

# Board of Crawford County Commissioners

## Commissioners' Journal

2023, **SEVENTY-THIRD** MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM  
Girard, KS. **Friday, September 29, 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 (23-405)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **September 26, 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	398	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the September 22, 2023 minutes
Motion 23	399	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 20 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel to discuss Crawford County Mental Health and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, Mental Health Director Heather Spaur, and to reconvene by 10:27 AM

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Motion 23	400	To approve the ARPA Drawdown for September 2023
Motion 23	401	To approve the Kansas Department for Children and Families Grant Application for RJA for the Truancy Intervention Program in the amount of \$504,266.56 and authorize the Chairman to sign
Motion 23	402	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 contracts and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 11:02 AM
Motion 23	403	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel to discuss Crawford County Health Department and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson, and to reconvene by 11:18 AM
Motion 23	404	To approve the third and final invoice from Tri-State Building & Supply Co. Inc. for the RJA/Freeto Building project in the total amount of \$38,114.04 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**

**Item One:** Opening of fence bids for the existing salt shed building at the Road & Bridge District #3 building. Deputy County Clerk Bobbi Wicker stated that there were 2 bids received and opened the bids from Jones Construction and Tri-State Building and Supply Co., Inc. She presented the bids to County Counselor Jim Emerson and Mr. Emerson read the bid amounts as follows:

Jones Construction, \$6,690.00

Tri- State Building & Supply Co, Inc., \$9,808.00

The Commissioners decided that Mr. Emerson, Commissioner Wood and Maintenance Supervisor Robert Gorentz will review the bids and return with a recommendation.

**Item Two:** Public Hearing on the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2024 Crawford County Budget and the Crawford County FY2024 Budget. Mr. Emerson explained the necessity of holding another Public Hearing on the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2024 Crawford County Budget and the Crawford County FY2024 Budget and Public Hearing on the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2024 Crawford County Fire Districts No. 1 & 2 Budgets and the Crawford County Fire District #1, #2, #3 & #4 FY2024 Budgets and FY2024 Special District Budgets.

**On motion (23-406)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to open the Public Hearing on the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2024 Crawford County Budget and the Crawford County FY2024 Budget.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

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Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**There was no public comment.**

**On motion (23-407)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to close the Public Hearing on the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2024 Crawford County Budget and the Crawford County FY2024 Budget.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

Mr. Emerson presented Resolution #2023-019, A Resolution of the County of Crawford, Kansas to Levy a Property Tax Rate Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate for the Crawford County FY2024 Budget. Chairman Blair read the Resolution.

**On motion (23-408)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to adopt Resolution #2023-019, A Resolution of the County of Crawford, Kansas to Levy a Property Tax Rate Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate for the Crawford County FY2024 Budget and to approve the Crawford County FY2024 Budget.

**On a Roll Call Vote.**

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**On motion (23-409)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the Crawford County FY2024 Budget.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Two:** Public Hearing on the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2024 Crawford County Fire Districts No. 1 & 2 Budgets and the Crawford County Fire District #1, #2, #3 & #4 FY2024 Budgets and FY2024 Special District Budgets.

**On motion (23-410)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to open the Public Hearing on the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2024 Crawford County Fire Districts No. 1 & 2 Budgets and the Crawford County Fire District #1, #2, #3 & #4 FY2024 Budgets and FY2024 Special District Budgets.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

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Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**There was no public comment.**

**On motion (23-411)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to close the Public Hearing on the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2024 Crawford County Fire Districts No. 1 & 2 Budgets and the Crawford County Fire District #1, #2, #3 & #4 FY2024 Budgets and FY2024 Special District Budgets.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

Ms. Lusker presented Resolution #2023-020, A Resolution of the County of Crawford, Kansas to Levy a Property Tax Rate Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate for the Crawford County Fire District #1 2024 Budget and Resolution #2023-021, A Resolution of the County of Crawford, Kansas to Levy a Property Tax Rate Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate for the Crawford County Fire District #2 2024 Budget. Commissioner Blair read the Resolutions.

**On motion (23-412)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to adopt Resolution #2023-020, A Resolution of the County of Crawford, Kansas to Levy a Property Tax Rate Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate for the Crawford County Fire District #1 2024 Budget.

