

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2024, **SEVENTY-FIRST** MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. **Tuesday, September 24, 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.

Commissioners Bruce Blair and Tom Moody were 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 (24-413) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **September 20, 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	410	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the September 17, 2024 minutes, and Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers
Motion 24	411	To approve the Human Resources Consulting Agreement with HR Partners, LLC and the Engagement Letter with John. R. Dietrick, P.A. and authorizing the Chairman to sign
Motion 24	412	To adopt Resolution #2024-030, a Resolution appointing Michael Loy to the Crawford County Planning and Zoning Board and Joint Board of Zoning Appeals

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

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. Mike Bodensteiner addressed the Commissioners. He provided the Commissioners with a paper giving updates on ARPA funding. Mr. Bodensteiner stated the projects are in good shape. He also gave some explanation to some of the information that he provided the Commissioners with. Mr. Emerson explained some of the ARPA money that was set aside and where it is located. Mr. Emerson they have \$20,000.00 set aside for future infrastructure and \$146,538.00 in administrative. Commissioner Blair asked if an emergency does not come up could they use the funds set aside in the administrative funds for the Comprehensive Plan expenses and Mr. Emerson stated that the Comprehensive Plan would qualify. Mr. Bodensteiner then discussed large childcare projects. Mr. Bodensteiner stated the discussions regarding one of the projects have been negative and have really taken away from the positive public work this project is doing. Mr. Bodensteiner stated the Commissioners invested about 1.4 million dollars in childcare for Crawford County which resulted in other funding of 3.9 million dollars primarily from the State of Kansas. He also discussed the new jobs that will be created by these large childcare projects as well. Mr. Bodensteiner discussed the Girard SEKCAP project that was waiting on notification of a federal grant and that he has not heard yet if that grant has been funded or not but that he will follow up with SEKCAP regarding this. Mr. Bodensteiner mentioned there was \$200,000 set aside and that if the SEKCAP project is not funded by federal grant then the Commissioners will have to decide by the end of the year how to prioritize this money. Mr. Bodensteiner discussed that Point Forward has completed an application for the Commissioners review, and that he has overviewed the application himself and discussed some observations that he had. Commissioner Blair asked how the federal funds are released to the projects and Mr. Bodensteiner answered that the county is released upon reimbursement but that he is not sure how the federal funding not from the county is released. Commissioner Wood asked if the ARPA money was passed from federal level to state level, and then from state level to the county and Mr. Bodensteiner confirmed that was correct. Mr. Bodensteiner answered in Kansas a lot of funding was handled by the Department of Commerce. Commissioner Wood asked who the auditors are and who appoints the auditors. Mr. Bodensteiner answered for the county the Commission appointed an outside firm to review specifically the funding and progress made with the large childcare centers and the name of that firm is Turnkey, LLC. Mr. Emerson elaborated on this as well. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Emerson who Turnkey is because he has never seen them. Mr. Emerson explained. Commissioner Wood asked if the county did not have a separate auditor to audit the ARPA funding and Mr. Emerson explained the county just has the one auditor but that there are ARPA help desks and professionals at the State level that can be visited with if they have an issue. Commissioner Wood stated there has been no money distributed to this particular project that they have a disagreement on so that the auditor would be of no help and Mr. Emerson confirmed. Commissioner Wood

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

stated he heard Mr. Bodensteiner responded to an email that was sent and that he did not get that email, and would like to know why he did not receive said email. Mr. Bodensteiner stated his training is that if he tells one Commissioner something then all the Commissioners hear it so that if it was on email he should have received it. Commissioner Wood asked how they should educate childcare facilities on new slots and Mr. Bodensteiner explained. Mr. Bodensteiner also stated after these projects are up and running that he does not believe a follow up and level of accountability is an unreasonable request since they received federal funding.

Item Two: Mr. Donnie Talent addressed the Commissioners. He said he is thankful for the Commissioners and all of their hours of work. He also mentioned he has worked with Mr. Bodensteiner from day one of his project and that he has always been professional. Mr. Talent stated his only question this morning is that Point Forward got an application turned in, and he would like to know how they turned an application in when the portal is closed. Mr. Emerson explained the request has been for Point Forward to follow the process and Mr. Emerson stated part of that discussion was that they did not have an application turned in. He stated it should have been done earlier and that he takes some blame for that being overlooked after the approval of the Commission. Mr. Emerson stated the only way to rectify the situation in his mind since the project was approved twice now was to receive an application from Point Forward so that they can be given an MOU. Mr. Emerson stated if Mr. Talent is wanting to know exactly how it happened it was that he received an email from Greenbush with the application and he sent it to Point Forward to fill out. Mr. Emerson stated he has been working with Greenbush on an MOU and that it is almost finished as well. Commissioner Wood stated he has said it before and was hoping not to have to say it today but that how could they have someone get an application when the portal was closed. He wanted to know how come they did not open the portal again for anyone else that was interested in applying. Mr. Emerson explained there was no money to open up for more applicants as the money has already been awarded. Mr. Emerson stated the Commissioners have voted twice now to award that money to Point Forward. Commissioner Wood said how can they move an application with one person on there and then switch it to someone else. Commissioner Wood said the portal should have been opened back up to anyone else who wanted to apply. Mr. Bodensteiner gave an example of how the Family Resource Center's partner changed when the hospital sold and they did not reopen the portal then because they understood that project was already approved. He stated they took Via Christi out at that time and replaced it with Mercy. Commissioner Blair and Mr. Bodensteiner both mentioned the changing of Harmony to Point Forward happened in a public meeting. Commissioner Blair stated he asked the Commissioners from other counties last week at the SEK District Meeting what they used their ARPA funding on and that none of them stated that they funded childcare. Commissioner Wood said he heard of one county funding a daycare. He said the man's name was George and he does not know what county he was from but that he heard him say they helped a daycare. Commissioner Wood said none of the Commissioners said anything about wages. Mr. Emerson stated the goal of the ARPA funding in the beginning was a chance to do something the county would otherwise never be able to do and he believes the county has done that. Mr. Bodensteiner reiterated that by focusing on this one project has really taken away from the great public work that has come from this funding. Commissioner Wood asked what the procedure will be for this project and Mr. Bodensteiner answered they will be subject to audit as well.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item One: Health Department Director Debra Anthony requested an executive session for 10 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (24-414) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 10 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel to discuss Health Department and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, and Health Department Director Debra Anthony, and to reconvene by 10:53 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Moody, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 10:43 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 10:53 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

