

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2019, FIFTY-SIXTH MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS Friday, August 16, 2019 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 Don Pyle 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 (19-245) of Commissioner Johnson and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the August 13, 2019 minutes of the Board of County Commissioners, and
2. Approval of the accounts payable warrant numbers 592687 to 592962 dated August 15, 2019 in the total amount of \$422,124.14, and
3. 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 19	241	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the August 9, 2019 minutes
Motion 19	242	To the approve the notice from KDOT on Bridge Project #19 C-4911-01 for 80/20 matching funds in the approximate amount of \$90,000 and authorize the Chairman to sign
Motion 19	243	To approve the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation 2019 Emergency Solution Grant Total Award in the amount of \$21,447 and authorize the Chairman to sign

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Motion 19	244	To the approve the publication of the Notice of Intent to Vacate platted alleys and streets in the Girard Coal Company's Original Town of Radley and in the Original Town of Radley, Crawford County, Kansas with a public hearing set for September 13, 2019 at 10:00 AM
-----------	-----	---

UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS

MESSAGES FROM CRAWFORD CO LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH

MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

Item One: Dr. James Triplett, SEK Recycling Board of Directors Chairman, addressed the Commissioners and thanked Commissioner Blair for attending the Board Meeting on Thursday evening and giving some insight. Dr. Triplett explained that there are a lot of financial issues being faced that go beyond making payroll. He stated that the center just received a grant for a foam densifier in the amount of \$14,500 with the Recycling Center paying a match in the amount of \$5,000. He stated that it is a reimbursement grant and the total of \$19,500 has to be spent and then the state will reimburse the recycling center for \$14,500. He said that the \$5,000 match can be made back in the first year of operation. Dr. Triplett discussed some of the operations expenses and the needed equipment. He discussed an economic development loan from the City of Pittsburg that paid for the chain link fence around the facility and stated that the final payment on this loan is due in October in the amount of \$3,600 and that the City of Pittsburg has forgiven half of that payment each year. Dr. Triplett discussed the average annual income for the center was around \$300,000 for the last several years and that the annual income last year was approximately \$270,000 and this year will only be around \$240,000.

Mr. Gene Vogler, accountant for the SEK Recycling Center addressed the Commissioners. He stated that after meeting with the Commissioners last week he did some checking and the center does have some educational programs in place and they consistently have tours for students from 4th grade through college and explained what is included in the tours. He discussed cost controls and stated that expenses this year are going to be only approximately \$5,900 higher than the expenses in 2015 which is only a 2.3% increase in expenses over a 5-year period. Mr. Vogler stated that this is a very penny-pinching organization. He stated that it was discussed in the board meeting last night that they have been inadequate in communications to make the community aware of what SEKR has to offer and about the current financial situation but are going to take steps immediately to improve their communications. Mr. Vogler discussed fundraising activities and that since the SEKR is mostly a volunteer operation they do not feel they are in a position to ask for fundraising efforts but will share the idea with members. Mr. Vogler discussed cost saving ideas that were discussed in the Board of Directors Meeting and stated that no decisions were made. Mr. Vogler stated that there is an Annual Membership meeting on September 12, 2019 at 6:30 PM and explained that these members pay their dues, elect the board of directors, receive annual reports and will discuss the ideas that were brought up in the Board of Directors meeting. It is an open meeting and only members can vote on the board members but anyone can address the meeting. He stated that there has not been a location designated for the meeting.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

During my visit last Friday, some questions were asked. I brought these questions to the SEKR Board Meeting last night for a response:

- 1) Educational Programs: There are frequent tours of the facility by students from elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and colleges.

The tours describe how the materials are collected and sorted, and some of the uses of the materials.

SEKR also has sponsored a booth at PSU Earth Day, Little Balkens Day, and other community events.

- 2) Cost Controls: The expenses of the operation have been stable for the last 4 plus years. Expenses in 2019 are forecast to be only \$5,912 higher than 2015. That is an increase of 2.3% (\$265770/\$259858).
- 3) Communication to the community: We have clearly been inadequate in this area. We will develop and distribute bulletins detailing the structure of SEKR, the services provided, and the budgetary challenges we face. These will be distributed on our web page(sekr.org), on facebook, passed out those utilizing the services at the recycling center, and via press releases.
- 4) Fund Raising Activities: SEKR's Officers, Board Members, and Members are all volunteers, and dedicate many hours maintaining the operation of the organization. No fund raising activities are planned.

There were additional topics brought up at the meeting that I would like to mention.

