

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2023, THIRTY-FOURTH MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. Friday, May 5, 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 Bruce Blair served as the presiding officer.

Commissioners Tom Moody and Carl Wood were in attendance.

Deputy County Clerk Bobbi Wicker 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 (23-200) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood that the consent agenda be approved including:

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

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 23	192	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the April 28, 2023 minutes
Motion 23	193	To approve the resignation of Mr. Tim Mikrut as Grant Township Trustee
Motion 23	194	to approve the appointment of Ms. Lindsey Coester as Grant Township Trustee
Motion 23	195	To approve the April 2023 Clerk's Report as presented
Motion 23	196	To approve the agreement with Jarred Gilmore & Phillips for 2022 auditing services and authorize the Chairman to sign

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Motion 23	197	To approve the Pathway for Success Quarterly Grant Budget Amendment Report and Signatory Approval for Community Corrections and authorize the Chairman to sign
Motion 23	198	To approve the bid for asphalt from Heckert Construction Co Inc. and the contract for asphalt for 2023 between Crawford County, Kansas Engineer’s Office and Heckert Construction Co., Inc. and authorize the Chairman to sign
Motion 23	199	To approve the bid from National Sign Company for sign posts and for the Sign Department and authorize the Chairman to sign

UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

- PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD**
- MESSAGES FROM CRAWFORD CO LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH**
- PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS**
- MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS**
- MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS**
- MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC**
- MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES**

Item One: Mr. Wayne Gudmonson, KDOT District Engineer addressed the Commissioners. He introduced Ms. Vanessa Lamoreaux, KDOT Senior Director and Mr. Scott King, KDOT Director of Engineering & Design. He also introduced Howard Lubliner, Project Manager for Burns and McDonald Corporation, the consulting firm for KDOT. Mr. Gudmonson thanked the Commissioners for allowing them to speak today. He stated that they are here today to listen to what the Commissioners and the public have to say about the Pittsburg Bypass project. He explained the federal earmark that KDOT received is to be used for the Pittsburg Bypass project and stated that the mission is to find the best way to use the earmark. Mr. Howard addressed the Commissioners and the public and gave a power point presentation on the US 69 Pittsburg Bypass. He walked through the US 69 Corridor Timeline and then explained how the west alignment was chosen. Commissioner Moody stated that there has been a lot of change since then. Commissioner Blair discussed additional studies on these plans. Commissioner Wood questioned why the project is called Pittsburg Bypass when it also bypasses Arma, Franklin and Frontenac, asked how the earmarked funds can be spent and discussed the issue of waiting 20 years to readdress the project. Ms. Lamoreaux explained the guidelines on how the earmarked money has to be spent and what the process would be to modify the guidelines. She also explained that there will be more meetings to make the public aware of the status of the project and to get the public’s input on the project. Commissioner Blair addressed how the 160 project was chosen and the timeline issue. Mr. Howard explained the phasing plan due to cost. Ms. Lamoreaux explained the process and the steps that would need to be taken to explore a new or previous alignment.

The Chairman Blair asked for comments from other governmental entities and Frontenac City Mayor Dave Fornelli addressed his concerns with the project.

Chairman Blair asked for comments from the public. He also addressed a portal for citizens to address their concerns. Ms. Lamoreaux stated that an email address has been set up at the state for questions and comments from the public on this project and the

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email address is Engagement@ksdotike.org. Chairman Blair asked if anyone would like to speak today. Mr. Dan Muter, Mr. Jerry Lomshek, and Mr. Reno Cecora addressed their concerns with the west alignment of the project and spoke in favor of the middle alignment. Mr. Blake Benson, representing the 69 Highway Association addressed the Commissioners and said that he respects everyone's opinions. He explained that the concern is that all the cities and the county collectively asked for the western alignment and signed a resolution asking KDOT to designate that route as the one that was wanted a few years ago. Commissioner Moody stated that these decisions were made a long time ago and things change. Mr. Benson stated that it does not send a good signal to KDOT that we are good partners for the growth of Crawford County if they choose the corridor that we asked them to; and now that they are ready to make progress, we say maybe we do not want what we asked to designate. Mr. Steven Garner, Mr. Ken Biancarelli, Ms. Debbie Brock, Mr. Cody Cowan, Ms. Jovanna Brackett Oetinger, Mr. David Lomshek, Ms. Lynn Grant, Ms. Jenna Vitt and Mr. Charles Heckert all spoke to the Commissioners and KDOT representatives with their concerns. Mr. Gudmonson addressed the public and thanked everyone for their input.

On motion (23-201) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open session for a period of 15 minutes.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners called the meeting back to order at 11:40 AM

NEW BUSINESS

Item One: Commissioner Wood discussed the meeting with County Counselor Jim Emerson, Maintenance Supervisor Robert Gorentz and Health Director Debra Anthony that was held at the Health Department. Mr. Emerson explained what took place in the meeting and stated that there are a couple of changes to the plans that Ms. Anthony requested and those changes are being given to the person that drew up the plans. He also stated that that he has contacted the City of Pittsburg about a building permit.

Item Two: Commissioner Wood asked about the construction to the south side of the Freeto Building. Mr. Emerson stated that he has not had any updates on the status of this project. Commissioner Wood discussed having a work session with Mr. Gorentz. Mr. Emerson will contact Mr. Gorentz for an update on this project.

Item Three: Commissioner Blair discussed a house bill in reference to training new EMTs. He stated that he spoke to EMS Director Randy Sandberg and Mr. Sandberg stated that he has hired 5 new employees

OLD BUSINESS

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Item One: Commissioner Blair addressed the road assessment tool and Mr. Keith Browning will be here on May 9 and 10, 2023 to drive the county roads with employees from each road district.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item One: Commissioner Bruce Blair requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (23-202) of Commissioner Blair 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 Road & Bridge Department under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 12:09 PM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:54 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 12:09 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: May 9, 2023 – 9:00 AM Work Session with Dr. Jacqueline Youtsos, Ms. Ann Elliott and Mr. Ron Scripsick to address ARPA funding for large child care facilities.

Item Two: May 9, 2023 – Ms. Brooke Powell, Safehouse Crisis Center presenting the 2023 Kansas Emergency Solutions Grant Application.

Item Three: May 12, 2023 – Mr. Quentin Holmes discussing housing survey.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

UNDER THE HEADING MOTION TO ADJOURN MOTION TO ADJOURN

Item One: Adjournment

On the motion of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to adjourn the [May 5, 2023](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 12:11 PM 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:

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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.

Bobbi Wicker

Deputy County Clerk

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This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.

[Taken BKW 5/5/2022 12:11 PM/amended BKW 5/8/2023 1:00 PM](#)