

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2020, **EIGHTY-SECOND** MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS, **Friday, October 16, 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.

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 (20-428) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Johnson that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **October 9, 2020** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners, and
2. Approval of the October 13, 2020 minutes of the Board of County Canvassers, and
3. Approval of the October 13, 2020 minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, and
4. Approval of the accounts payable warrant numbers 601471 to 601715 dated October 15, 2020 in the total amount of \$471,447.85
5. 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	420	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the October 6, 2020 minutes
Motion 20	421	To approve the Kansas Housing Resource Corporation Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Recipient Request for Reimbursement and Financial Status Report in the amount of \$5,472.00 and authorize the Chairman to sign

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Motion 20	422	To approve the 2021 Employee Health Insurance Coverage through Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas as recommended by the Employee Benefits Committee
Motion 20	423	To recess this open session for a period of 10 minutes
Motion 20	424	To approve the Crawford County Commission's letter of support of Crawford County Mental Health Center's proposal of PDG Subgrant to Improve Quality Care and Connect Families to Services to implement Improvement Infrastructure and Service Programs at the Discovery Therapeutic Preschool
Motion 20 Canvass	425	To accept the Unofficial Election Results Report from the 2020 City of Pittsburg Special Question Election held on October 6, 2020 in Crawford County as presented by the Crawford County Deputy Election Officer
Motion 20 Canvass	426	To approve 13 Provisional Ballots for full counting from the 2020 City of Pittsburg Special Question Election held on October 6, 2020 in Crawford County as recommended by the Crawford County Deputy Election Officer
Motion 20 Canvass	427	To accept the Final Results Report for the 2020 City of Pittsburg Special Question Election held on October 6, 2020, as presented by the Deputy County Election Officer

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 a COVID-19 update. Dr. Tim Stebbins, County Public Health Officer, and Dr. Linda Bean, Deputy County Public Health Officer, addressed the Commissioners. Dr. Stebbins stated that the situation has improved in the county since the meeting on Tuesday and that the hospitals have more capacity available but that they are still operating at near capacity. Dr. Stebbins also discussed the current conditions in the community as is outlined in the Crawford County Gating Criteria report. Dr. Bean and Dr. Stebbins felt that the public has responded positively to the information released that showed that the health care system was close to being overwhelmed. They also discussed the situations in the school systems and were pleased that they seem to be fairly stable. The health officials commended the work done by the staff at the long-term care facilities in the county. They also felt that the level of testing is adequate and that the contact tracing is still being managed by KDHE. Dr. Stebbins stated that they have received questions about the schools and that they feel that the schools are very safe and that the mitigation strategies being used at the schools are working very well. There was a discussion of the multiple reasons for trying to keep kids in schools including emotional and nutritional needs that are met in the schools. Commissioner Blair wondered if they have considered the effects of children going into quarantine that may have to be managed by grandparents. Commissioner Johnson wondered if the health officials felt that their needs to be more enforcement of the mask order and how would that process be handled. Dr. Stebbins discussed the process and how the health officials can enforce the order and he also stated that they have not received many reports of non-compliance at this point. There was a

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discussion of how the public will be more inclined to enter a business that is following the mitigation strategies outlined in public health policies and that following those guidelines will help them maintain their business volume. There was a discussion of the Crawford County United pledge and program for businesses. Commissioner Blair felt that the community as a whole is trying to act appropriately but there will always be some missteps made. The health officials discussed that this virus is very unpredictable which makes it much more difficult to manage. There was a discussion of how difficult it is to manage the spectators at school sporting events.

Ms. Janis Goedeke, Public Health Director, addressed the Commissioners regarding COVID19 and stated that she hopes that the public realizes the amount of energy that is being expended by the health care community in response to this pandemic. She hopes that the number of new cases declines so that the health dept. can manage all of the contact tracing for cases in the county. Ms. Goedeke stated that the mobile testing unit should be ready to be deployed in the near future but that they are waiting for some of the supplies that are needed. She also discussed how flexible the health officers have been in working with businesses in order to keep them open. There was a discussion of the employee wellness tests and that the antibody testing can help the county in certain ways.

Mr. Michael Ehling, Public Health Administrator, discussed that his daughter lives in another area and that the relationship between the county administration, the public health dept. and other parts of the community is not nearly as supportive as those relationships are in Crawford County. He wanted to thank the entire community for working together in this event. Mr. Ehling also stated that he has been working closely with Samantha Garrett, County Public Information Officer, on getting out messages to the public regarding all sorts of topics related to the COVID19 situation.

Mr. Blaise Bauer, USD 248 Superintendent, mentioned how much he appreciates the input they receive from the county health officers on managing situations in their school buildings and in helping them with mitigation strategies.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC NEW BUSINESS

Item One: County Clerk Don Pyle stated that the ballot drop boxes have been installed in the parking areas of the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard and the Crawford County Judicial Center in Pittsburg so that voters that receive ballots by mail can drive up to these drop boxes and deposit their voted ballots directly into them. He also discussed that advance voting in person has started in the County Clerk's Office in the courthouse.

Item Two: County Counselor Jim Emerson addressed the SPARK Funds and stated that he wants the public to be aware that if they receive an email from the Department of Commerce that states that their SPARK application has been rejected due to lack of funding, that is a separate category of SPARK funding that is being handled through the

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state and you will need to address that through the Department of Commerce. He explained that almost all of the County SPARK Funds have been spent and mailed out with the exception of some business where the county is waiting for some documentation from the business. Commissioner Blair stated that if an email is received from Greenbush, then that would pertain to County SPARK funding. Mr. Emerson said that there may be additional money through the County and we should know something around the second week of November.

OLD BUSINESS

Item One: Commissioner Blair discussed the demo loader and stated that it is working well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

On motion (20-429) 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 position of Noxious Weed Director under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 11:30 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 11:15 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:25 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

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

On motion (20-430) 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 10 minutes to discuss the Public Information Officer budget under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson and Public Information Officer Samantha Garrett and to reconvene by 11:36 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

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The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:26 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:36 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

Item Three: Commissioner Johnson requested an executive session for 10 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (20-431) 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 the Health Survey under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson and Public Information Officer Samantha Garrett and to reconvene by 11:47 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 11:37 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:44 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

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

On motion (20-432) 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 Health Department Contract under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 12:01 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 11:46 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 12:01 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

On motion (20-433) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve a purchasing card through GN Bank for Public Information Officer Samantha Garrett with a credit limit of \$2,500.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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FUTURE BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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 [October 16, 2020](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 12:04 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 10/16/2020 12:04 PM/amended DPP & BKW 10/19/2020 2:00 PM](#)