

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2024, [SIXTY-SEVENTH](#) MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. **Tuesday, September 10, 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 (24-393) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **September 6, 2024** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners.

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 24	383	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the September 3, 2024 minutes, and Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers
Motion 24	384	To open the Public Hearing on Closing and Vacating a platted street in the Town of Croweburg, Crawford County, Kansas
Motion 24	385	To close the Public Hearing on Closing and Vacating a platted street in the Town of Croweburg, Crawford County, Kansas

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Motion 24	386	To adopt Resolution #2024-023, A Resolution on Closing and Vacating a Platted Street in the Town of Croweburg, Crawford County, Kansas
Motion 24	387	To open the Public Hearing on Closing and Vacating a road in Washington Township, Crawford County, Kansas
Motion 24	388	To close the Public Hearing on Closing and Vacating a road in Washington Township, Crawford County, Kansas
Motion 24	389	To adopt Resolution #2024-022, A Resolution on Closing and Vacating a road in Washington Township, Crawford County, Kansas
Motion 24	390	To approve the Affidavit in Support of Grant Application Submission and authorizing the Chairman to sign
Motion 24	391	To approve Resolution #2024-021, a Resolution appointing Travis Wood to the Crawford County Planning and Zoning Board and Joint Board of Zoning Appeals
Motion 24	392	To approve the deed to Crawford County Mental Health as presented and authorizing the Chairman to sign

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 APPOINTED OFFICIALS

MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

Item One: Mr. Donnie Talent addressed the Commissioners. He discussed the beginning process of the ARPA funding for child care and the beginning application process produced by Greenbush. He discussed the closing of the application portal, how there were six applicants total, and that Point Forward and the Washington School were not one of the 6 original applicants. Mr. Talent stated that Point Forward did not become a 501C3 organization until August 24, 2022 per the State of Kansas. He mentioned Washington School did not form until October 3, 2022 per the State of Kansas. Mr. Talent expressed concerns with Point Forward and Washington School. Mr. Talent gave information regarding his child care facility. Mr. Talent addressed Mr. Emerson and asked if Point Forward/Washington School has an MOU and Mr. Emerson answered that they do not. Mr. Talent then asked the Commissioners if Point Forward/Washington School has an MOU. He mentioned last Friday he received an email updating the MOU for his child care facility. Mr. Talent asked for the Commissioners to please quit pretending Point Forward/Washington School has an MOU and Mr. Emerson asked Mr. Talent who has been pretending that they have an MOU and stated none of them have done this. Mr. Talent then asked if Point Forward/Washington School can receive an MOU and Mr. Emerson answered that yes they can. Mr. Talent stated that hearing the Commissioners could deem money to a project regardless of the application process is dangerous and unethical. He stated it would be a slap in the face to all of the hard work and proper work the original applications participated in. Commissioner Blair discussed details of a past meeting and then asked Mr. Talent if Point Forward has not attended a meeting where updates had to be given on the projects and Mr. Talent stated he does not