- A) Work with trash haulers to support SEKR by having their customers provide a nominal sum (\$12/yr). A sticker indicating their support would be placed on the trash receptacle.
- B) Stop handling Plastic in the main area (the tunnel) where the general public drops of materials.
- C) Stop handling ewaste and aluminum cans in the main collection area (the tunnel). Collect ewaste at north end of building. This will reduce congestion in tunnel area.
- D) Institute a Flat Screen collection fee. \$2 each/ \$5/for 3. Special pricing for larger quantities.
- E) Increase shredding fee to \$0.30/lb.
- F) Investigate shearing books to upgrade pages from "mixed paper" (\$5 - \$20/ton) to "Office paper" (\$120/ton).
- G) Reduce hours of operation.
- H) Increase route sales fees.

Board members will work on developing these ideas and present their recommendations to the membership of SEKR at the Annual Meeting, currently scheduled for September 12.

Dr. Triplett stated that most of the cost saving solutions involve reducing services. He discussed the origins of the Solid Waste Committee and the purposes of the landfill. Dr. Triplett discussed the roles that the Solid Waste Committee and the Recycling Center fill in providing some services that the county is required by statute to provide including Household Hazardous Waste services and E-Waste disposal services. Dr. Waltrip stated that Mr. Jerry Babock, Operations Manager, was present to answer any questions. Commissioner Blair was answered the that the Styrofoam recycling operation did included labor costs. Mr. Blair was answered that they could probably charge more for their services but they try to be a good partner for local governments and businesses. Mr. Triplett discussed the transfer station permit that the county holds for the recycling center and stated that WCA has been a good partner with the center. Dr. Triplett stated that the next payroll is \$6,000 and they have only \$4,000 in bank and if they cannot cover payroll their operations will be shut down. Commissioner Moody stated that he likes some of the ideas that are being discussed. Dr. Triplett would like a face to face meeting with the owners of the landfill and the local trash haulers called by the county. Mr. Moody agreed and felt that they need to schedule a meeting within the next week or two. There was a discussion of the possibility of volunteer contributions vs non-volunteer contributions to

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

the recycling center. Mr. Moody felt that they can get some better ideas when they meet with the haulers. Mr. Moody stated he would like the center to be represented in the meeting with the haulers. The Commissioners will discuss a quick fix to help and will check into where the county can come up with funds to help out on a short term basis. Dr. Triplett discussed what the City of Pittsburg does to help the landfill. Mr. Moody also suggested speaking with all the cities and Dr. Triplett stated that the facility is a regional facility.

Ms. Sara Chenowith, City of Pittsburg Commissioner, wished to address the Commissioners. Ms. Chenowith stated that she is also co-owner of Pittsburg Recycles, LLC, which provides curbside recycling services. Ms. Chenowith stated that their company has expanded and is purchasing a building in Pittsburg and none of that would be possible without the recycling center. She felt that the government should be willing to own this asset and help to fund it for the public good and through her conversations with other Pittsburg city officials she feels that the City of Pittsburg will help to keep the recycling center open.

There was a discussion of how to provide funding to help keep the recycling center operation open. Dr. Triplett pointed out that less than 10% of the trash going into the landfill comes from inside the county and that by using a fee at the landfill, most of the funds would be paid for by trash that comes from outside the county. There was a discussion of the finances of the recycling center and the best way to help. Commissioner Johnson was answered that if they could purchase the foam densifier today, it would probably be a few months before it was fully operational and before the state grant funds would be reimbursed to the recycling center. Commissioner Moody was answered that Pittsburg Recycles charges customers a monthly fee to pick up their recyclable materials at the curbside.

There was a discussion of the foam densifier and that the operation of that equipment could provide a positive cash flow to the recycling center, but that money from the purchase and operation of that equipment would not help with meeting payroll in the next couple of weeks. The Commissioners discussed making a lump sum contribution to the recycling center to help with operations expenses in the immediate future and helping with the purchase of the foam densifier as a separate item. Commissioner Blair was concerned that without additional fund raising, the recycling center would be back in the same position in a few months and Commissioner Moody expressed his hope that the county could have a new landfill agreement negotiated in a few months and that steady funding for the recycling center will be part of that new agreement. Commissioner Johnson added that as they try to obtain steady funding for the recycling center, they can put some terms in place to monitor and advise the recycling center board. There was also a discussion of how to structure the funding for the foam densifier.

On motion (19-246) of Commissioner Johnson and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve a lump sum contribution of \$10,000 to the SEK Recycling Center.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

The motion prevailed.

