

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners’ Journal

2020, NINETY-FIFTH MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS’ BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS, Friday, December 11, 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 Jeremy Johnson served as the presiding officer.

Commissioner Tom Moody was in attendance.

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

Vice-Chairman Johnson led the pledge of allegiance.

**UNDER THE HEADING BUSINESS FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING
CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion (20-493) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Johnson that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the December 8, 2020 minutes of the Board of County Commissioners, and
2. Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week’s vouchers.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Blair

The motion prevailed and the consent agenda was approved.

SIGNING OF MOTIONS

The County Clerk presented the following motions for Commissioners’ signatures:

Motion 20	482	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the December 4, 2020 minutes
Motion 20	483	To approve the Emergency Shelter Grant CV2 Application and authorize the Chairman to sign
Motion 20	484	To approve the Motion of Recommendation for a sub-division to be known as “First Replat of Trowbridge Estates Second Addition” and to rezone the property from Agricultural to Rural Residential as recommended by the Crawford County Zoning and Planning Board
Motion 20	485	To approve the November 2020 Clerk’s Report as presented

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Motion 20	486	To make it known that the board hereby issues a license to “sell at retail”, cereal malt beverages from the place of business as shown in the application APPLICANT: Anthony Pichler “Pichler’s Chicken Annie’s” PREMISES: 1271 S 220th St, Pittsburg KS 66762 (For sale in original and unopened containers and not for consumption on the premises) APPLICANT: Anthony Pichler “Pichler’s Chicken Annie’s” PREMISES: 1271 S 220th St, Pittsburg KS 66762 (For consumption on the premises) APPLICANT: Pete’s of Erie “Pete’s #1” PREMISES: 1100 W Highway 400, McCune, KS 66753 (For sale in original and unopened containers and not for consumption on the premises)
Motion 20	487	To adopt Resolution #2020-013, A Resolution Closing and Vacating Two Platted Alleys in the Western Coal & Mining Company’s Subdivision of the West Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 5, Township 29 South, Range 25 East, Crawford County, Kansas
Motion 20	488	To approve the agreement between Crawford County, Kansas and First Call of Kansas, Inc for transportation of bodies for medical examinations authorized by the County Coroner and authorize the Chairman to sign
Motion 20	489	To approve the publication for the 2020 Budget Amendment for Crawford County and to set a hearing date of December 22, 2020 at 10:00 AM
Motion 20	490	To approve the publication for the 2020 Budget Amendment for Crawford County Fire District #3 and to set a hearing date of December 22, 2020 at 10:00 AM
Motion 20	491	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 15 minutes to discuss the Noxious Weed Department under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 10:55 AM
Motion 20	492	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 10 minutes to discuss the County Barn under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 11:05 AM

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 a COVID-19 update. Dr. Stebbins, County Health Officer, and Dr. Bean, County Deputy Health Officer, were present to discuss the local trends for COVID19 while Michael Ehling, Health Department Administrator and Janis Goedeke, Health Department Director, were available via Zoom video link. The Gating Criteria for the current week was distributed to the commissioners and discussed. Dr. Bean stated that they both feel that school age children are still generally safer at school and the added benefits of school attendance make it better for most children to be at school in person. They discussed that there have only been a few cases of COVID19 spread that took place in the schools and that nearly all cases in school children can be traced directly to spread at home or in other contacts outside of the school. Dr. Stebbins

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gave a brief update on COVID vaccinations and stated that they expect to have some vaccine available for health care workers and first responders in the next couple of weeks. Dr. Stebbins also discussed an antibody infusion therapy that is now available locally that has helped several patients to show great improvements. It was discussed that testing is now available for anyone and that the state has a couple of free testing locations in the county that anyone can use. It was discussed that anyone can access more information at www.gogettested.com and they encourage anyone to use this testing service which will be available at least through December. There was a discussion of adding a couple of items to the gating criteria. There was also a discussion of the messaging to the public on information and how to keep it consistent. Ms. Janis Goedeke discussed how the EPI nurses work with the school personnel to funnel information back and forth to each other and that it is working well. Commissioner Johnson asked about the enforcement steps that are being taken. Dr. Stebbins discussed the work he has done with several of the large retailers in the county and he has been shown their plans for cleaning and safety and he is very pleased with nearly all of them. Samantha Garrett, County Public Information Officer (via Zoom) stated that a notice has been distributed widely via social media to provide businesses with a list of steps they need to take to be in compliance to protect workers and customers and she had received some feedback thanking her for the information. Jim Emerson, County Counselor, reviewed some of the enforcement measures and stated that warning notices had been sent out to several businesses in the last week that had not been in compliance with information on the expectations of the health officers and that they can be fined or closed if they continue to be out of compliance. Mr. Emerson stated that the system put in place should be easily maintained and they have worked with the county attorney and with local law enforcement. Dr. Stebbins stated that they have already worked directly with many local businesses and they will continue to work with any businesses that request it. Dr. Bean stated that a check by law enforcement will only happen after complaints are received, and that businesses will receive a couple of warning letters before they are cited. Mr. Emerson stated that their goal is not to have to cite or prosecute anyone and that all businesses will comply. He also stated that by keeping citizens as safe as possible it is hoped that more restrictions are not needed.

