

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2024, [FOURTEENTH](#) MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. **Tuesday, February 20, 2024 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 Carl Wood served as the presiding officer.

Commissioners Bruce Blair and Tom Moody were in attendance.

County Clerk Lisa Lusker and County Counselor Jim Emerson were seated with the Board.

Chairman Wood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

UNDER THE HEADING BUSINESS FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING CONSENT AGENDA

On motion (24-096) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **February 16, 2024** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners.

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 24	88	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the February 13, 2024 minutes and Approval of the accounts payable warrant numbers 627545 to 627801 dated February 15, 2024 in the total amount of \$1,013,807.45
Motion 24	89	To approve payment of 1/3 of the costs for a storm siren for the City of Cherokee
Motion 24	90	To approve the re-appointment of Ms. Marilyn VonSoosten as the County Appointee of Crawford County on the Board of the Southeast Kansas Library System with a term from April 2024 to April 2025
Motion 24	91	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

		period of not more than 20 minutes to discuss matters relating to the security of a public body or agency, public building or facility or the information system of a public body or agency, if the discussion of such matters at an open meeting would jeopardize the security of such public body, agency, building, facility, or information system to discuss cyber insurance and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, and IT Director Brandon Spaur and to reconvene by 10:38 AM
Motion 24	92	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 County Projects and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 11:03 AM
Motion 24	93	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 Solid Waste Plan and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 11:15 AM
Motion 24	94	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 the Noxious Weed Department Reports and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, and Noxious Weed Director Tommy Scales and to reconvene by 11:36 AM
Motion 24	95	To approve the Noxious Weed 2024 Management Plan and the Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report for 2023

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 ELECTED OFFICIALS

MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS

NEW BUSINESS

Item One: County Clerk Lisa Lusker mentioned that Fiscal Director Randi Ryan has requested a 15-minute work session to discuss ARPA funding on Friday, February 23, 2024. The work session was set for 9:45 AM on February 23, 2024.

Item Two: County Counselor Jim Emerson brought up the County Commissioners Association that will be hosting their spring conference in Crawford County on April 16th through April 18th. Mr. Emerson stated Dave Looby with Explore Crawford County has put in request to have one of the Commissioners help with the welcoming of these guests to Crawford County. He mentioned the Mayor of Pittsburg will be at the welcoming as well. Commissioner Wood volunteered to attend and Mr. Emerson said he would inform Mr. Looby of this. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Emerson if Mr. Looby has reached out to the Association of County Commissioners to get information on if they would like

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

them to do any scheduling or planning and Mr. Emerson stated Mr. Looby has been in communication with the association and are working together.

Item Three: Commissioner Wood mentioned seven parcels that need to go out for bid for mowing and Mr. Emerson mentioned he has the paper work in his office for a proposal and he can grab it and present it under old business.

OLD BUSINESS

Item One: Mr. Emerson gave an update on the grant proposal including the county, the City of Pittsburg, and the City of Frontenac. He mentioned the City of Frontenac will be meeting tonight to discuss the grant proposal to improving Atkinson and part of Free Kings Highway. Mr. Emerson said Mr. Jay Byers with the City of Pittsburg would like the county to consider a letter of support. Commissioner Wood asked if their deadline for this information regarding the grant proposal is still set for February 28th and Mr. Emerson confirmed that yes, it is. Commissioner Moody asked if they are able to decide on Friday February 23rd and Mr. Emerson stated Friday would be fine and that next Tuesday would probably be too late to decide. Commissioner Moody asked Mr. Emerson to reach out to the City of Frontenac to reiterate they would like to have an answer in tonight's city meeting.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson wanted to clarify that the county's current zoning map will be posted today. He believes there was miscommunication on social media when asked if there were any proposed maps as far as additional zoning boundaries for the county and he reiterated that there are not any proposed maps. He mentioned public hearings and public input will be allowed before anything like that takes place. Mr. Emerson said he spoke with Zoning Administrator May Smith and that Ms. Smith mentioned she has received some feedback and is saving it for the Commissioners. Commissioner Wood mentioned he had a few people contact him and that he explained they are not wanting to do anymore zoning, and when asked if they want to do county wide zoning Commissioner Wood explained if the people of Crawford County want that or if the people do not want it will be the deciding factor. Commissioner Moody stated that is exactly the purpose of the meeting and receiving public feedback.