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know who Point Forward is. Mr. Talent asked if Mr. Ron Scripsick is Point Forward and Commissioner Blair confirmed that Mr. Scripsick is one of the representatives of Point Forward. Mr. Talent stated Mr. Scripsick has not attended every meeting. Commissioner Blair mentioned that Point Forward has come to several meeting and several work sessions and that the Commissioners were heavily involved in this process. Commissioner Blair gave more details on when Harmony backed out of the project and that the project was still viable which is why it was honored. Mr. Talent stated he wants to know why Point Forward can receive any funding without an MOU. Commissioner Blair asked Mr. Talent what he believes the purpose of an MOU is and Mr. Talent stated the MOU is to receive the ARPA funds. Commissioner Blair corrected him and stated the MOU is a guarantee that the project receiving money will be used as child care. Mr. Talent stated Mr. Mike Bodensteiner stated in April 2024 that ARPA money could not be used for the construction of the child care facilities and Mr. Emerson answered they have proven that incorrect in a public meeting since April 2024. Mr. Talent asked if he is standing in the wrong and that the Commissioner can provide Point Forward/Washington School with \$705,395 and Mr. Emerson answered that is correct. Commissioner Wood stated that in April 2024 Mr. Bodensteiner had made a comment that the money had to go to the child care provider and then he corrected that and Mr. Emerson provided clarity on that situation. Mr. Talent stated what the Commissioner has also proved is that applicants do not matter. Mr. Talent stated he just wants to hear that Point Forward/Washington School does not need to follow the process that the original applicants did and Mr. Emerson stated they were part of Harmony who was an original applicant. Commissioner Blair stated they decided months ago to recognize the Point Forward/Washington School project and asked why Mr. Talent did not come object at that time to this extent. Mr. Talent stated Point Forward/Washington School still has an angle and still have a game. Commissioner Blair asked why Mr. Talent is upset. Mr. Talent stated he is concerned that they hired a company to do this application process and that two years later they decided to fund a project that did not go through this process. He stated he does not know how they can legally do that or with integrity. Commissioner Blair stated Point Forward has attended every meeting that required an update on the project. Commissioner Blair also pointed out it was decided to recognize Point Forward/Washington School as an application in a 2 to 1 vote in an open meeting. Mr. Talent said he is here because the Commissioners say in their eyes they have an application but that they do not have one through the process. Mr. Talent stated he is here because they are going to provide money to a project without an MOU and Commissioner Blair answered they are going to provide money to a child care facility that is going to benefit the community. Commissioner Blair explained again that they approved this months ago. Mr. Emerson explained that Point Forward/Washington School has not received any funds to this point. Mr. Talent stated they have not followed the process or kept integrity through the process and Mr. Emerson answered that is incorrect and this project was developed from the process. Commissioner Blair mentioned he does not know why Point Forward does not have an MOU. Commissioner Wood stated Point Forward was not organized until December 2022. Commissioner Wood stated he is not going to get in to it as he had his opinion on Friday.

Item Two: Ms. Becky Willard addressed the Commissioners. She mentioned her and several others watched the Bourbon County Commission Meeting last night and that Crawford County was brought up several times. She stated that the one thing she wanted

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to question was that Bourbon County's County Counselor stated he was told that Crawford County is going to allow solar with setbacks but that it is a done deal. Ms. Willard informed the Commissioners this was about an hour and 25 minutes into the Bourbon County Commission Meeting. Commissioner Blair asked Ms. Willard to repeat herself and she did. Mr. Emerson stated that is not correct. Commissioner Blair stated that is not true as there is nothing in the existing Comprehensive Plan about wind and solar and that they would not decide on that until the Comprehensive Plan is updated. Ms. Willard asked why Bourbon County's County Counselor would say that if it was not true. Commissioner Wood stated he has not heard that and that an application has not come before zoning or the Commission that he is aware of. Ms. Willard stated there is a rumor that people are signing solar over by McCune and are being told it is approved in Crawford County and will be allowed. Commissioner Blair stated he has heard so many rumors regarding wind and solar and that this is not the case. Commissioner Blair stated if an energy company calls his phone he does not even answer as he wants everything done in an open meeting regarding this issue. Ms. Willard suggested the Commissioners listen to the Bourbon County meeting. She mentioned comments from a citizen in Bourbon County during the meeting as well but that she and the other watchers were bothered that their County Counselor would say that information. Commissioner Blair stated he appreciates her bringing this to their attention but that he cannot answer as to why their County Counselor would state that. Ms. Willard asked the Commissioners if they can go ahead and extend the moratorium and Commissioner Wood stated that it will be done before the existing moratorium expires. Ms. Willard asked how long they will extend the moratorium for and Commissioner Blair stated he would like to see where they are at with the Comprehensive Plan at that time so that they can base it off of that timeline. Mr. Emerson gave details about the moratorium and extending the moratorium. Commissioner Blair says there is no doubt they will have to extend it but that it is just a matter of how long they will need to extend it. Ms. Willard asked if it is in the contract for the land use consultant to have to give periodic updates and Mr. Emerson answered that yes it is. Commissioner Wood asked if the contract is public information and Mr. Emerson answered that it is. Mr. Emerson asked what Bourbon County decided to do regarding wind and solar and Ms. Willard answered that they tabled it at this time until the new Commission comes in. Ms. Willard stated a woman signed up for wind turbines is going around to 4H clubs and offering them money for a photo opportunity with EDF Renewables and handing out W9 forms so that they can use the kids as support for turbines. She stated it was brought to their attention Sunday evening. Commissioner Wood asked why bring the children in to this and Ms. Willard stated that it is prostitution of children. Ms. Willard stated yesterday Cherokee County placed a 1 year moratorium against solar. Commissioner Blair stated as soon as they know something about the survey they will make the information public. Ms. Willard stated this information needs to include carbon capture, hydrogen transfer, and carbon credits. Commissioner Wood asked Ms. Willard if the tax reliefs she is talking about are State or Federal and Ms. Willard answered that they are Federal. Ms. Willard further discussed the representative of wind turbines visiting the 4H clubs.

