

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2020, [SEVENTY-FIRST](#) MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS, **Friday, September 11, 2020 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.

Commissioners Tom Moody and Jeremy Johnson were in attendance.

County Clerk Don Pyle and County Counselor Jim Emerson were seated with the Board.

Chairman Blair led the pledge of allegiance.

UNDER THE HEADING BUSINESS FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING CONSENT AGENDA

On motion (20-374) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Johnson that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **September 4, 2020** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners, and
2. Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

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 20	371	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the September 1, 2020 minutes
Motion 20	372	To approve Local Health Officer Order No. 3 on Restricted Activities issued September 4, 2020 and authorize the Vice Chairman to sign
Motion 20	373	To recess this open meeting for a period of 5 minutes

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item One: Commissioner Tom Moody requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

On motion (20-375) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Johnson to recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 15 minutes under Non-Elected Personnel to discuss employees and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson and Health, Mental Health & Juvenile Services Executive Director Michael Ehling and to reconvene by 10:25 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 10:10 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 10:25 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD

MESSAGES FROM CRAWFORD CO LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH

Item One: The Crawford County Health Officers presented an update on COVID-19. County Health Officer Dr. Tim Stebbins stated that Crawford County currently has 548 cases in isolation which are active sick cases and that includes 129 new cases this week. He said that there are 9 positive cases in Via Christi Hospital and 1 positive case in Girard Medical Center, 3 persons under investigation and 1 individual on a ventilator who is a person under investigation. Dr. Stebbins addressed the breakdown of cases and demographics over the last 2 weeks and discussed the age breakdown for the active COVID cases and stated that this trend is a concern due to the age groups and increase in hospitalization and increase in illness and death. He spoke about the virus and the older age groups. He stated that there are active cases either in residents or staff in 3 of the local long-term care facilities and they could have deaths related to that. He stated that the surrounding communities are feeling the same effect as Crawford County and that Freeman Hospital and Mercy Hospital in Joplin have been on diversion for the last week and a half. He spoke about issues with transferring patients.

Dr. Bean went through the Community Gating Criteria and the School Gating Criteria information. Dr. Bean and Dr. Stebbins discussed the impact on schools. Dr. Bean stated that there is only 1 case in the schools as a result of in-school spread due to an extra-curricular activity. She discussed the numbers in isolation and quarantine in the schools and the classrooms that are in-school quarantine.

Dr. Stebbins discussed the school strategy to provide in school learning for the safety of the children and the modifications that took place. He discussed the issues at other local schools that chose not to apply strict mitigation guidelines.

Dr. Stebbins discussed the impact on individuals that have been affected by this virus and stated that the long-term effects of this disease are still not known. He discussed quarantine and breaking the chain of the virus. There was a discussion on keeping the schools opened and possibility of meeting with school officials during a work session.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Ms. Lissa Rhodes addressed the Commissioners and explained the issues her 8 year old nephew had and is currently having due to COVID-19. She expressed her concerns with the virus and the long term effects on people. The Commissioners asked if there was anyone else from the audience with questions or concerns to discuss and there were none.

The Commissioners took a 5-minute recess to return at 11:50 AM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION continued

Item Two: Commissioner Bruce Blair requested an executive session for 20 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (20-376) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 20 minutes under Non-Elected Personnel to discuss the Health Officer position and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, County Health Officer Dr. Tim Stebbins, Deputy County Health Officer Dr. Linda Bean and County Public Information Officer Samantha Garrett and to reconvene by 12:15 PM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:55 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 12:15 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

Item Three: Commissioner Bruce Blair requested an executive session for 10 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (20-377) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 10 minutes under Non-Elected Personnel to discuss the Health Officer position and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, County Health Officer Dr. Tim Stebbins, Deputy County Health Officer Dr. Linda Bean and County Public Information Officer Samantha Garrett and to reconvene by 12:27 PM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 12:17 PM and reconvened the Open Session at 12:27 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

On motion (20-378) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to extend the appointments of Dr. Tim Stebbins as Crawford County Health Officer and Dr.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Linda Bean as Crawford County Deputy Health Officer through the end of December 2020.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