Item Three: Commissioner Wood asked if Mr. Emerson had received any more information on the Senate Bill 162 and Mr. Emerson replied he had not and he plans on calling today. Mr. Emerson said turn around will be next week. Commissioner Wood asked if because the Bill is in the Senate now if it will be weeded out on turn around. Mr. Emerson stated the Senate typically has one or two days where they will go through several of the bills. ‘

Item Four: Commissioner Blair said he would like to some time bring Foreman Josh Peak in to see where they are at on equipment for this year and the rotation, and also do a work session depending on Mr. Peak's availability. Commissioner Wood said he knows they have been discussing two shoulder mowers and that Commissioner Blair provided him with a couple of brochures for this and he wants to look at those but that he has been dealing with someone in Iowa about a lowboy trailer because he cannot find a used one. Commissioner Wood said he is hopeful to look at a trailer soon. Commissioner Moody asked Commissioner Wood to keep them informed on the trailer.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Item Five: Mr. Emerson provided the Commissioners with the bid packet they discussed earlier in the meeting. He mentioned the contracts are drafted up as two-year contracts starting January 1st, 2024 through December 31st, 2025. He explained that bid opening would be March 15th. Mr. Emerson mentioned they will start at the specs portion and the tough conversation he wants to have is that insurance amount is at \$100,000. He also did not want to eliminate some of the smaller providers from bidding. Commissioner Moody mentioned most general liability insurance starts at \$100,000,000. Mr. Emerson said that was just one discussion point he wanted Commissioners opinions on. Commissioner Moody said he believes they need at least general liability insurance and that he will raise it if they deem it necessary. Commissioner Moody mentions one of the only things that worries him is if say they throw a rock and it hits somebody and causes a personal injury. He mentioned \$100,000 is enough to fix a vehicle but is it enough to fix a personal injury. Commissioner Wood said he does not believe they need the work compensation portion and Mr. Emerson stated that is up to the provider but that he can remove that from the contract. It was agreed to take out the worker's compensation and to just have general liability. Commissioner Moody is concerned if they do not raise the liability pricing and an accident does occur with the amount not being enough to cover injury that it could fall back on the county. It was agreed that they may need to raise the general liability insurance amount. Mr. Emerson brought their attention to another part of the contract including mowing height and that he would put whatever the Commissioners would like there but as of right now it is at no less than 3 inches and no more than 4 inches. Commissioner Wood said 3 inches is a nice cut. Mr. Emerson stated he also put in to have limbs removed. Bidding for lawn care will be taken for each location individually, and then Mr. Emerson said he also is accepting separate bids for leaf removal. It was put into the packet that the county will notify the bidder when they are looking to request for leaf removal to be done. Commissioner Wood asked if a specific number of mowings per year need to be included in this contract and Mr. Emerson said he can add that in if the Commissioners wanted to and that he will go back and look through several bills and make changes accordingly. Mr. Emerson said he will have another draft of this bid packet prepared and ready for Friday's open meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

On motion (24-097) of Commissioner Wood 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 Non-Elected Personnel to discuss Road and Bridge and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 10:33 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 10:23 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 10:32 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

OLD BUSINESS continued

Item Six: Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Emerson how they are doing with the updated Comprehensive Plan and Mr. Emerson explained he is working with Zoning Administrator May Smith to get some vendors information and then they will issue an RFP to obtain a vendor for this.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: February 23, 2024 – 9:45 AM Work session with Fiscal Director Randi Ryan in regards to ARPA funding.

Item Two: February 27, 2024 – Large Childcare ARPA update.

Item Three: March 1, 2024 – 10:00 AM Public hearing on Solid Waste Plan 5-year update.

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 [February 20, 2024](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 10:34 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.

Lisa Lusker
County Clerk

◇

This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.

[Taken RJA 2/21/24 2:30 PM](#)