

# Board of Crawford County Commissioners

## Commissioners' Journal

2020, **SEVENTY-THIRD** MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM  
Girard, KS, **Friday, September 18, 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 Jeremy Johnson served as the presiding officer.

Commissioner Tom Moody was in attendance.

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

Vice Chairman Johnson led the pledge of allegiance.

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

**On motion (20-392)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Johnson that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **September 15, 2020** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners, and
2. Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody and Johnson

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 20	385	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the September 11, 2020 minutes and Approval of the accounts payable warrant numbers 600766 to 600993 dated September 15, 2020 in the total amount of \$464,557.05
Motion 20	386	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 20 minutes to discuss the Health Department Director position under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, Executive Director of Health, Mental Health & Juvenile Services Michael Ehling, Ms. Janis Goedeke and County Public Information Officer Samantha Garrett and to reconvene by 10:30 AM

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Motion 20	387	To appoint Ms. Janis Goedeke as interim Crawford County Health Department Director
Motion 20	388	To approve the Authorization for Services from the Arnold Group to perform the first 3 services listed: Employee Handbook- Review & Updates, Job Analysis & Job Descriptions and Performance Management System and authorize the Chairman to sign
Motion 20	389	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 15 minutes to discuss the Noxious Weed Department under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 11:05 AM
Motion 20	390	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 10 minutes to discuss the employee evaluation process under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 11:17 AM
Motion 20	391	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 10 minutes to discuss the employee evaluation process under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 11:28 AM

### UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

#### PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD

#### MESSAGES FROM CRAWFORD CO LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH

**Item One:** Deputy County Health Officer Dr. Linda Bean addressed the Commissioners with a COVID-19 update. She presented the Commissioners with the Crawford County Gating criteria that was updated Thursday, September 17, 2020. She went through the Community Gating Criteria and stated that as of last night there were 75 new cases in the past week and discussed the breakdown by age group and stated that the incidence rate is decreasing. Dr. Bean stated that there are currently 160 active cases in isolation. She discussed the medical capacity, total deaths, testing capability, contact tracing and overall community impact. Dr. Bean went through the School Gating Criteria and explained the weekly incidence rate, the trend in incidence rate, student absenteeism and the overall school impact. She stated that she and Dr. Stebbins have been spending time at the health department this week with the epi nurses learning about their processes and getting the nurses input on how to improve on the challenging issues and prioritizing and the outcome of these meetings. She discussed prioritizing school cases and communication between the epi nurses and school nurses. Dr. Bean said that Dr. Stebbins and herself attended the Frontenac School Board meeting on Monday and felt it was a very productive meeting. She stated that there was a Zoom meeting yesterday with all the local school superintendents. County Counselor Jim Emerson stated that he attended the zoom meeting and reported on what was discussed in the meeting. Dr. Bean also discussed the meeting with the superintendents and expressed how thankful the superintendents for all the support the county has provided to them.

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Commissioner Moody asked Dr. Bean to address some questions that were related to the numbers that the Health Officers were most concerned with. Dr. Bean stated that they do not want to scare the public but they want everyone to understand the reasons behind decisions and the total impact of those decisions. She stated that the health officers' main focus is to try to have a healthy balance between numbers, science and common sense. She explained that there are not numbers to fear but there are numbers to pay attention to and to make appropriate recommendations based on those numbers.

Father PJ Voegeli addressed the Commissioners and stated that he commends Dr. Stebbins on the medical side of this virus. He spoke about the spiritual and mental side of the virus and how it is affecting the citizens of the community especially in nursing homes and hospitals. He explained that he fears that the focus is so much on the physical side that the spiritual and mental side is not being paid enough attention to. He stated that he feels that the number of deaths and the severity of cases do not warrant a severe response.

Dr. Bean stated that she agrees that there has to be a balance between the negative impacts of what is being done and positive impacts of what is being done. She said that unfortunately some of this is because we have never experienced anything like this before and are making decisions along the way and learning more. She stated that she feels that the goals are changing as we learn more about the impact of the virus. She spoke about the issues that Father PJ addressed.

Ms. Lissa Rhodes addressed Medicare guidelines and that long-term care facilities have to comply with those guidelines or risk losing payment from that program.

Dr. Bean spoke about Health care and the issues around Health care. She discussed a question from Commissioner Johnson about what information is needed to know when we have seen the full extent.

County Clerk Don Pyle stated that he has received an email via YouTube about the state mask mandate and the enforcement and Dr. Bean stated that the enforcement is through businesses strongly encouraging or requiring masks and there is no fine or arrest and explained what would be done if a business is not following the order.

Mr. Pyle stated that he had another question about tests and not receiving results and Dr. Bean advised to contact the facility that performed the test.

There was also a discussion on social distancing in bars and restaurants.

EMS Director Randy Sandberg gave an update on the EMS Department. He stated that all his personnel are back from COVID issues except 2 and the staff is almost back to normal. He said that they were really short staffed for a while which affected the hospital transfers. He explained that now the transfers are long distance and are now a 6 to 8 hour turn around time for the vehicles which leaves no truck in the county.

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Sheriff Smith gave an update on the jail and stated that they are still at 0 cases at the jail and he feels that their mitigation strategies have worked. He stated that he has had only one staff that was positive and that person is back to work and fine.