**On a Roll Call Vote.**

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**On motion (23-413)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to adopt Resolution #2023-021, A Resolution of the County of Crawford, Kansas to Levy a Property Tax Rate Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate for the Crawford County Fire District #2 2024 Budget.

**On a Roll Call Vote.**

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**On motion (23-414)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the Crawford County Fire District #1, #2, #3 & #4 FY2024 Budgets and FY2024 Special District Budgets.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood and Blair

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Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

**MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC**

**MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Item One:** County Counselor Jim Emerson presented a Letter of Support for General Public Transportation to SEK-CAP, Inc from the Commissioners.

**On motion (23-415)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the Letter of Support for General Public Transportation to SEK-CAP, Inc.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Two:** Mr. Emerson stated that County Health Officer Debra Anthony has requested a Work Session on Tuesday October 3, 2023 at 9:00 AM to discuss the Health Department Remodel Project. He said that Mr. Gorentz will also be in attendance. The Commissioners agreed to the Work Session.

**Item Three:** Mr. Emerson presented a Kansas Department of Transportation Bureau of Local Projects Project Programming Request for Crawford County Bridge #35 near Walnut, Kansas. He explained that the State is contributing \$900,000 and the County's portion is \$86,000 and is not scheduled to be let until 2025 but the county may incur some costs next year for right of ways and utilities. Mr. Emerson stated that also included in the paperwork is an agreement between Cook, Flatt & Strobel Engineers, PA and Crawford County, Kansas for engineering services for this project. Commissioner Wood had questions on the agreement with Cook, Flatt & Strobel. The Commissioners decided to table the agreement with Cook, Flatt & Strobel and Mr. Emerson will get additional information.

**On motion (23-416)** of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the Kansas Department of Transportation Bureau of Local Projects Project Programming Request for a Crawford County Bridge #35 near Walnut, Kansas.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

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**Item Four:** Mr. Emerson presented an Applications and Certification for Payment from Crossland Construction Company, Inc. for the new Addiction Treatment Center for the Commissioners' review. Mr. Emerson explained that about 7 years ago the county agreed to fund a building fund for the new Addiction Treatment Center and it was decided that instead of transferring the money, an application for payment will be submitted to request funds. He stated that this request is for an amount of \$411,556.69 from Crossland Construction Company. Mr. Emerson requested that the Commissioners review the paperwork and will re-address on Tuesday.

**Item Five:** Mr. Emerson informed the Commissioners that there is an attorney opening for juvenile court and after the first round there was no interest in the position. He discussed the lack of attorneys in Southeast Kansas and other rural areas. He said that on the second round two applications were received and his recommendation is Ms. Candace Gayoso. Commissioner Moody stated that he knows Ms. Gayoso and the county is very fortunate have her. There was a discussion on the shortage of attorneys and the wages and rates.

**On motion (23-417)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the hiring of Ms. Candace Gayoso as Juvenile Court Attorney.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Six:** Commissioner Wood stated that Mental Health Director Heather Spaur, Foreman Dustin Blair and himself met with Crossland Constructions Company to discuss paving the parking lot at the new Addiction Treatment Center.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Item One:** Commissioner Moody reported on the meeting Mr. Emerson and himself attended on homeless housing.

**Item Two:** Commissioner Blair addressed the asphalt training in Wichita and the Commissioners discussed which day to have employees attend and how many employees will be attending.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Item One:** Commissioner Wood requested an executive session for 20 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

**On motion (23-418)** 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 20 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel to discuss employees and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson, and to reconvene by 10:55 AM.

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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 10:35 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 10:49 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

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

**On motion (23-419)** 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 20 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship to discuss ATC contract and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 11:10 AM.

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 10:50 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:10 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

**Item Three:** Commissioner Blair requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship.

**On motion (23-420)** 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 items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship to discuss the Commission and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson, and to reconvene by 11:18 AM.

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 11:11 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:18 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

**UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FUTURE BUSINESS:**

## Board of Crawford County Commissioners

**Item One: October 3, 2023 – 9:00 AM** Work Session with Health Department Director Debra Anthony and Maintenance Supervisor Robert Gorentz to discuss the Health Department Remodel Project.

### **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 [September 29, 2023](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:20 AM 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:

**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.**

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**Bobbi Wicker**

Deputy County Clerk

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**This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.**

[Taken 09/29/2023 BKW 11:20 AM/amended 10/2/2023 BKW 11:30 AM](#)