

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2025, **FIFTY-NINTH** MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. **Friday, August 22, 2025 at 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 Bruce Blair and Carl Wood were in attendance.

County Clerk Lisa Lusker 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 (25-331) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **August 19, 2025** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners, and
2. Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Blair, and Moody

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 25	326	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the August 15, 2025 minutes
Motion 25	327	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss individual employees job performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the individual employees. The County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, and Communications Director Tim Mikrut attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 10:19 AM. The Motion passed 3-0

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Motion 25	328	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 20 minutes to discuss individual employees job performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the individual employees. The County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, and Emergency Manager Quinton Parsons attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 10:34 AM. The Motion passed 3-0
Motion 25	329	To approve the ARPA drawdown request for August 2025
Motion 25	330	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss personnel matters pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the individual employees. The County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:03 AM. The Motion passed 3-0

UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS

Item One: Public Hearing on the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2026 Crawford County Budget. Mr. Emerson explained the Revenue Neutral Rate and the budget hearing process.

On motion (25-332) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood to open the Public Hearing on the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2026 Crawford County Budget.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Wood, and Moody

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Mr. Orlando Bevilacqua addressed the Commissioners. He stated he cannot speak for everyone but that he has had three property tax increases in three of the four years he has lived in his house. Commissioner Moody stated he is happy to see people here at this meeting to give their opinion and ask questions. Mr. Bevilacqua stated he understands cost of things increasing but that he just wants to know how this can be fixed. County Counselor Jim Emerson stated his valuation is part of this situation and that there are two opportunities to protest the value and explained. Mr. Emerson also explained why values are increasing and the State of Kansas stating our county's values have been too low and out of compliance with State statute. Mr. Bevilacqua asked how often the values are raised and Mr. Emerson stated that the values are looked at every year and that the county is finally in compliance with State statute. Commissioner Wood discussed assessed appraised value and mill levy. Mr. Bert Patrick addressed the Commissioners. He stated he is attempting to get educated and would like further explanation of the State requirement on valuations. He also asked how the state determines these requirements and Mr. Emerson explained. Mr. Patrick asked what the consequences are for a county not in compliance whether valuation is too low or too high and Mr. Emerson explained

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eventually the State could come in and run the Appraiser's office and it would increase values. Mr. Patrick asked how County Appraiser is chosen and how someone qualifies to become an appraiser and Mr. Emerson explained. Mr. Patrick asked about the training an appraiser goes through to be certified and Commissioner Moody explained it is a lengthy process and Mr. Emerson explained some of the process. Mr. Patrick asked what criteria an appraiser uses and Mr. Emerson explained. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Emerson about appraisal every 6 years and Mr. Emerson explained they remeasure every 6 years and every year they are required to place a value on the property. Mr. Emerson encouraged Mr. Patrick to visit with the County Appraiser on the first floor. Commissioner Wood discussed Pittsburg's tax breakdown. Mr. Edward Collins addressed the Commissioners. He mentioned he believes the State needs to quit taxing people so much. He stated he tries to keep his houses nice but that his taxes just continue increasing. Ms. Kristen Collins addressed the Commissioners and stated the differences in their taxes and the difference in size and acres of their house and property in Girard. Mr. Emerson she is paying more because she is located in the City of Girard and Mr. Collins is not located within city limits. Ms. Collins asked if the money does not go in the counties pockets where does it go and Mr. Emerson explained it is all the entities listed on the RNR mailer that was sent out. Ms. Collins asked what the city does with their part and she was encouraged to attend the City of Girard's meeting. Ms. Collins asked about appealing taxes and value and stated she did that but that it just went up again the next year. Ms. Collins asked who she would go to about seeing if her boundaries of her property are correct and she was answered that for assessment she needs to go to the Appraiser's office but that boundaries would be done by a surveyor. Mr. Collins stated his neighbor moved his property line from the original survey and Mr. Emerson explained the county does not really deal with boundary line issues but that he would have to begin with a survey and then go to court. Mr. Dennis Lynn addressed the Commissioners. He mentioned he moved back here 10 years ago from Oklahoma and asked why Kansas is so much higher on taxes than surrounding states. He stated his property taxes have doubled in 10 years and discussed car tags being expensive as well. Commissioner Wood asked where Oklahoma receives their money to lower their taxes and Mr. Lynn asked how Kansas keeps people in the state with their high taxes. Mr. Lynn stated he has learned a lot but still does not understand why his is so high and Commissioner Wood asked him to clarify if he is talking about his assessed appraised value or his taxes and he answered his taxes. Mr. Lynn stated his valuation has gone up \$10,000 in the last year and Commissioner Moody asked if he thinks that is too high and Mr. Lynn confirmed. Mr. Bert Patrick addressed the Commissioners again and he asked where the money is spent in the county. Commissioner Moody listed areas that the money is spent and explained those are the largest areas. Commissioner Moody explained the county has lowered the mill levy the last several years.

