

# Board of Crawford County Commissioners

## Commissioners' Journal

2026, TENTH MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM  
Girard, KS. Tuesday, February 03, 2026 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 Bruce Blair served as the presiding officer.

Commissioners Carl Wood and Tom Moody 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 (26-045)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **January 30, 2026** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

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 26	43	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the January 27, 2026 minutes, and Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers
Motion 26	44	To send the rock bids to Triad Engineering for recommendation

### UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

## Board of Crawford County Commissioners

**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 ELECTED OFFICIALS  
MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS  
MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC**

**Item One:** Mr. Scott Christiansen, SEKCAP Director of Transportation, and Mr. Casey Brown, Community Engagement Coordinator, addressed the Commissioners. Mr. Christiansen stated his main purpose for today is to inform the Commissioners that the route their transportation runs in Crawford County is facing suspension starting February 13th. He mentioned the main funding they received as well as other additional funds will lapse at this time. Mr. Christiansen stated they need \$40,000 to run the route from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 and they have received around \$24,000 leaving them around \$16,000 short to get to June 30th. Mr. Brown stated Crawford County has historically has 5 routes and explained these routes. Commissioner Wood stated the county funded them \$15,000 or \$16,000 last time they were present at a meeting and asked what route that money funded and Mr. Brown answered. Commissioner Wood asked where they got their funding before and if they were receiving federal grants that had gotten cut and Mr. Christiansen explained their funding. Commissioner Wood asked if they are still running routes in Cherokee County and Mr. Christiansen answered that route was put on suspension December 31st when the local funding that supported that route ceased. Commissioner Wood asked what got cut that they no longer have the funds to run their service and Mr. Christiansen broke down the routes and explained. Commissioner Wood asked about the information Mr. Christiansen provided regarding Girard Medical Center previously providing some funding and Mr. Christiansen stated they are meeting with them this month. Commissioner Wood asked about the hospital in Pittsburg and Mr. Christiansen stated he just got off the phone with them before the meeting and Mercy as well as Freeman would like to set up a meeting. Commissioner Moody asked if they have been to the cities like Pittsburg, Frontenac, Girard, and Arma and Mr. Christiansen stated he has talked to Girard a little as well as Frontenac and Arma but that they have historically been told they do not have the finances to help. Commissioner Moody stated he would like to hear back from Mr. Christiansen and Mr. Brown once they have these meetings. Commissioner Moody stated he is not against this at all and he wants to help but he believes there needs to be more players involved to try and alleviate the hurt on everyone. Commissioner Wood asked if they ever started charging the individuals that use the routes and Mr. Christiansen explained they do not and that they ask for a dollar donation but they do not deny the ride if the rider does not donate. Commissioner Wood stated he just hates to see the people in the towns that cannot drive lose this service. Commissioner Wood asked if they could just reduce the routes to 3 days a week and Mr. Brown explained the decline in funding needed if they drop to 3 days. Commissioner Wood asked if they dropped down to three days a week how much money would they need to get to the end of their fiscal year and Mr. Brown answered \$10,000. Commissioner Wood asked if they can go see what they can gather from other entities and then come back to the Commission and Mr. Christiansen asked when they want them to come back. Commissioner Wood answered whenever they have all their information from other entities and Mr. Christiansen stated that may be after February 13th.

## Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioner Moody stated last week they had individuals in here discussing how a certain amount of money was going to change an individual's life and asked about SEKCAP's weatherization program and if it still exists. Mr. Christiansen stated there is a weatherization program that serves this area but that it is not SEKCAP. Commissioner Moody asked who he needs to get ahold of and Mr. Christian stated South Central Kansas Economic Development.

