

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2021, [THIRTY-SIXTH](#) MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS, **Friday, May 21, 2021, 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.
Commissioners Tom Moody and Bruce Blair were in attendance.

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

Chairman Johnson led the pledge of allegiance.

UNDER THE HEADING BUSINESS FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING CONSENT AGENDA

On motion (21-154) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **May 18, 2021** 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 21	149	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the May 14, 2021 minutes and Approval of the accounts payable warrant numbers 605964 to 606191 dated May 14, 2021 in the total amount of \$479,769.97
Motion 21	150	To remove the mask requirements for the courthouse and other county buildings while allowing the other Elected Officials and Department Heads to develop mask guidelines for their offices
Motion 21	151	To authorize Shop Foreman Josh Peak to order 3 dump trucks with snow blade attachments at the price of \$123,218.00 each
Motion 21	152	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 5 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship to discuss the landfill contract and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 10:21 AM

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Motion 21	153	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 10 minutes to discuss employee pay increases under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 10:32 AM
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UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD

MESSAGES FROM CRAWFORD CO LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH

Item One: County Health Officials with COVID-19 update. The Commissioners were given the Crawford County Gating Criteria for the Community and for the Schools K-12. Executive Administrator Michael Ehling went through the gating criteria. Commissioner Blair stated that the schools should be recognized for the work they did during this school year with the COVID-19 issues.

Mr. Ehling stated that the Health Department was notified by the Skubitz Foundation that they were selected to be a recipient of a Skubitz Foundation grant in the amount of \$15,163.00. He stated that the Health Department informed the foundation that the money would be used to build a permanent structure to house the mobile van. Mr. Ehling wanted to thank the Skubitz Foundation for selecting the Health Department and recognizing the work they do. Commission Moody asked if a location has been selected to put the structure and Mr. Ehling stated that they would like to put it on site if possible but other alternatives can also be discussed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS

MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Item One: Mr. Ehling presenting a report on activities of the Community Mental Health Center of Crawford County for 2020. He presented the Commissioners with the Crawford County Mental Health Center 2020 Annual Report. He stated that the Mental Health Center has 6 buildings across the county and explained the services that are housed in each building and he explained the report to the Commissioners. He discussed the services available for adults and for children. Mr. Ehling addressed Families and Children Together, Inc and explained that it is a not-for-profit 501c3 Corporation and spoke about the FACT Inc. Nature Preserve. Mr. Ehling discussed the client demographics for Mental Health services. Mr. Ehling stated that Ms. Heather Spaur, Director of Personnel & Marketing would present the financial portion of the annual report. Ms. Spaur reviewed the 2020 net income/loss for Mental Health including the revenues and expenses for 2020 and the impact of Covid-19 on the finances for Mental Health during 2020.

Mr. Ehling discussed grants and fundraising for the new Addiction Treatment Center. He stated that they are working on becoming a Certified Community Behavioral Health Center and explained the advantages of this. Mr. Ehling discussed many new programs that they are working on and the impact they might have on the community.

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Commissioner Johnson asked about a time line for the new Addiction Treatment Center and Mr. Ehling stated that they are having the rooflines redesigned at the request of the construction manager to simplify the design and save on construction costs. Mr. Johnson addressed the budget work session with the Mental Health Department and asked that they receive a full set of financial statements for the Mental Health Dept. and information on funds raised by FACT, Inc. There was a lengthy discussion of the materials that Mr. Johnson wanted to review before making a decision on the budget for next year. Mr. Johnson stated that he feels that a County Commissioner should have a seat on the Mental Health Governing Board. Commissioner Moody stated he is happy with the way Mental Health is ran and he is proud of the work they have done. Mr. Ehling stated that they would provide the materials to Commissioner Johnson and he hoped that Mr. Johnson would become a supporter of the Mental Health Center.

Item Two: Noxious Weed Director Tommy Scales presenting the Crawford County Annual Noxious Weed Management Plan. Mr. Scales handed out the plan to the Commissioners for their review.

There was a discussion of the Household Hazardous Waste Program through the SEK Recycling Center.