On motion (19-247) of Commissioner Johnson and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve a payment \$19,500 for a foam densifier for the SEK Recycling Center and the County be reimbursed from the KDHE grant proceeds in the amount of \$14,500.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

Item One: Mr. Larry Brunetti, Crawford County Maintenance Dept., addressed the Commissioners and stated that he has worked for the County for a long time. He gave some information on his background and informed the Commissioners of his education and the different departments he has worked for in the County. He explained that he is now and has been for 6 years working for the county at the Crawford County Judicial Center in Pittsburg. He thanked the Commissioners for the new chillers that were installed in that building. He stated that there are many other problems with the building both mechanically and aesthetically and he discussed these issues. Mr. Brunetti stated that his job at the building is not just janitorial but also includes maintenance. He stated he is requesting a work session with the Commissioners at the Judicial Center building so he can make the Commissioners aware of the many issues with the building and the equipment he needs to perform his job. Commissioner Moody thanked Mr. Brunetti for coming and stated that he appreciates Mr. Brunetti's hard work and concern for the building. Mr. Brunetti stated that if an employee in the building is unhappy, he is the one they come to. Commissioner Moody stated that if anyone is unhappy or has an issue, they should go to Maintenance Supervisor Robert Gorentz and not to Mr. Brunetti. Commissioner Moody stated that he realizes that there is work needed on the building but there is also work needed on all 31 buildings the county owns. Mr. Robert Gorentz, Maintenance Supervisor explained what has been done to that building over the last couple of years and the approximate cost. Mr. Brunetti discussed the condition of the parking lot and the weeds that are in the parking lot. The Commissioners discussed having a facility plan for the Judicial Center Building and the other county buildings. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Brunetti for his care and concern.

Mr. Johnson discussed prioritizing the needs of the buildings owned by the county. Mr. Gorentz stated that several preventative maintenance measures have been performed at some buildings. Commissioner Moody stated that it also comes down to wants and needs. Mr. Johnson discussed each department in each building compiling a list of needs for their buildings. Mr. Gorentz stated some departments are easy to work with and some are more difficult. He stated that weather is a big issue. He said that his staff works very hard and he tries to prioritize the necessities. Mr. Johnson feels a list could also help in budgeting for the county. Commissioner Moody stated that he appreciates Mr. Gorentz and his staff for their hard work and also Mr. Brunetti for taking pride in his building.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Item Two: Mr. James Cooper addressed Commissions and asked about the Jayhawk Wind project. Mr. Emerson stated that we have not been formally approached by any wind company and believes it is mainly in Neosho County. He stated that the county does not know where we stand as we have not seen any proposals. Mr. Blair stated that he believes the companies work on leases first and he has not received any negative feedback from citizens in the northern part of the county. Mr. Cooper stated that he can give unbiased information on these proposed projects and offered his services for free to the county. Mr. Pyle gave Mr. Cooper his contact information and asked him to contact him if he needs anything or if he hears anything about these proposed projects.

MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD NEW BUSINESS

Item One: County Counselor Jim Emerson presented appointments to the Crawford County Fire District # 4 Board. Mr. Emerson stated that he attended a Fire District #4 Board Meeting on Tuesday night and went through some budget information with them. He stated that they discussed reserve funds and he told them how important reserve funds are. He said that he was asked about a board member appointment and it was discovered that none of the current board members have been appointed by the Commissioners. He explained that he would like for the Commissioners to appoint all 7 board members. Mr. Emerson stated that he is working with the district on their bylaws and they will work on terms for the members, but at this time the Commissioners just need to appoint the board members. He stated that they are trying to be sure they are in compliance with the bylaws and to have the Commissioners appoint their board members will help.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

FIRE DISTRICT CRAWFORD COUNTY #4

BOARD MEETING

July 9, 2019

BOARD MEMBERS:

Bob Behrend, Board President - Present
Dave Garrett, Vice President - Present
Tyler Jackman – Present
Paul Norris – Present
Kristie Murdock – Present
Joey Adams, Fire Chief - Present
Sherry Cirillo, Board Secretary – Present

Guests: Captain Scottie Thomas, Firefighter Chris Childers

Paul made a motion to approve the minutes of the June Board Meeting. Dave 2nd the motion. Motion was passed and the minutes for the June 2019 Board meeting were approved.

Old Business:

Joey informed the Board that the compressor is installed and running. The cascade was hydrostat tested and filled. The old compressor was traded. The old SBA bottles were to be tested. The company that hydrostat tests the system was interested, so services were traded to have all tanks tested. Marty thought maybe he has some interested in the portable, and could possibility get \$1200 for it.