**Item Two:** Mr. John Copyak with Shasta Power addressed the Commissioners. Mr. Copyak gave a recap on the previous attempts to contact landowners around the area of the proposed solar project and the difficulties because of the weather. He stated since then he has been able to go personally to discuss with the landowners who were interested in speaking with him. He mentioned he has learned 610th avenue and Deer Creek Subdivision do not want solar regardless of compensation or proposed setbacks. Mr. Copyak reiterated his approach to the neighbors. Mr. Copyak discussed the numbers of the neighbors on the other side of the project and their answers on if they did or did not want to see the project. He mentioned there are still 17 individuals thinking this over and he would like to bring answers back to the Commissioners on Tuesday. Commissioner Wood asked if he has in writing the individuals who stated they want the project to take place and Mr. Copyak explained. Commissioner Moody asked about page 5 on the handout Mr. Copyak provided and Mr. Copyak explained. Commissioner Blair asked if taking a big portion of the overall project out would change the amount of money and Mr. Copyak answered it would reduce the tax revenues by 20% but would reduce the number of neighboring landowners by 40% which would increase the neighbor's compensation. Commissioner Moody asked if he expects to have his final results by Tuesday and Mr. Copyak confirmed. Commissioner Blair asked if the 610th and Deer Creek Subdivision neighbors were offered the situation of the project not being put on Mr. Elnicki's property and if they would agree to that and Mr. Copyak stated he has not done that because he has been busy attempting to talk to all surrounding landowners. Mr. Copyak mentioned he believes under statute neighbors over 1,000 feet away do not need to be notified of development. Commissioner Wood asked about the setback around 620th and Mr. Copyak answered. Commissioner Wood clarified that Mr. Copyak is wanting them to lift the moratorium and Mr. Copyak confirmed. Commissioner Wood asked if Commissioner Moody has talked to many of the residents in his district about this and Commissioner Moody answered he has not talked to many since the last time they met but the ones on 610th and Deer Creek are against it and that he has not talked to many people who are in favor of it. Commissioner Moody stated for Mr. Copyak to come back Tuesday with his results.

**Item Three:** Ms. Becky Willard addressed the Commissioners. She stated she is here to tell the Commissioners about 3 bills in Topeka and proceeded to explain these bills. Ms. Willard explained the correlation before one of the bills and the funding that has been promised to the county by Shasta Power. Ms. Willard discussed Kansas Senate Bill 98 and all of the items it provides tax abatements to. She mentioned Senate Bill 417 that has been brought forth by Kansas Farm Bureau and the Kansas Livestock Association and provided the details of this bill. Mr. Emerson explained the process of the hearing of these bills.

## Board of Crawford County Commissioners

**Item Four:** Mr. Matthew Harrison addressed the Commissioners. He talked about the 75% of approval Mr. Copyak mentioned but stated it was only 33%. Mr. Harrison mentioned there is ways of taking surveys that it would apply to the whole county but focus in on certain areas and discussed the different ways this can be done. Mr. Harrison asked if there will be contracts to support and protect water contamination, to protect mineral rights and will they be public record. He mentioned he wants to make his position known and that he is not anti or pro solar but is pro transparency. Mr. Harrison mentioned that Mulberry has ways of notifying the town of different situations and events but discussed how they never made anyone aware of the island annexation attempt that took place previously. Commissioner Moody asked if this is something new or if he is going back to the original annexation attempt and Mr. Harrison confirmed he is just mentioning the original annexation attempt and how he got involved in this. Mr. Harrison discussed how there is nothing currently in place to prevent the project from being sold to another company as soon as it becomes profitable to Shasta Power. He stated he is not saying to stop the project or block the process but is here to ask for honesty, transparency, and accountability if this project is truly going to benefit Crawford County.

**Item Five:** Ms. Judy Prince addressed the Commissioners. She mentioned she has a couple of concerns. She stated if they lift the moratorium that has been placed to give everyone proper time to think things through for one company it would not be fair or legally would have to be lifted for all companies. Ms. Prince mentioned that the moratorium does not just protect them from Shasta Power but also from other solar companies and wind companies. She mentioned they could solve the contacting the landowners and neighbors with a simple survey app where they can respond anonymously. Commissioner Moody asked if she sees anything wrong with the way the survey is being conducted right now with the neighbors and Ms. Prince stated she just feels like since the names are anonymous on both ends it seems like there could be foul play involved. She discussed transparency and her concerns.