Item Two: EMS Director Randy Sandberg requested an executive session for 20 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (24-415) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 20 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel to discuss EMS and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, EMS Administrator Dr. Tim Stebbins and EMS Director Randy Sandberg, and to reconvene by 11:16 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Moody, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 10:56 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:16 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

NEW BUSINESS

Item One: County Clerk Lisa Lusker mentioned she has a request from Director of Fiscal Services Randi Ryan for a 15 minute work session regarding ARPA on Friday, September 27th. The Commissioners agreed that would work and Ms. Lusker mentioned it would be Friday, September 27th, at 9:45 AM. Commissioner Wood mentioned there was one listed for future business at 9:30 as well and Mr. Emerson explained Ms. Ryan has two topics to discuss so they will be two separate work sessions.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson presented the Commissioners with the application from Point Forward for the Washington School project. He mentioned he had sent it to Greenbush to review. Mr. Emerson reiterated that this should have been taken care of quite some time

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

ago but that it was overlooked and that the Commissioners have made a motion twice now to award this money to the Washington School project. Mr. Emerson stated they could have probably sent an MOU to Point Forward regardless but that he believes they should have an application to tie to the MOU. Commissioner Moody asked if this is how Mr. Emerson would like to do it and Mr. Emerson mentioned it is. He stated again it was passed in a motion twice and should have been looked at a year and a half ago and that he will take partial blame for that. Mr. Emerson explained the process has been an application, award, and then an MOU. Commissioner Wood stated he would like to look at this application. Commissioner Moody stated it has already been approved twice now. Commissioner Moody asked Commissioner Wood if he would like a recess to review the application and Commissioner Wood denied. Commissioner Moody asked Mr. Emerson's thoughts and Mr. Emerson gave his thoughts on the application. Commissioner Blair asked Mr. Emerson when he brought up the process earlier of application, award, and MOU if the award was discussing approval. Mr. Emerson explained that it has been approved twice now already. Commissioner Blair discussed the previous approvals of the Washington School project. Commissioner Moody asked Commissioner Wood why he is so against this project and that it is in his district and Commissioner Wood answered because it was not done right and he does not believe one application can be transferred to someone else.

On motion (24-416) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the application from Point Forward for the Washington School project.

On a roll call vote.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Moody

Nays: Commissioner Wood

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Three: Commissioner Moody mentioned they had previously discussed a storage building for the Clerk's office. He asked where they are at with that. Commissioner Blair stated he will take the blame for this one. He mentioned there has been some distractions and that they need Mr. Robert Gorentz to put something together so they can go out for bid again. Commissioner Blair mentioned they need to revoke the previous bids if they are not going to accept them and Mr. Emerson agreed. Commissioner Blair also mentioned they need to approve the bid for the concrete as it was never approved either. Commissioner Wood stated they do not know what they are going to do and asked how they could bid the concrete out and Commissioner Blair answered the concrete was already bid. Mr. Emerson explained that was a separate project. Commissioner Wood asked why the Arma tower is not up and running. Commissioner Blair stated the concrete is not finished. Commissioner Blair mentioned the storage buildings were not within the budget so they need to revoke those bids but that the concrete was within the budget so it needs to be approved.

On motion (24-417) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to reject all bids regarding the Storage Building Project.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

OLD BUSINESS

Item One: Mr. Emerson mentioned due to some scheduling conflicts on October 1, 2024 they will need to reschedule Mr. Joshua Albin to another meeting. He also mentioned the KWORC work session will have to be moved as well and that they will try to get KWORC and KCAMP on the same day. Mr. Emerson also mentioned he will not be at the meeting on Friday, September 27, 2024.

EXECUTIVE SESSION CONTINUED

Item Three: Commissioner Wood requested an executive session for 5 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (24-418) of Commissioner Wood 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 5 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel to discuss a county employee and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson, and to reconvene by 11:36 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Moody, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:31 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:36 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: September 27, 2024- 8:30 AM Work session to sign September bills and payroll vouchers.

Item Two: September 27, 2024- 9:30 AM Work session with Director of Fiscal Services Randi Ryan to discuss ARPA.

Item Three: September 27, 2024- 9:45 AM Work session with Director of Fiscal Services Randi Ryan to discuss Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Item Four: October 1, 2024 – Mr. Mike Dalman, PVD, discussing Appraiser's Office Compliance via conference call.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

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 [September 24, 2024](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:37 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.

Lisa Lusker
County Clerk

◇

This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.

[Taken RJA 9/26/24 11:00 AM/amended BKW 9/26/24 1:00 PM](#)