

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2020, [SEVENTY-FIFTH](#) MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS, **Friday, September 25, 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 (20-403) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Johnson that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **September 22, 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	397	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the September 18, 2020 minutes
Motion 20	398	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 the Jayhawk Wind Farm and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 10:27 AM
Motion 20	399	To authorize County Counselor Jim Emerson to sign the Jayhawk Wind Development Regulations in Crawford County, Kansas Letter

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Motion 20	400	To approve the request from Jayhawk Wind for the expansion of boundaries for the Crawford County Project
Motion 20	401	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 a Health Department Contract and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 10:40 AM
Motion 20	402	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 10:51 AM

UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD

MESSAGES FROM CRAWFORD CO LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH

Item One: County Health Officials addressed the Commissioners with COVID-19 update. County Health Officer Dr. Tim Stebbins handed out the Crawford County Gating Criteria that was updated Thursday, September 24, 2020. He reported on the Health Coalition Meeting earlier that morning and stated that Via Christi has 2 positive cases, 2 persons under investigation and no one on a ventilator and Girard Medical Center has 0 positives and 0 persons under investigation. He discussed hospital capacity and staffing. He stated that PSU has 8 persons in isolation that have tested positive. Dr. Stebbins discussed the weekly incidence rates. He explained the weekly percent positive, age breakdown for active COVID cases and trend in incidence rate. He said that Crawford County has 168 active cases in isolation, 672 persons in quarantine and has had 8 total deaths. He spoke about testing capabilities, contact tracing and overall community impact. Dr. Stebbins discussed the need for additional epi nurses to keep contact tracing local. He went through the School Gating Criteria for K-12 and discussed the weekly incidence rate, trend in incidence rate, student absenteeism and overall school impact. He stated that the health officials and health department has continued to work closely with the school nurses and administration. Dr. Stebbins stated that he feels that there are some people in the community that are avoiding testing to avoid isolation and quarantine and they are aware of a few and are working through those situations. Dr. Stebbins stated that if the health officials know of a case, they have the authority to direct isolation and quarantine and they will do so to protect the community. Dr. Stebbins and Deputy Health Officer Dr. Linda Bean discussed what takes place if a person has symptoms and refuses to test. Dr. Stebbins stated the bottom line is that if you are sick, see a medical professional. He also stated that he wants the community to know that every medical entity in the community has mitigated to prevent spread in the waiting rooms and in the facilities. He asked the community not to fear the medical community with respect to COVID but fear your chronic disease and not taking care of it. Dr. Stebbins explained that the long-term care facilities will be added to the Crawford County Gating Criteria. He explained that CMS has just put out guidance for visitation in long term care facilities and they are working to open up for outside visits for family interaction. He stated that

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inside visits can not be safely opened up yet. Dr. Stebbins and Dr. Bean addressed all the different organizations that take part in guidance for long term care facilities. He stated that there are 4 facilities in the community right now that have positive residents or staff. Dr. Stebbins discussed the information on outbreaks that is put out by KDHE. He stated that there have been no in school transmissions and feels the mitigation strategies are working and they will be compiling that data to possibly complete by October 15 to send to KDHE to ask for acceptable alternatives with respect to quarantine. Dr. Stebbins and Dr. Bean stated that we have to continue on this path and we cannot stray from the current mitigation strategies or stray from testing as that will skew the data and changes cannot be made and they are asking for the whole community's help to do this right and stay on track. Dr. Stebbins spoke about getting information out on testing and other information to the PSU students to get them and the faculty involved. Dr. Bean stated that most PSU students are adults and make their own decisions. Commissioner Johnson asked about KDHE assisting with contact tracing and Dr. Stebbins stated that KDHE is still assisting but the county has taken over the K-12 tracing. He said that they have spoken with the epi nurses and reestablished priorities with respect to local management of positive and quarantine cases. Dr. Bean and Dr. Stebbins explained the 4 priorities established.

Acting Health Director Janis Goedeke addressed the Commissioners and stated that she would like to address the community and say that we are all in this together and it is not going to go away soon. She explained that each case is assessed individually and hours are spent on each case. She stated that the community needs to be truthful and to stay home when they are sick. She stressed the importance of community support. She gave an update on the Health Department and explained that this week the phone system has been automated which helps make better use of the staff time and they are restructuring the health department staff. She stated they have lost 1 epi nurse which needs to be replaced. She explained that 2 additional epi nurses are needed, one for follow up and one for triage. She discussed the accuracy of hand counting. The Commissioners approved the hiring of 2 new epi nurses and replacing the epi nurse that resigned. She discussed utilizing the Pittsburg State University Nursing Students. She discussed the revised structure of the epi nurses and the case managers. Ms. Goedeke spoke about grants the health department has received and what the grants are to be used for. She discussed the usage of a mobile command center. Mr. Mike Bodensteiner, Greenbush discussed Greenbush assisting if necessary.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

Item One: Mr. Mike Bodensteiner addressed the Commissioners in reference to SPARK funding and stated that final approval has been received from the state. He explained that all the MOUs have been sent out to all that will be receiving funding. He explained what will take place after the MOU's have been signed. He discussed some category changes made by the state and his group is working through those issues. He stated that everything is going well.

MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

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MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS NEW BUSINESS

Item One: County Clerk Don Pyle stated that election working training was held yesterday for the City of Pittsburg Special Election. He explained that his office has finished processing the advanced ballot applications that have been received so far for the November 3, 2020 General Election. Mr. Pyle stated that the voters can check their registration status or advanced ballot status but calling the office or by going to www.ksvotes.org. He also discussed the alternative ways to return an advanced ballot to the election office besides the mail.

Item Two: Commissioner Blair discussed road striping and stated that Sign Department Foreman Dale Shireman will be contacting the road foreman to get a mileage count on what roads need striped. Commissioner Moody stated that he received a call from a taxpayer commending the road crews on the job they did on the smoke seal.

OLD BUSINESS:

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item One: County Counselor Jim Emerson requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney Client Relationship.

On motion (20-404) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair 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 Landfill Negotiations and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 11:35 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 11:20 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:35 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

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

On motion (20-405) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 15 minutes to discuss Employee Evaluations under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 11:51 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

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Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:36 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:51 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: September 29, 2020 – 8:30 AM Work Session to review and sign September bills and payroll vouchers.

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.

Item Two: October 12, 2020 – The Courthouse will be closed in observance of the Columbus Day holiday.

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 25, 2020](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:55 AM 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 9/25/2020 11:55 AM/amended BKW 9/28/2020 3:00 PM](#)