Item One: Mr. Mike Bodensteiner from Southeast Kansas Education Service Center, Greenbush addressed the Commissioners in reference to SPARK funding. He handed out a Reimbursement & Direct Aid Review memorandum from the State of Kansas for the SPARK Round 1 funding. He discussed the contents of the memo and stated that Greenbush will have a technical assistance call with the State of Kansas next Tuesday. Mr. Bodensteiner answered Commissioner Moody that he will not know about Round 3 funding from SPARK until they get clear answers on the Round 1 requests.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS

MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS

NEW BUSINESS

Item One: County Clerk Don Pyle informed the Commissioners that there will be a City of Pittsburg Special Sales Tax Election on October 6, 2020. He explained that on September 15, 2020 the voter registration books will close for City of Pittsburg registrants. He stated that on September 16, 2020 advance ballots will start being mailed for that election. He explained that the 4 polling stations in the City of Pittsburg will be open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Election Day. He discussed that the canvassing of the ballots will take place on October 13, 2020 at 9:00 AM before the Regular Session at 10:00 AM. Mr. Pyle discussed advanced ballots.

Item Two: County Counselor Jim Emerson presented the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation FFY 2020 Emergency Solutions Funds Notification of Grant Award in the amount of \$44,333.00. He stated that Crawford County is a pass-through agent for Safehouse on this grant.

On motion (20-379) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Johnson to approve the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation FFY 2020 Emergency Solutions Funds Grant Conditions and Notification of Grant Award in the amount of \$44,333.00 and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Item Three: Commissioner Moody addressed the CDBG-CV and Commissioner Johnson stated that he met with the 3 selected committee members on Tuesday and went over the grant and the expectations of the committee members and he will be sending the members electronic copies of the grant applications. He stated that he will meet with the Committee again on Wednesday to discuss the applications and setting up the criteria. Commissioner Johnson stated that there were 8 applications received.

Item Four: Commissioner Johnson stated that he attended a joint city/county recycling meeting on Wednesday and went over what was discussed in the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item One: County Counselor Jim Emerson stated that the census posts cards have been mailed and they have been receiving calls about it. He stated that if you do not have access to complete the census online you can call 1-844-330-2020 and complete it over the phone. The deadline to complete the census is September 30, 2020.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson stated that the fence viewing scheduled for September 18, 2020 has been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date.

EXECUTIVE SESSION continued

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

On motion (20-380) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 20 minutes under Non-Elected Personnel for Noxious Weed Employee review and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson and Noxious Weed employee Cord Mays and to reconvene by 1:20 PM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 1:00 PM and reconvened the Open Session at 1:20 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

Item Five: County Counselor Jim Emerson requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (20-381) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 15 minutes under Non-Elected Personnel for Noxious Weed Employee evaluations and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 1:36 PM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 1:21 PM and reconvened the Open Session at 1:36 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

On motion (20-382) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open meeting for a period of 5 minutes.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioner reconvened the Regular Session at 1:45 PM.

Item Six: Commissioner Bruce Blair requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (20-383) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Johnson to recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 15 minutes under Non-Elected Personnel to discuss the Health Department and to include the Board of County Commissioners and to reconvene by 2:00 PM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 1:45 PM and reconvened the Open Session at 2:00 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

Item Seven: Commissioner Jeremy Johnson requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (20-384) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Johnson to recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 15 minutes under Non-Elected Personnel to discuss the Court Security and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson and IT Director Jim Vinze and to reconvene by 2:20 PM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 2:05 PM and reconvened the Open Session at 2:20 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: September 15, 2020 – 8:30 AM Work Session to review and sign September mid-month bills and payroll vouchers.

Item Two: September 15, 2020 – 9:00 AM Work Session with local school superintendents.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Item One: September 16, 2020 – Advance ballots by mail will start being mailed out for the October 6, 2020, City of Pittsburg Special Question Election.

Item Two: October 6, 2020 – The City of Pittsburg Special Question Election will be held with all 4 polling sites in Pittsburg open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

UNDER THE HEADING MOTION TO ADJOURN MOTION TO ADJOURN

Item One: Adjournment

On the motion of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Johnson to adjourn the [September 11, 2020](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 2:25 PM and to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled time with open doors.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

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.

Don Pyle

County Clerk

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This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.

[Taken by BKW 9/11/2020 2:25 PM/amended BKW 9/14/2020 3:30 PM](#)