missouri and Oklahoma may look cheaper property tax wise, they also still charge taxes on things that have been eliminated in Kansas such as business inventory. He stated he believes the State of Kansas has exempted too much. Commissioner Wood discussed the nuisance bill drafted with County Counselor Jim Emerson and asked if more counties support to bill if it is more likely to be passed. Mr. Shallenburger stated the more counties in support of it the better. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Shallenburger what would be going on next legislative session and if any subjects would pertain to Crawford County would be occurring and he stated he thinks the biggest thing will be to do with taxes. Representative Chuck Smith spoke next and addressed people sitting within the meeting. He stated he used to serve on the sewer district. Mr. Smith mentioned he also has been contacted by citizens who are not happy with the property tax. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Smith if he thinks anything coming up in legislature will affect Crawford County and Mr. Smith mentioned he thinks taxes is going to be an important subject. Finally Representative Kenneth Collins spoke and his first subject was that he also agrees something needs to be done for tax relief. He mentioned that he believes higher up does not want to fund LAVTR but maybe look at reducing things at a state level. Secondly, he wanted to talk about elections and mentioned at one of the previous meetings that he watched online there were several people with theories about election fraud but did not have any proof of this said fraud. He mentioned in the last session there was a bill to eliminate the three-day grace period for mail in ballots that he opposed even though he is not a fan of mail in ballots. Mr. Collins stated it was mentioned of more restrictions on drop boxes which he thinks would in a way take away the convenience of drop boxes. Commissioner Wood asked if PSU students can register to vote here but also keep their previous registration in their home County/State in case they move back home and Mr. Collins explained if they registered here in Crawford County that would eliminate their registration at their previous County/State. Commissioner Wood also brought up the LAVTR again and asked where the money is at right now that they have collected for this program and if it is currently collecting interest. Mr. Collins stated he would need to get back to them on that. It was discussed that the money for that is paid at the State's discretion and the State has previously for several years chosen not to fund the program. Commissioner Blair discussed voter registration and how voter registration is public information but that it has to be paid for in order to receive it. He stated he believes that voter fraud or the idea of it would be minimalized if it was free to receive a list of who

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voted because people who know they did not vote could essentially look at the list and see if someone voted under their name. County Clerk Lisa Lusker mentioned the Clerk's Office produces more voter registration lists upon request than anything else, not necessarily lists of people who have previously voted in certain elections. She mentioned that as long as you have a name of someone you can look on Voter View to see if they have voted. Representative Chuck Smith spoke from the pews about how Jimmy Carter stated the easiest way to have voter fraud was to have mail in ballots about 50 years ago and that he agrees. He stated his son lives with his in laws and that they get mail in ballots to their house but do not vote, so his son could have them sign their papers and he could vote for everyone in the household and commit voter fraud easily.

Item Two: Sheriff Danny Smith informed the Commissioners that they have received a grant for the Kansas Fights Addiction grant program that is through the Sunflower Foundation. He stated they were granted just under \$20,000 that can go towards buying Narcan/Naloxone rescue boxes to put into every school in Crawford County. Mr. Smith stated he thinks they are going to be able to purchase more than they originally planned and he had one with him to demonstrate what is within the box. They have designated 50 just for Pittsburg State University. It was mentioned that training for use of this kit will hopefully be added soon to the regimen for when they attend schools to do active shooter trainings. Commissioner Blair asked if the symptoms are noticeable to know if someone needs the Narcan/Naloxone administered. Mr. Smith explained that if someone is unresponsive and it is suspected that the cause is a drug overdose it will not hurt to administer even if the cause is not from a drug overdose.

MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES NEW BUSINESS

Item One: County Clerk Lisa Lusker wanted to address the advanced mail in ballot topic that was just brought up with Mr. Collins and she explained that a voter has to request a mail in ballot or apply for a permanent advance ballot by mail due to a medical or physical condition. She explained the difference between single mail in ballots and permanent advance list. Commissioner Blair asked if mail in ballots were more popular during covid and she mentioned she believes it was but that it has to be requested to receive a mail in ballot now. Ms. Lusker mentioned that mail in ballots are tracked and if the signature does not match what is on file the office calls the voter to clarify. She also mentioned that it is a crime to fill out someone else's ballot and submit it. Commissioner Wood asked how many years a person can go without voting before being moved to an inactive voter status and she responded that she believes it is four years of no voter activity.

Item Two: Commissioner Blair stated he believes the Health Department wants to begin remodel around the 23rd of October and so they are needing to either move the shed that is on the property until they can sell it or leave it on site to sell it. They have also even discussed transferring it to another county entity that could use it and Sheriff Danny Smith expressed they may be interested in using it at the Sheriff's Department.

OLD BUSINESS

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Item One: County Clerk Lisa Lusker wanted to remind the public if there are any changes needing to be made to their voter registration or if they have moved and need to update their address the last day to make those changes is October 17, 2023 at the end of the business day for them to be effective when voting in the upcoming election and that mail in ballots will be sent out starting Wednesday, October 18, 2023.

Item Two: Commissioner Blair asked Sheriff Danny Smith about the destruction/theft of road signs that was mentioned in the previous meeting and he answered that it could be charged as criminal damage and charges could be pressed from the County Attorney's Office. They also mentioned that there can be even more charges pursued if the theft/destruction of a road sign causes an accident or injury to another person.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Item One: October 17, 2023- Last day for changes to be made to voter registration for the 2023 City/School General Election.

Item One: October 25, 2023- City/County Luncheon hosted by City of Mulberry at the Mulberry Senior Citizens Center from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. All three Commissioners may be in attendance.

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 [October 13, 2023](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:15 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.

Lisa Lusker
County Clerk

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This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.

Taken [RJA 10/16/23 3:30 PM/amended BKW 10/16/23 4:00 PM](#)