As of today, the department has not heard back on the Forestry Grant.

Discussed the mill levy. Joey visited with Don Pyle and District #4 is currently at a 5 and could go to a 7 without going to taxpayers. Districts #1 and #2 are already there. Baker runs more calls, but they are mostly accident calls. Arma is a combination of the city and rural. Based off of a \$100,000 home, it would raise it to \$11 for 1 mill and \$22 for 2 mills which would generate a \$20,000 increase in budget. We need to discuss as the 2020 budget is ready to submit. Question was asked from the Board why are the other Departments at 7 and we are at a 5. According to Baker Fire, a meeting was held for all Fire chiefs for the increase and there wasn't anyone representing District #4. The plan was for all Districts to go to 7.

Tyler asked about what the bank said. Craig at the bank will be able to do whatever we need to do. Dave will find out payoff of current note. Joey informed the Board that we are currently 6% under budget. We have \$18,500 in the capital equipment fund. Joey explained to the Board that if we stay where we are at, mill levy wise, and went in for a 50,000 truck, the Department should be okay, if no major breakdowns. We do have fire hose needing replaced at this time. We have also added another firefighter and we are running out of bunker gear. Hoping to get a grant for that through the KSAA, not sure when it will open, only for new members of the department.

The only other thing to look at is those in the ISO rating and if we don't get the rating, those taxpayers will pay more than the \$11.00 per year. We would lose our 7 at this point as we don't have a back up engine. The Board asked the process on raising the mill levy. Joey informed them that if board decides to seek the 2 mills, a hearing is set up and chief goes before work session and explain why we want to increase. Question the commissioners would ask would be "What will the department " The department would explain that new revenue generated would be for equipment/engine. Equipment fund plus the 20,000, maybe 30,000 note for a truck. Bunker gear is \$1800 per firefighter; nozzles; fire hose, SBA testing, every 6 months; ladder testing. It is going to take 50,000 – 60,000 to buy an engine to last

On motion (19-248) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to the approve the appointments of Bob Behrend, Dave Garrett, Tyler Jackman, Paul Norris, Kristie Murdock, Joey Adams and Sherry Cirillo to the Crawford County Fire District #4 Board.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

UNDER THE HEADING OLD BUSINESS

Item One: Commissioner Blair addressed the purchase of motorgraders and presented some information from Mr. Archie Moffet with Foley Equipment. Mr. Blair gave them each a summary and prices for 3 2019 Caterpillar Motorgraders. Commissioner Blair stated that there are 2 options and he recommends option 1. He stated that he feels we need to keep one of the old graders as a backup and Commissioner Moody agreed. The Commissioners agreed to have Mr. Hite obtain a quote and contract and Mr. Emerson will look into lease purchase funding.



8-16-2019

Crawford County
Commission

Summary for Motorgraders

2019 model Caterpillar 120 standard drive	\$227,248.00 each	x 3 =	\$ 681,744
Caterpillar 120 all wheel drive	\$257,248 each	x 3 =	\$ 771,744
60 month / 7500 hour warranty included			
Trade in units inspected value	\$35,000 each	x 2 =	\$ 70,000

4xm02126
4xm02375
4xm01974

Thank You
Archie Moffet
620-496-8068

Item Two: Commissioner Blair discussed a strategic plan for the roads and would like to put one in place after the asphalt work is done. The Commissioners discussed the asphalt work and chip and seal work starting. Commissioner Blair discussed making the landowners aware of the work being done on their roads and Mr. Emerson stated that Road and Bridge Coordinator Alyssa Edwards will be sending out letters to the landowners letting them know when the work on their road will be taking place.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item One: County Counselor Jim Emerson requested an executive session for 10 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

On motion (19-249) 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 10 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 12:04 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 11:54 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 12:04 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: August 20, 2019 – 9:00 AM Work Session with Mr. Mac Young, District Court Administrator, and Ms. Tracy Harris, Community Corrections Officer, regarding Health Insurance Benefits for Community Corrections employees.

Item Two: August 20, 2019 – 10:00 AM Public Hearing on the Crawford County 2020 Budget.

Item Three: August 20, 2019 – 10:00 AM Public Hearing on the Crawford County Fire District #1, Fire District #2, Fire District #3 and Fire District #4 2020 Budgets.

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 [August 16, 2019](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 12:06 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.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Don Pyle
County Clerk

◊

This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.
[Taken BKW 8/16/19 12:06 PM/amended BKW 8/19/17 1:00 PM](#)