

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2023, **SECOND** MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS, **Friday, January 6, 2023 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 Tom Moody served as the presiding officer.

Commissioners Jeremy Johnson and Bruce Blair were in attendance.

County Clerk Lisa Lusker and County Counselor Jim Emerson were seated with the Board.

Chairman Moody led the Pledge of Allegiance.

UNDER THE HEADING BUSINESS FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING CONSENT AGENDA

On motion (23-006) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **January 3, 2023** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners, and
2. Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Johnson and Blair

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 23	1	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the December 27, 2022 minutes
Motion 23	2	To approve the December 2022 Clerk's Report as presented
Motion 23	3	To approve the contract between Crawford County & Capitol Strategies LLC to provide monitoring and reporting representation to Crawford County through the 2023 Legislative Session at a cost of \$15,000 and authorize the Chairman to sign
Motion 23	4	To approve the ARPA drawdown request for December

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Motion 23	5	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 20 minutes to discuss the Road & Bridge 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
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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 ELECTED OFFICIALS

MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS

MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

Item One: Mr. Mac Young, District Court Administrator addressed the Commissioners. Mr. Young presented a letter that was generated by Judge Brunetti on November 4, 2022. He stated that the letter is asking for a pay raise for the Administrative Assistant to the Girard Courts that the county provides. He explained that according to the Judicial Branch pay matrix this employee should be making an hourly rate of \$20.49 which is a .29 cent pay raise and this is the increase that is being requested. Commissioner Moody addressed the issue of this employee becoming an employee of the Judicial System instead of the County and Mr. Young stated that he will advocate for this. The Commissioners decided to look into the issue before making a decision.

Mr. Young also addressed the proposed expansion to the District Court facility in Pittsburg that he addressed with the Commissioners in the November 8, 2022 meeting. He asked if the Commissioners have moved forward into checking into this issue. Commissioner Blair stated that due to some changes in location there has been nothing done so far. Commissioner Blair said that the Commissioners need to look into the scope of the work and the scope of funding to pay for the work. Mr. Young would like to contact an architect if the Commissioners approve. Mr. Emerson stated that prior work done a few years back was paid for by sales tax. Commissioner Blair stated that he will contact Maintenance Supervisor Robert Gorentz for his input and have Mr. Gorentz contact Mr. Young.

Judge Fleming spoke about the administrative assistant in the Girard District Court being a Judicial System employee instead of a county employee and stated that this is a top priority for her.

Sheriff Smith stated that there was a meeting with himself and the judges yesterday about both District Court facilities and they discussed safety issues and concerns. He explained the issues discussed in the meeting.

MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

Item One: Mr. Sam Hayes, Vice President of Facilities, Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas addressed the Commissioners. He stated that the Center is asking for some additional land owned by Crawford County. He presented some plans and a survey

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

and explained what the property will be used for. Mr. Hayes also presented a Letter of Agreement between Community Health Center of Southeast, Kansas, Inc. and Crawford County, Kansas for the transfer of real estate from Crawford County to Community Health Center of Southeast, Kansas, Inc. and a Special Warranty Deed from Crawford County, Kansas to Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, Inc. He explained that the property is a part of Lot 23 in Saia's Mt. Carmel First Addition to the City of Pittsburg, Crawford, County, Kansas.

On motion (23-007) of Commissioner Johnson and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the Letter of Agreement between Community Health Center of Southeast, Kansas, Inc. and Crawford County, Kansas for the transfer of real estate from Crawford County to Community Health Center of Southeast, Kansas, Inc. and to authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement and the Special Warranty Deed.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Johnson and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item One: GIS Director Kyle Nelson requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (23-008) 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 the GIS Department under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson and GIS Director Kyle Nelson and to reconvene by 10:40 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Johnson and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 10:25 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 10:40 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

NEW BUSINESS

Item One: County Counselor Jim Emerson stated that Sheriff Danny Smith has given him an amended ARPA fund request. Sheriff Smith presented the Commissioner with a letter and explained that due to lack of funding, the original project that he had requested funds for will not be able to move forward and he would like to withdraw that project. He stated that he is requesting the funds that was allotted to purchase a body scanner, a command post radio update and new office space for a full-time therapist at the jail. He explained that the cost of these items is \$185,910 and he was awarded \$204,000 in ARPA funding, therefore he will be returning \$18,090 in ARPA funds. Commissioner Moody

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

stated that all these items are great ideas. Mental Health Executive Director Heather Spaur addressed the Commissioners and discussed the full-time therapist that will be officed at the jail.