**Item Six:** Mr. John Prince addressed the Commissioners. He mentioned in the last week he has talked to two other people randomly, one who discussed a certain individual dumping turkey litter out around the property where the proposed project would take place and also discussed how he would not consider supporting the solar project unless they paid maybe \$500,000 to get him out of his house. Mr. Prince mentioned hearing nothing but disapproval for the project. He stated he cannot see anything good coming from this project for the majority.

**Item Seven:** Mr. Copyak addressed the Commissioners again. He stated next week he will come back with signed surveys from the 37 neighbors of the proposed project.

**Item Eight:** Mr. Prince addressed the Commissioners again. He asked if these signed surveys will have the addresses of the individuals who are interested in the project. He mentioned they have already had a survey done and people spoke clearly and loudly but here they are again doing another survey because of dollar amounts being offered. Mr. Prince stated he talked to the new mayor of Mulberry who mentioned a woman was offered \$220,000 and that is life changing to her since she is on social security. He stated he has empathy and sympathy for this individual but unless the company is willing to put

## Board of Crawford County Commissioners

the money up front it is just promises. Commissioner Blair stated to answer his question the survey does have the property address on the paperwork.

**On motion (26-046)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess the open meeting for a period of 5 minutes.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

### NEW BUSINESS

**Item One:** County Clerk Lisa Lusker presented the January 2026 Clerk's Report. Commissioner Blair asked about an item on the report and Ms. Lusker answered. Commissioner Wood asked about an item and why last month they paid more than this month and Ms. Lusker explained. Commissioner Wood asked if a bill is sent each month and Ms. Lusker explained. Mr. Emerson stated it was likely two months into one month. Commissioner Wood stated he cannot understand why Road and Bridge went up and Mr. Emerson stated that it is because of insurance coming out at the first of the year.

**On motion (26-047)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the January 2026 Clerk's Report as presented.

**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:** Ms. Lusker stated she has two invoices to have approved. She explained the first is from Gilmore & Bell for legal services rendered in connection with the preparation and filing of the County's continuing disclosure Annual Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020 through December 31, 2023. She asked Mr. Emerson if he knows why it was for three years and Mr. Emerson explained. Ms. Lusker explained it is for \$3,500.00. Mr. Emerson stated for Ms. Lusker to ask whoever sent the invoice because he thought that there was money placed in the bond issue to pay for at least some of it. Commissioner Wood asked if they could hold off on that until they get an answer and Ms. Lusker confirmed. She mentioned the other invoice is from the Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission sent an invoice for membership dues in the amount of \$8,245.80. She explained this is exactly the same cost as last year.

**On motion (26-048)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve paying the invoice for SEK Regional Planning Commission dues in the amount of \$8,245.80.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

## Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**On motion (26-049)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to appointed Commissioner Blair to be the county representative for the SEK Regional Planning Commission and County Grant Writer Gus Brunetti as an alternate representative.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Three:** Mr. Emerson presented Resolution #2026-004, a Resolution establishing an early retirement program for Crawford County employees. He explained this was discussed in executive session a while ago and stated it mirrors the plan they have run now for several years. Mr. Emerson discussed the program and gave the main highlights of the program. Commissioner Wood asked if there has been anyone that took it at 55 years of age and drop off at 60 and come back to county insurance and Mr. Emerson explained. Commissioner Wood asked if they do this do they pay what the employees pay or do they pay full policy price and Mr. Emerson stated they pay full price if they are not working. Commissioner Wood asked how this works for individuals who can draw Medicare and is the county insurance their supplement if they are still working and Mr. Emerson stated he is not entirely sure but if you are working he believes county policy is primary. Mr. Emerson stated this may be a question for Bukaty next time they are present.