On motion (21-155) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the Crawford County Annual Noxious Weed Management Plan.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

NEW BUSINESS

Item One: County Counselor Jim Emerson handed out some information he received from the Treasury Department on the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and a Fact Sheet on recovery funds established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Mr. Emerson stated that the county received \$3,769,970.50 in funds which is half of the county's allotment. He stated that there will be a process to go through and the next step is to visit with representatives from Greenbush and officially get them on board. He explained that these are interim rules and there is a 60-day comment period before the final rules and questions can be answered during this period. Mr. Emerson explained that the final deadline for the funds to be spent is in 2024 and if you are under contract, you have an additional 2 years to spend the money. There was a discussion of city funding.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson discussed a purchase of property for the County Land Bank. He explained that the property is located at 103 Rondelli Road, Pittsburg, Ks and is owned by Robert Fenoglio. Commissioner Moody stated that this property is located in Chicopee and is a property the county has been trying to get cleaned up for about 5 years. Mr. Emerson stated that the county offered \$20,000 for the property and he would like to get the deed signed today. Commissioner Moody was answered that once the land bank acquires the property, it can be cleaned up and sold to recoup the money spent and get the property back on the tax rolls. Mr. Emerson stated that the main purpose of the land bank

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is to turn the properties back into productive parcels on the tax rolls but the ideal situation would be to also recoup the funds.

On motion (21-156) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the purchase of property at 103 Rondelli Rd, Pittsburg, Kansas owned by Robert Fenoglio for the amount of \$20,000.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Three: Commissioner Blair stated that his position on SEK CTEC board is up for reappointment and he would like to serve on the board for another term.

On motion (21-157) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Johnson to approve the reappointment of Commissioner Blair to the SEK CTEC board.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting: Commissioner Blair

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Four: Commissioner Blair gave a short update on the Jayhawk Wind project and stated that he was notified that they have completed recapping of the roads. He said that he will keep the other Commissioners updated when he receives additional information on this project.

Item Five: Commissioner Blair stated he attended the Chamber Banquet and it was good to see people out and about.

Item Six: Commissioner Moody addressed the Mental Health requests and comments that were made by Commissioner Johnson. Commissioner Moody stated that he is very happy with the work Mental Health does and Commissioner Blair stated that he has not received any concerns with the Mental Health Department. Commissioner Johnson stated that his duty to provide oversight is his reason for requesting the information.

Item Seven: Commission Johnson addressed a letter of support for a Solid Waste Grant for the SEK Recycling Center. He explained that the grant is for \$15,000 for a fork lift for the center and that it is a match grant and the center does have money in their budget for their match portion. He stated that the center received a letter of support from the City of Pittsburg and is requesting a letter of support from the County.

On motion (21-158) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve sending a letter of support for a Solid Waste Grant for the SEK Recycling Center for the purchase of a forklift and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

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Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Eight: Commissioner Johnson stated that he spoke to Greenbush and they are ready to help with planning for use of the ARP Funds. There has been a meeting of the Recovery Task Force Government Relations Committee, the City of Pittsburg, the School District and the Interlocal and they talked about their plans to invest this money in the community. He explained that Greenbush wants to hold planning sessions with the Commissioners and that Mr. Mike Bodenstener will be leading the project.

OLD BUSINESS

Item One: County Clerk Don Pyle handed out an email he received from Chris Wilson from the CVB in reference to Big Kansas Road Trip that will be coming to Bourbon, Cherokee and Crawford Counties May 5 – 8, 2021. He said that Mr. Wilson stated that there will be a meeting on Tuesday June 8, 2021 at 9:00 AM at the Frisco Event Center on how to participate in the BKRT. Mr. Pyle stated that meeting is on a Commission Meeting Day and stated that he suggested that the representatives come to the Commission Meeting that day at 11:00 AM and speak to the Commissioners. Commissioner Blair suggested discussing this further next week as he might attend the meeting at the Frisco Event Center on that day.

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 (21-159) 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 the landfill contract and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 12:05 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 11:50 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 12:02 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

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

On motion (21-160) 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 10 minutes to discuss project reports under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 12:13 PM.

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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 12:03 PM and reconvened the Open Session at 12:13 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

Mr. Pyle handed out the schedule for the budget work sessions.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: May 25, 2021 – Budget Work Sessions beginning at 8:30 AM.

Item Two: June 4, 2021 – Mr. Mark Lehman Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Crawford County Conservation District addressing Conservation District Budget.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Item One: May 31, 2021 – The Courthouse will be closed in observance of the Memorial 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 Blair to adjourn the [May 21, 2021](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 12:18 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 5/21/2021 12:18 PM/amended BKW 5/24/2021 2:30 PM