On motion (23-009) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the request for ARPA funding and the return of funds from the Sheriff's Office as presented by Sheriff Danny Smith.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Johnson and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson stated that NextEra Energy will be hosting an open house to discuss the Wolf Creek to Blackberry 345kV Transmission Line Project on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Empress Event Center in Fort Scott. Commissioner Blair discussed the project.

Item Three: Mr. Emerson presented Resolution #2023-001, A Resolution Redefining the Administrative Structure of the Crawford County Health Department, Crawford County Restorative Justice Authority and Crawford County Mental Health and Rescinding Previous Inconsistent Resolutions. Mr. Emerson explained the resolution.

On motion (23-010) of Commissioner Johnson and the second of Commissioner Blair to adopt Resolution #2023-001, A Resolution Redefining the Administrative Structure of the Crawford County Health Department, Crawford County Restorative Justice Authority and Crawford County Mental Health and Rescinding Previous Inconsistent Resolutions.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Johnson and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Four: Commissioner Blair presented a Road & Bridge equipment rotation schedule he received from Shop Foreman Josh Peak for the other Commissioners to review.

Item Five: Commissioner Blair discussed striping of the roads and discussed how many miles of roads were striped over the last few years. He suggested having the road foremen check into this issue for the upcoming year. Commissioner Moody stated that he would like to set up a work session with the Road Foreman from all 3 districts.

OLD BUSINESS

Item One: County Clerk Lisa Lusker stated that the Swearing in Ceremony for the newly elected officials will take place at 10:00 AM on Monday, January 9, 2023.

EXECUTIVE SESSION continued

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

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

On motion (23-011) 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 to discuss the GIS Department under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson and County Clerk Lisa Lusker and to reconvene by 11:15 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Johnson and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:00 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:12 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

Item Three: Commissioner Blair requested an executive session for 20 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship.

On motion (23-012) 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 20 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship to discuss ARPA large child care funding auditing contract and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 11:33 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Johnson and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:13 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:26 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

OLD BUSINESS continued

Item Two: Commissioner Bruce Blair presented a contract/agreement for ARPA childcare funding projects to visually audit the scope of work and to prepare reports for the spending of the funds. Mr. Emerson discussed administrative fees. Commissioner Blair presented a proposal from Turkey Design Build LLC.

On motion (23-013) of Commissioner Johnson and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the proposal from Turnkey Design Build LLC for auditing services on the ARPA childcare funding.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Johnson and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION continued

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

On motion (23-014) 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 to discuss the GIS Department under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 11:45 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Johnson and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:30 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:42 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: January 9, 2023 – 10:00 AM Swearing in Ceremony for the Newly Elected County Officials with the Crawford County Board of Commissioners Reorganization Meeting to follow immediately.

Item Two: January 13, 2023 – 10:00 AM Public Hearing on vacating an unopened alley in Block 3 Shafer's First Addition to Radley.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Item One: January 10, 2023 – The Board of County Commissioner Regular Session is cancelled due to the Reorganization Meeting being held on January 9, 2023.

Commissioner Blair and Commissioner Moody stated that it has been an honor to work with Commissioner Johnson over the last 4 years and wished him luck in the future.

Commissioner Johnson thanked the other Commissioners and stated that it has been an honor and privilege being a County Commissioner.

UNDER THE HEADING MOTION TO ADJOURN MOTION TO ADJOURN

Item One: Adjournment

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

On the motion of Commissioner Johnson and the second of Commissioner Blair to adjourn the [January 6, 2023](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:46 AM and to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled time with open doors.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Johnson and Blair

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

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This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.

[Taken BKW 01/06/23 11:46 AM/amended BKW 1/6/2023 4:30 PM](#)