On motion (25-333) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to close the Public Hearing on the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2026 Crawford County Budget.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

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Commissioner Wood asked if once this is publicized can they go back and lower and Mr. Emerson explained this is the final meeting on the budget. Mr. Dennis Lynn addressed the Commissioners again asking about the county lowering the mill levy for several years and Commissioner Wood explained the difference over the years. County Clerk Lisa Lusker presented Resolution #2025-026, a Resolution of the County of Crawford, Kansas to levy a property tax rate exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate.

On motion (25-334) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to adopt Resolution #2025-026, a Resolution of the County of Crawford, Kansas to levy a property tax rate exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate.

On a Roll Call vote.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Two: Public Hearing on the 2026 Crawford County Budget.

On motion (25-335) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to open the Public Hearing on the 2026 Crawford County Budget.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

There was no public comment.

On motion (25-336) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to close to Public Hearing on the 2026 Crawford County Budget.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

On motion (25-337) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the 2026 Crawford County Budget.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Three: Public Hearing on the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2026 Crawford County Fire District #1.

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On motion (25-338) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to open the Public Hearing on the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2026 Crawford County Fire District #1.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

There was no public comment.

On motion (25-339) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to close the Public Hearing on the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2026 Crawford County Fire District #1.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Ms. Lusker presented Resolution #2025-027, a Resolution of the County of Crawford, Kansas to levy a property tax rate exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate for Crawford County Fire District #1.

On motion (25-340) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to adopt Resolution #2025-027, a Resolution of the County of Crawford, Kansas to levy a property tax rate exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate for Crawford County Fire District #1.

On a Roll Call vote.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Four: Public Hearing on the 2026 Crawford County Fire District #1 Budget.

On motion (25-341) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to open the Public Hearing on the 2026 Crawford County Fire District #1 Budget.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

There was no public comment.

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On motion (25-342) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to close the Public Hearing on the 2026 Crawford County Fire District #1 Budget.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

On motion (25-343) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the 2026 Crawford County Fire District #1 Budget.

On a Roll Call vote.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Five: Public Hearing on the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2026 Crawford County Fire District #2.

On motion (25-344) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to open the Public Hearing on the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2026 Crawford County Fire District #2.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

There was no public comment.

On motion (25-345) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to close the Public Hearing on the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2026 Crawford County Fire Districts #2.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Ms. Lusker presented Resolution #2025-028, a Resolution of the County of Crawford, Kansas to levy a property tax rate exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate for Crawford County Fire District #2.

On motion (25-346) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to adopt Resolution #2025-028, a Resolution of the County of Crawford, Kansas to levy a property tax rate exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate for Crawford County Fire District #2.

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On a Roll Call vote.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Six: Public Hearing for the 2026 Crawford County Fire District #2 Budget.

On motion (25-347) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to open the Public Hearing on the 2026 Crawford County Fire District #2 Budget.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

There was no public comment.

On motion (25-348) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to close the Public Hearing for the 2026 Crawford County Fire District #2 Budget.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

On motion (25-349) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the 2026 Crawford County Fire District #2 Budget.

On a Roll Call vote.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Seven: Public Hearing on the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2026 Crawford County Fire District #3.

On motion (25-350) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to open the Public Hearing on the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2026 Crawford County Fire District #3.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

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There was no public comment.

On motion (25-351) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to close the Public Hearing on the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2026 Crawford County Fire Districts #3.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Ms. Lusker presented Resolution #2025-029, a Resolution of the County of Crawford, Kansas to levy a property tax rate exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate for Crawford County Fire District #3.

On motion (25-352) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to adopt Resolution #2025-029, a Resolution of the County of Crawford, Kansas to levy a property tax rate exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate for Crawford County Fire District #3.

On a Roll Call vote.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Eight: Public Hearing on the 2026 Crawford County Fire District #3 Budget.

On motion (25-353) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to open the Public Hearing on the 2026 Crawford County Fire District #3 Budget.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

There was no public comment.

On motion (25-354) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to close the Public Hearing for the 2026 Crawford County Fire District #3 Budget.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

On motion (25-355) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the 2026 Crawford County Fire District #3 Budget.