NEW BUSINESS

Item One: County Counselor Jim Emerson provided a document to the Commissioners from Community Corrections. He explained that the document is their agency's carry

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over reimbursement plan. Mr. Emerson explained why Community Corrections has to have this document and the purpose that it serves. Mr. Emerson also discussed the break down of all the carry over amounts listed in this document. Commissioner Wood confirmed that this is not tax dollars and that it is State funded and Mr. Emerson confirmed Community Corrections is completely State funded. Commissioner Wood asked if the State will allow them to carry over this amount of money and Mr. Emerson stated they are allowed to carry over the money as long as they submit this document. Commissioner Wood stated he saw this document was attached to the email he received regarding today's meeting but that he would like these types of documents to be provided the meeting before so that the Commissioners have time to review the documents.

On motion (24-394) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the Signatory Approval form for the 11th Judicial District Community Corrections and authorizing the Chairman to sign.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

The motion prevailed.

Item Two: Commissioner Blair asked if Mr. Emerson could obtain the application and MOU requirements for large child care projects and provide them at the meeting on Friday. Mr. Emerson asked if he just wanted the documents to be blank and Commissioner Blair confirmed.

Item Three: Commissioner Blair stated there is a SEK Regional Planning Committee meeting this Thursday that he will be attending.

Item Four: Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Emerson if he has done any more research on leasing vehicles and Mr. Emerson stated that he has and has actually asked a department head to attend a meeting soon to explain to the Commissioners the process of leasing vehicles.

Item Five: Commissioner Wood discussed the tax sales. He stated that when they had last talked Mr. Emerson thought he had someone in mind who could help speed up the tax sale process and asked for him to get clarification on that situation. Commissioner Wood mentioned he receives 5 to 10 people on weekends calling about questions regarding tax sales.

OLD BUSINESS

Item One: Commissioner Blair discussed the work session with Bukaty Companies regarding insurance before the meeting. He asked if they should have another 15 minute work session before the next meeting due to Commissioner Moody being absent from the work session. Mr. Emerson stated this would not be a bad idea. Commissioner Wood asked when the deadline is to make a decision on the insurance and County Clerk Lisa Lusker mentioned the sooner the better. Commissioner Wood stated he would also like Director of Fiscal Services Randi Ryan to be present in this work session as well.

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Commissioner Wood and Commissioner Blair decided on a work session at 9:45 A.M. for Friday, September 13, 2024.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: September 13, 2024- 8:30 AM Work session to sign mid-month bills and payroll vouchers.

Item Two: September 13, 2024- 9:45 AM Work session with Director of Fiscal Services Randi Ryan regarding insurance.

Item Three: September 13, 2024- 10:00 AM Budget hearing for the 2025 Budget.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Item One: September 19, 2024- SEK District Officials Meeting from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. All Commissioners may be in attendance.

UNDER THE HEADING MOTION TO ADJOURN MOTION TO ADJOURN

Item One: Adjournment

On the motion of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood to adjourn the [September 10, 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.

Lisa Lusker
County Clerk

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This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.

Taken [RJA 09/12/24 9:30 AM/amended BKW 9/12/24 12:30 PM](#)