

# Board of Crawford County Commissioners

## Commissioners' Journal

2025, **EIGHTY-SEVENTH** MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM  
Girard, KS. **Tuesday, December 16, 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.

Commissioner 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 (25-505)** of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **December 12, 2025** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners, and
2. Approval of the accounts payable warrant numbers 642163 to 642429 dated December 15, 2025 in the total amount of \$418,865.14.

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	497	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the December 05, 2025 minutes, and Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers
Motion 25	498	To open the Public Hearing on Vacating a portion of county road located between Sections 14 and 23, Township 28 South, Range 25 East, Crawford County, Kansas
Motion 25	499	To close the Public Hearing on Vacating a portion of county road located between Sections 14 and 23, Township 28 South, Range 25 East, Crawford County, Kansas

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Motion 25	500	To adopt Resolution #2025-036, a Resolution closing and vacating a certain road in Lincoln Township, Crawford County, Kansas
Motion 25	501	To adopt Resolution #2025-034, a Resolution extending a moratorium and providing for the suspension of certain types of improvements on any land within the unincorporated area of Crawford County; and directing that potential land development regulations be developed
Motion 25	502	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss CVB 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 10:47 AM. The Motion passed 3-0
Motion 25	503	To recess this open meeting and to go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss legal advice regarding nuisances which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), with the County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson present. The open meeting will resume at 10:57 A.M. The motion passed 3-0
Motion 25	504	To recess this open meeting and to go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss legal advice regarding communications which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), with the County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson present. The open meeting will resume at 11:13 A.M. The motion passed 3-0

### UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

#### PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD

#### PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS

#### MESSAGES FROM CRAWFORD CO LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH

#### MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

#### MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS

#### MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Item One:** County Counselor Jim Emerson requested an executive session for 5 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

**On motion (25-506)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 5 minutes to discuss CVB 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, CVB Director Dave Looby, and HR Partners John Dietrick attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 10:10 AM. The Motion passed 3-0.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

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Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 10:05 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 10:08 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

### MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

**Item One:** Mr. Roger Lomshek addressed the Commissioners. He stated the Commissioners may have received a call or two about property taxes this year as there have been quite a few questions about it. Mr. Lomshek provided the Commissioners with some information regarding property taxes. He explained this information. He stated the property of his friend in the Lincoln Park area increased by 10.30% in the county property tax and the friend located in Woodgate area increased 11.69%. Mr. Lomshek mentioned USD 250 tax is even worse in increase. Mr. Lomshek stated citizens were told that the county mill levy was going to decrease but that it actually was raised by a little over 2 mills. He stated he is afraid they are in a situation where they are making individuals pay more and more to make up for the properties that are coming off of the tax rolls and not generating tax revenue. He discussed the two tax statements he provided to the Commissioners. Mr. Lomshek stated the budget seemed to be built off of false numbers and asked if they are now going to make the taxpayers eat the difference or if they are going to go back through and make departments make cuts to their budgets in order to not hurt citizens as much. He quoted County Counselor Jim Emerson by saying he stated the county was down from what they had actually published in the paper. He stated he wants to ask the Commissioners to consider revising the budget and do some math to figure out what needs to be done. Mr. Lomshek stated his recommendation is to reduce the mill levy to 44. He mentioned that is a 2 point reduction from last year but will still result in the county bringing in a significant amount more than last year. Commissioner Wood discussed the raise in assessed/appraised value and the changes that can take place. Mr. Lomshek asked what the net income would be if the mill levy were at 44, 45, or 46 and that he believes it will only result in \$300,000 to \$400,000 decrease to what they had planned to bring in. He stated there is always something that can be trimmed in the budget and maybe 3% or 5% decrease in the different departments budgets. He stated this might mean the departments may not get the new truck they want this year, not upgrade to new cell phones this year, or a new laptop. He mentioned the other thing he asks the Commissioners is to consider working together and working with him to find someone to do a proper efficiency audit of the budget and reduce unnecessary expenditures. Commissioner Wood asked County Clerk Lisa Lusker how many properties they lost off the tax rolls in 2025 and Ms. Lusker answered. Mr. Lomshek asked if they had known all of the circumstances ahead of time and known they would have to raise the mill levy by 2 mills would they have gone back to all the departments and required cuts in budget and Commissioner Moody stated they work hard to keep the mill where it is at or lower. Commissioner Moody mentioned the county is looking at an 8% increase in insurance. Commissioner Wood stated this is the first time they have had a jump like this since he has been with the county. Commissioner Moody asked if Mr. Lomshek has historically looked at what the Commissioners do with the mill levy each