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Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Item One: Road and Bridge Coordinator Alyssa Edwards addressed the Commissioners. She stated they have been working with KDOT on a bridge over by Hepler. She explained KDOT sent out bids on the project and the low bid was from B&P in the total amount of \$45,394.00 which falls under the amount KDOT would pay out on a project making the County's portion zero dollars. Ms. Edwards explained it just needs approved and signed so she can send it back to KDOT. Commissioner Wood asked if there is a listed amount of days they have to get this project done and Ms. Edwards stated she has not seen a contract yet. Commissioner Blair stated as long as it does not run into the county having to spend more money on this project, he believes people will adapt to the construction better in that area than one of higher traffic. Ms. Edwards stated she does not believe they have figured out the number of working days for this project yet. Commissioner Wood asked how quickly this needs to be signed and Ms. Edwards answered September 9th. Commissioner Wood asked if she could ask them if there is a reason why they cannot list an amount of working days and Ms. Edwards stated she can ask those questions and address this again with the Commissioners. Commissioner Blair asked how good the bid numbers are for and Ms. Edwards stated they have to have it signed and sent over before the 12th of September.

MESSAGES FROM CRAWFORD CO LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH

MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

NEW BUSINESS

Item One: County Clerk Lisa Lusker presented an application for a 2025 Cereal Malt Beverage License for Stephen Hipfl "Ol Yale Farms", to allow them to sell cereal malt beverages for consumption on the premises. Mr. Lusker stated that notices have been sent to the Sheriff, Zoning Administrator, County Attorney, and the Township Clerk and there were no objections to the licenses.

On motion (25-356) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to make it known that the matter of issuing a license to the applicant(s) listed below was discussed and considered by the Board, and there being no objection filed as provided by law and the Board knowing of no reason why a license should not be issued, the board hereby issues a license to "sell at retail", cereal malt beverages in broken case lots from the place of business as shown in the application as designated and described on the application as herein before set out, and that the County Clerk be hereby authorized and directed to execute the proper license which shall be signed by the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners and the County Clerk of Crawford County, Kansas.

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2025 Cereal Malt Beverage Licenses

APPLICANT: Stephen Hipfl “Ol Yale Farms”
PREMISES: 306 S 250th St, Pittsburg, KS 66762
(For consumption on the premises)

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson explained today is the deadline to turn in surveys. He explained he reached out to Mr. Joshua Albin and that he is available on September 16th or September 19th to come and discuss with the Commissioners. Commissioners agreed with either date and Mr. Emerson stated he will get him set up on one of those dates and get back to the Commissioners.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

On motion (25-357) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss individual employees job performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the individual employees. The County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:17 AM. The Motion passed 3-0.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:02 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:10 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

Item Three: Commissioner Blair discussed 18 wheeler traffic on Gooding road and 160th as well and stated he will discuss with Sheriff Tomasi regarding this. His main concern is that the road is not really wide enough and trucks should not be on this road. Commissioner Wood asked if their farming trucks and Commissioner Blair stated he does not believe so.

Item Four: Commissioner Blair stated he discussed with Noxious Weeds Director Tommy Scales about haying the landfill and that it can be done. He stated Mr. Scales

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would like to see it done before the new inspector shows up to look at the landfill. Commissioner Blair stated the individual who would have the property stated if there is an area that cannot be done due to woody vegetation then they can brush hog that area. The Commissioners agreed on this.

Item Five: Commissioner Blair discussed the parking lot at the Courthouse and finding out when the optimal time to crack seal this would be. He mentioned finding if anyone from the crews would want to do it on a Saturday.

Item Six: Commissioner Blair stated they looked at the area where the building will be for the Clerk's office and that it was brought up that maybe seeing if CTEC would be interested in building something like this for the county. He stated it is just an idea or they could still go out for bid. Commissioner Moody asked Commissioner Wood if he could reach out to CTEC regarding this and he stated he could.

OLD BUSINESS EXECUTIVE SESSION CONTINUED

Item Two: County Counselor Jim Emerson requested an executive session for 20 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (25-358) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 20 minutes to discuss individual employees job performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the individual employees. The County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, and Coby Hinton attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:39 AM. The Motion passed 3-0. Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:19 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:33 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

Item Three: Commissioner Moody requested an executive session for 25 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (25-359) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 25 minutes to discuss employees pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the individual employees. The County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:58 AM. The Motion passed 3-0.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

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Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:33 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:57 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

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

On motion (25-360) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss employees pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the individual employees. The County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, and Coby Hinton attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 12:13 PM. The Motion passed 3-0.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:58 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 12:10 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: September 02, 2025- Ms. Jasmine Kyle with SEK Humane Society addressing financial assistance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

Item Seven: Commissioner Moody thanked the Commissioners, Ms. Lusker, and Mr. Emerson for their hard work in preparing the budget for today's hearing.

UNDER THE HEADING MOTION TO ADJOURN MOTION TO ADJOURN

Item One: Adjournment

On the motion of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Blair to adjourn the [August 22, 2025](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 12:11 PM and to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled time with open doors.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Blair, and Moody

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

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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

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This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.

[Taken RJA 08/25/2025 11:35 AM/amended BKW 08/25/25 12:30 PM](#)