Mr. Roger Burns of Pittsburg had some questions for the County Health Officers and the commissioners. Mr. Burns asked if fever was the most prevalent symptom and Dr. Bean stated that it is not but it is a symptom that is easily detected and verified. Mr. Burns was answered that 65 and older is the age group with the most hospital admissions and deaths but that they have seen people from all age groups have to be hospitalized with severe conditions. Mr. Burns also asked if the restrictions on bars might not be called for since that age group would not be at high risk for severe sickness. Dr. Bean stated that that is correct but the fear is that those individuals will contract the virus at those locations and then unknowingly spread it to higher risk individuals at home or in other social contacts. Mr. Burns stated that he has helped in keeping the higher risk members of his family away from areas where they might contact the virus and he felt that if everyone would do this they would not need to have as many restrictions in place. Dr. Stebbins stated the comments that he has heard most often is that individuals will avoid businesses if the staff is not masked or if many customers are not mitigating properly because they do not feel safe in that business. Mr. Burns asked about the method of analyzing the test specimens and there was a discussion that the labs being used by county health facilities

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are using CDC approved methods and they feel that they are analyzing the test specimens appropriately. Mr. Burns stated that he is very concerned about the COVID vaccine and that it may alter the RNA and DNA of people taking the vaccine. Mr. Burns thanked the health officials for the job they are doing, but he is concerned that many health workers could become ill from the vaccine. They discussed that the vaccine is controversial because it has been developed so quickly, but they felt it had been already given to many people in tests and that the health care workers will be vaccinated in groups so that it would protect the health care systems. They also discussed other treatments that have been discussed as possible treatments but are not FDA approved. Dr. Stebbins discussed that they continue to learn more about this virus and that they have to be open to the new knowledge becoming available. Mr. Burns was concerned that people would be forced to take the vaccine by their employers or for other reasons and Dr. Stebbins stated that they cannot be required to take a vaccine that is only being administered under an Emergency Use Authorization. Dr. Stebbins felt that they cannot and will not force anyone to take this vaccine in Kansas. Mr. Burns thanked them for answering his questions.

On motion (20-494) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Johnson to recess the Commission Meeting for 5 minutes.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Blair

The motion prevailed.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Item One: Ms. Janis Goedeke, Health Department Director addressed the Commissioners with an update on the Health Department. She spoke about the new Thermascan machine at the security desk in the Courthouse that was provided by the Health Department and stated that it has a database. She said that the department will also be providing hand sanitizer for the Courthouse and will be sharing the sanitizer with the local hospitals. Ms. Goedeke stated that the department is gearing up for the immunization for COVID-19 and will be asking for assistance from the cities and possibly any retirees in the medical field that would like to help administer the vaccine. She stated she will be attending a webinar this afternoon to find out more information on the vaccine. She explained that the Crawford County Health Department has been approved as a provider of the vaccine and the department is ready on their end. She discussed the issue of the vaccine requiring dry ice and the availability of coolers. She discussed the mandate from the state for the vaccine.

MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS NEW BUSINESS

Item One: County Counselor Jim Emerson presenting Resolution #2020-014, A Resolution to accept and grant the proposed development to be known as "First Replat of

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Trowbridge Estate Second Addition” and to accept and grant the amendment of zoning from Agriculture to Suburban Residential for the proposed development. He stated that the Commissioner’s approved the Motion of Recommendation for the new subdivision that was presented by Zoning Administrator May Smith at Tuesday’s meeting. Mr. Emerson discussed conditional uses and changing the classification use of the property.

On motion (20-495) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Johnson to adopt Resolution #2020-014, A Resolution to accept and grant the proposed development to be known as “First Replat of Trowbridge Estate Second Addition” and to accept and grant the amendment of zoning from Agriculture to Suburban Residential for the proposed development.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Blair

The motion prevailed.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson presented Resolution #2020-015, A Resolution Exempting Crawford County, Kansas from Using Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) in the Preparation of its Financial Statements and Reports. Mr. Emerson explained the reason this Resolution is needed.

On motion (20-496) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Johnson to adopt Resolution #2020-015, A Resolution Exempting Crawford County, Kansas from Using Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) in the Preparation of its Financial Statements and Reports.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Blair

The motion prevailed.

Item Three: Mr. Emerson presented a proposed Memorandum Agreement between City of Cherokee, Firemen’s Relief Association of Cherokee, Kansas, Board of County Commissioners of Crawford County, Kansas and Crawford County Fire District No. 4. Mr. Emerson went through and explained the Agreement with the Commissioners. He stated that the City of Cherokee has approved the agreement and Crawford County Fire District No. 4 will be addressing the Agreement at their next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Item One: County Clerk Don Pyle stated that Administrator of Health, Mental Health and Juvenile Services Michael Ehling gave him an annual report for Community Mental Health Services. Mr. Pyle stated that Mr. Ehling will be attending the meeting on Tuesday to discuss this with the Commissioners.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson stated that yesterday the December reporting was sent in for the Spark Funding which was November expenses. He stated that Director of Fiscal Services

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Randi Ryan is working on getting the last of the county spending. He stated that Greenbush would like to have everything wrapped up by the end of this month.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: December 15, 2020 – 8:30 AM Work Session to review and sign December mid-month bills and payroll vouchers.

Item Two: December 15, 2020 – Devin Gorman, Executive Director Crawford County Convention & Visitor's Bureau and Blake Benson, Executive Director Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce regarding CVB – Chamber Contract.

Item Three: December 15, 2020 – Michael Ehling, Executive Director of Community Mental Health Center of Crawford County regarding CMHCCC Operations.

Item Four: December 22, 2020 – 10:00 AM Public Hearing on 2020 Crawford County Budget Amendment.

Item Five: December 22, 2020 – 10:00 AM Public Hearing of 2020 Crawford County Fire District #3 Budget Amendment.

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 [December 11, 2020](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:55 AM and to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled time with open doors.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Blair

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 12/11/2020 11:55 AM/amended BKW 11/14/2020 4:30 PM](#)