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year and Mr. Lomshek stated he has not yet had time to do this. Ms. Lusker explained the process once the final budget numbers are complete. Ms. Lusker stated she feels the Commissioners have been very responsible when setting budget numbers and Commissioner Moody stated they do truly scrutinize over these numbers. Ms. Lusker explained the mill levy. Mr. Lomshek stated since the burden gets shifted to the tax payers that is why he is asking that the Commissioners revisit the budgets and find some cuts to make to get it back to the old mill levy or lower. Commissioner Wood asked about timelines for this and Ms. Lusker explained. Mr. Lomshek discussed the requirement of budgets needing to be set before valuations are completed. Commissioner Wood discussed hearing of a similar situation while at the KAC Conference last week. Commissioner Blair discussed EMS and how they had struggles with availability of services. Commissioner Blair stated this is unfortunate how this has all played out. Commissioner Blair mentioned how people had turned to looking at wind and solar to offset their property taxes. Commissioner Moody asked Mr. Lomshek's thoughts on the wind and solar and Mr. Lomshek answered if something is a generator of income that will not negatively affect the people surrounding it then he thinks it is a great idea but then expressed his concerns with the solar farms. Commissioner Wood asked if they went back, looked at budgets, and cut where they can what would be their deadline and Ms. Lusker stated that is a question for herself or Treasurer Joe Grisolano and Ms. Lusker discussed the fact that tax statements have already been sent out. Mr. Lomshek stated every mill they change is going to roughly be \$190,000. He stated if they dropped the mill down to 46 they would have to roughly reduce the county's budget by \$380,000 and that none of this is going to be comfortable. He mentioned they hate to see any services get cut but they will have to figure out where the cuts will have the least impact. Commissioner Blair asked about the wind and solar data centers and Mr. Lomshek discussed the false claims from these companies. Commissioner Blair stated the only reason he asks this is because they discussed some of this at the KAC Conference. Mr. Lomshek asked about the taxable property at the wind farm in Hepler and Mr. Emerson explained. Mr. Lomshek discussed zoning the county and Commissioner Moody stated that in his time with the county they have attempted zoning two or three times. Mr. Lomshek discussed that Kansas is high in property taxes and that he had a friend move to Oklahoma and stated their property tax is maybe a third of what it is here. Commissioner Blair stated he has heard the medical marijuana situation in Missouri and Oklahoma has contributed to the lowered property taxes in those states. Mr. Lomshek mentioned he has talked with County Appraiser Zach Edwards and that the question was asked if people are upset with valuations or are they upset with property taxes and Mr. Lomshek stated everybody wants their house to be worth more but they want taxes to be lower. Ms. Lusker stated if the county uses the mill rate that was advertised the county would lose \$606,260 in tax revenue and they would have to cut that much out of the budget and this is not including departments that have gone over budget. Commissioner Blair explained that just because a department is budgeted a certain amount also does not mean they get to spend that full amount. Mr. Lomshek explained his math to Ms. Lusker and Ms. Lusker stated she is not sure that is how the mill is calculated. Mr. Emerson explained it is two sets of numbers and they will get them figured out. Commissioner Blair stated he believes it is fair to take another look at budgets as a starting point.

**Item Two:** Mr. Colin Holthaus with KWORCC addressed the Commissioners. He provided the Commissioners with a presentation but stated it does not include their bid.

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Mr. Holthaus gave highlights of the insurance option that they have to offer and stated one of the best things about KWORCC is that they keep prices and premiums down as well as provide a lot of loss prevention services. He thanked the Commissioners and stated they have a hard and thankless job this time of year with their budget process. Mr. Holthaus gave some information on pooling insurance. Commissioner Blair asked if they go with KWORCC do they give them a recommendation on activities and trainings and Mr. Holthaus answered they can give some generalized recommendations but can also have their Vice President of Environmental Health and Safety to get in touch with any of the county's managers to tailor something they can do that as well. Commissioner Wood asked why cities have not joined KWORCC and Mr. Holthaus explained KWORCC is generally just involved in counties and explained usually larger counties or cities are so large they self-insure. Commissioner Wood stated he likes the idea of the trainings KWORCC offers and Mr. Holthaus stated a couple of their most popular trainings. Commissioner Moody asked if they will have KWORCC's bid by Friday and Mr. Holthaus confirmed and stated if it is okay with the Commissioners he will email it instead of having someone come down to the meeting again. Mr. Emerson stated they will make sure it is sealed. Commissioner Wood stated if he sends his bid by email it will not be sealed and Mr. Emerson confirmed the Clerk's Office will place the bid in a sealed envelope. Mr. Holthaus asked Ms. Lusker if she would like the bid to come directly to her and Ms. Lusker confirmed.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Item One:** Ms. Lusker stated Director of Fiscal Services Randi Ryan has asked for a 15 minute work session on Friday December 19th or Tuesday December 23rd to discuss ARPA. The Commissioners agreed to Friday December 19th at 9:45 AM.