Health Director Janis Goedeke stated that it is very much appreciated that Dr. Stebbins and Dr. Bean have been at the health department over the last week. She stated that communication is a key issue and Dr Stebbins and Dr. Bean working directly with the epi nurses made the nurses feel a lot better and they really appreciated it. She stated that she has been in contact with each school superintendent to work out ways to open the lines of communication a little more. Ms. Goedeke also discussed the new equipment ordered for the epi nurses and stated that some land lines have been installed for their use. She stated that the Health Department has received \$300,000 to help with isolation and quarantine in the community for bilingual and low-income citizens and also received \$477,000 for testing.

**On motion (20-393)** of Commissioner Johnson and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess the Commission meeting for 5 minutes.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Blair

**The motion prevailed.**

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS NEW BUSINESS**

**Item One:** County Clerk Don Pyle stated that his office has received numerous calls about drop boxes for advance ballots for the 2020 General Election. He explained that the Election Office is receiving 2 drop boxes from the State of Kansas and they will not be in until the 1st or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of October. Mr. Pyle stated that one box will be located at the Judicial Center in Pittsburg and one at the Courthouse in Girard and explained the exact location where they will be placed. He said that those boxes will be emptied daily. Commissioner Johnson addressed the City of Pittsburg Special Sales Tax Election and Mr. Pyle stated that in person voting is open now in the County Clerk's Office until October 5, 2020 at 12:00 noon and there will also be an early voting site on October 2, 2020 at the Homer Cole Center in Pittsburg from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. He explained that all four polling sites in Pittsburg will be open on October 6, 2020 for the City of Pittsburg Special Sales Tax Election from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

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**On motion (20-394)** of Commissioner Johnson 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 to discuss the Public Information Officer position under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson and Public Information Officer Samantha Garrett and to reconvene by 11:50 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Blair

**The motion prevailed.**

**The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:35 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:45 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

### **NEW BUSINESS continued**

**Item Two:** County Counselor Jim Emerson addressed issues with accidents on K7 Hwy. Sheriff Smith stated that there was an injury accident with a semi yesterday on that highway and when asked why they took this road they were told it was due to GPS giving that route as the shortest. He stated that so far this year there have been 13 accidents on this highway and the accident yesterday took 12 hours before the highway could be re-opened. Sheriff Smith stated that it is also an issue with damage to property and landowners getting to their property during a shut down. Sheriff Smith stated that he has been in contact with the Bourbon County Sheriff and suggested a joint effort with Crawford County and Bourbon County and possibly sending a letter to KDOT and Commissioner Moody agreed. Sheriff Smith stated that the road is on KDOT's list but there is no timeline. Commissioner Moody asked Mr. Emerson to contact Bourbon County to see if the project can be expedited. Mr. Pyle suggested sending a letter to the local legislators also.

**Item Three:** Mr. Moody addressed the SPARK Funding and stated that he has been contacted by an individual that stated that they received a notice from the state today on the funding. Mr. Emerson gave a brief update on the funding and stated that the County submitted their data by the August 15 deadline and a week ago we received notice from the SPARK office requesting information for clarification on some of the requests and they are ready to submit those clarifications. Mr. Emerson stated that in the meantime the county was assigned a technical advisor and to contact her if there were any questions or if the county needed anything. He stated that he emailed her 3 questions and 1 of the questions was that the requests sent in that did not need clarification, can the county start processing those and start getting the MOU's and sending out checks and he has not yet received a response. He stated that right now we are waiting for a green light from the state and whether or not it will be a partial green light. He stated that he is hoping for a response from the technical advisor today.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

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**Item One:** Commissioner Johnson reported on the joint city/county recycling committee meeting held on Wednesday. He discussed a 5-year business plan. He spoke about the creation of a local remanufacturing of recycled materials cluster and the Polymer Research Center and the PSU Plastic Program and the desire to develop something like that locally and there is a separate committee also discussing this issue.

**Item Two:** Commissioner Johnson reported on the CGBG CV committee meeting that was held on Tuesday. He explained that there were 9 applications received for funding and the committee will be reviewing those applications and reviewing the guidance.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION continued**

**Item Two:** Commissioner Tom Moody requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney Client Relationship.

**On motion (20-395)** of Commissioner Johnson 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 to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney Client Relationship to discuss potential Health Department contract and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 12:25 PM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Blair

**The motion prevailed.**

**The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 12:10 PM and reconvened the Open Session at 12:25 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

### **NEW BUSINESS: continued**

**Item Four:** Mr. Emerson stated that an interim Noxious Weed Director needs to be appointed due to the resignation of the previous Noxious Weed Director.

**On motion (20-396)** of Commissioner Johnson and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the appointment of Cord Mays as interim Noxious Weed Director.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Blair

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Five:** The Commissioner scheduled a work session on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 9:00 AM with the Employee Benefits Committee and Cristy Michell from Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

### **UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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## FUTURE BUSINESS:

**Item One: September 22, 2020** – 9:00 AM Work Session with the Employee Benefits Committee and Cristy Michell from Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

**Item Two: September 29, 2020** – Mr. Mac Young, Community Corrections Administrative Director, presenting Community Corrections FY 2021 Carryover Reimbursement Budget and the FY2020 Community Corrections Outcomes Report.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Item One: 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 18, 2020](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 12:30 PM and to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled time with open doors.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody and Johnson

Nays:

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.**

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**Don Pyle**  
County Clerk

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

[Taken by BKW 9/18/2020 12:30 PM/amended BKW 9/21/2020 4:00 PM](#)