**On motion (26-050)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to adopt Resolution #2026-004, a Resolution establishing an early retirement program for Crawford County employees.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Four:** Commissioner Wood asked about the future business work sessions. He stated they have a work session on February 6th at 9:00 AM but he would like to have one the same day at 8:30 AM to finish up discussing travel policy and infant policy as well as billing. Commissioner Wood stated he also wants to start the work session on February 10th at 8:30 AM because they have a lot to discuss with the department heads. Mr. Emerson stated he thinks that would be a good idea as well. Commissioner Blair suggested leaving it and if they run out of time scheduling an additional work session. Mr. Emerson stated to move it to 8:30 AM to get as far as they can and then if it goes unfinished they will schedule another. Ms. Lusker stated she will have Director of Fiscal Services Randi Ryan send another email out to department heads and elected officials.

## Board of Crawford County Commissioners

**Item Five:** Commissioner Blair stated he has a tax roll correction for a resident in Girard that has to do with revitalization of property. He explained due to timelines and other factors the resident came in and paid property taxes in full even though the property was in the Neighborhood Revitalization Program. Commissioner Blair explained the individual was under the impression her rebate would begin this year but due to the timelines and things that occurred with the City of Girard it did not. Commissioner Blair stated he discussed with the City of Girard and they were going to refund her city taxes and the county stated if the Commissioners would like more detail they could have an executive session. Commissioner Blair stated refunding her certain amount would help get the timeline for her revitalization back on track. Commissioner Wood asked if City of Girard is paying back this entire amount and Commissioner Blair explained Girard is paying \$1,649.73 and county is paying \$1,473.91. Commissioner Wood clarified if this is a plan through the City of Girard and Mr. Emerson confirmed and explained. Mr. Emerson stated they will need a motion to pay this amount back and then she will only have 9 years left on her revitalization program.

**On motion (26-051)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the county rebate/tax refund in the amount of \$1,473.91 to Merla Morris.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

### OLD BUSINESS

**Item One:** Ms. Lusker presented the Commissioners with a message sent from a county resident regarding Shasta Power. Ms. Lusker explained this is a different message than the one they received yesterday. Commissioner Wood stated it seems like Shasta Power is picking and choosing who to go after and where they want to place the project. Commissioner Moody asked Commissioner Wood if he does not feel like they are forth coming about where they want the project to be and Commissioner Wood stated he feels like they are targeting the less fortunate. Commissioner Moody stated he understands Commissioner Wood but that he does appreciate that they are at least making an attempt to talk to the neighbors of the area. Commissioner Wood stated it is a touchy subject and Commissioner Blair agreed it is an emotional issue.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Item One:** Commissioner Blair requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

**On motion (26-052)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss raises 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 11:53 AM. The Motion passed 3-0.

## Board of Crawford County Commissioners

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 11:38 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:53 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

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

**On motion (26-053)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss LEPP 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 Zoning Administrator May Smith attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 12:09 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 11:54 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 12:08 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

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

#### **FUTURE BUSINESS:**

**Item One: February 06, 2026- 8:30 AM** Work Session to discuss travel policy, infant policy, billing, and Parks and Recreation, Elderly, Historical, and Special Alcohol Funding.

**Item Two: February 06, 2026-** Ms. Leslie Lackamp with Mosaic and Mr. Bob Davis with Class LTD discussing county mill funds.

**Item Three: February 10, 2026- 9:00 AM** Work Session with department heads and elected officials.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **UNDER THE HEADING MOTION TO ADJOURN MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**Item One:** Adjournment

## Board of Crawford County Commissioners

**On the motion** of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Moody to adjourn the [February 03, 2026](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 12:10 PM and to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled time with open doors.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

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 2/05/2026 3:25 PM/amended BKW 2/5/26 3:40 PM](#)