**Item Two:** Mr. Emerson provided the Commissioners with a resolution for review. He presented Resolution #2025-035, a Resolution placing a moratorium and providing for the suspension of certain types of improvements on any land within the unincorporated area of Crawford County; and directing that potential land development regulations be developed. Mr. Emerson explained this is for a new moratorium on its own for nuclear power systems and will run separate but concurrent to the other moratorium, and that they will get this published in the paper as soon as possible by the end of the year and will be effective until December 31, 2026. Mr. Emerson discussed some of the nuclear power systems in Kansas.

**On motion (25-507)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to adopt Resolution #2025-035, a Resolution placing a moratorium and providing for the suspension of certain types of improvements on any land within the unincorporated area of Crawford County; and directing that potential land development regulations be developed.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

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### OLD BUSINESS

**Item One:** Commissioner Blair brought up the holiday hours. He discussed different businesses closing that pertain to Road and Bridge. Commissioner Moody discussed the time off in the judicial district as well. Commissioner Moody asked what the regular holiday schedule would be for the county and Mr. Emerson answered that they would be closed on December 25th, January 1st, and every year they close at 10:00 AM on December 31st for the year end audit and final books. Commissioner Moody asked what they would like to do December 24th as the judicial center is closed and asked if they want to close and Commissioner Wood stated his opinion is that the judicial center takes care of 3 counties and he discussed with 2 counties and that they are going to be only off on Christmas. Commissioner Wood said he is not for the judicial center telling them when the county is going to close. He stated he would like a half a day Wednesday December 24th, off December 25th, everyone works until 10:00 on December 31st, off January 1st, and return to work on January 2nd. He discussed EMS, Jail, Sheriff's Department, and Dispatch time to be paid and also that the courthouse would only be open 4 out of 14 days. Commissioner Wood stated the banks will be open both Fridays following the holidays and that if people want those Fridays off they can take vacation time. Commissioner Moody stated his thoughts are that he is okay with closing at noon on December 24th, but he does not want to make anyone come back early from Christmas if they are traveling to be at work on December 26th. He stated this would be half day December 24th, all day December 25th and December 26th. Commissioner Blair stated he agrees with the travelling on Christmas and not having to come back early but that he thinks they should work on Friday January 2nd.

**On motion (25-508)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to close the courthouse at 12:00 PM Friday December 24th and all day December 25th and December 26th for the Christmas holiday.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody and Blair

Nays: Commissioner Wood

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Two:** Commissioner Blair discussed being off at 10:00 AM on December 31st for the year end audit and off the full day on January 1st for the New Year's holiday and then returning to work on January 2nd.

**On motion (25-509)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to close the courthouse at 10:00 AM on Wednesday December 31st for the year end audit and all day January 1st for the New Year Holiday.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION continued**

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

**On motion (25-510)** of Commissioner Moody and second of Commissioner Blair to recess this open meeting and to go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss legal advice regarding communications which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), with the County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson present. The open meeting will resume at 11:42 A.M. The motion passed 3-0.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Blair, and Moody

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:27 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:42 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

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

**On motion (25-511)** of Commissioner Moody and second of Commissioner Blair to recess this open meeting and to go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss legal advice regarding accounts payable which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), with the County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson present. The open meeting will resume at 11:58 A.M. The motion passed 3-0.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Blair, and Moody

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:43 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:57 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

### **UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FUTURE BUSINESS:**

**Item One: December 19, 2025- 9:45 AM** Work Session with Director of Fiscal Service Randi Ryan to discuss ARPA.

**Item Two: December 19, 2025- 10:00 AM** Budget Hearing for 2025 Amended Budgets.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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**Item One: December 24, 2025-** The Courthouse will be closed at 12:00 PM in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

**Item Two: December 25-26<sup>th</sup>, 2025-** The Courthouse will be closed in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

**Item Three: December 26, 2025-** The Regular Session of the Board of County Commissioners is cancelled due to the Christmas Holiday.

**Item Four: December 31, 2025-** The Courthouse will close at 10:00 AM due to the year-end audit and the Motor Vehicle Department in the Courthouse and the Motor Vehicle Department in the Judicial Center in Pittsburg will be closed all day. The Register of Deeds Office will be open until 10:00 AM but no recordings will be done due to software updates.

**Item Five: January 1, 2026-** The Courthouse will be closed in observance of the New Year Holiday.

### 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 [December 16, 2025](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:58 AM 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:

**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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**Lisa Lusker**  
County Clerk

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

Taken RJA 12/18/25 1:05 PM/amended BKW 12/18/25 1:45 PM