

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2025, **SEVENTY-SEVENTH** MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. **Tuesday, October 28, 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 (25-437) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **October 24, 2025** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners.

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	428	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the October 21, 2025 minutes, and Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers
Motion 25	429	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss 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 10:29 AM. The Motion passed 3-0
Motion 25	430	To recess this open meeting and to go into a closed executive session

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

		for 20 minutes to discuss legal advice regarding land annexation 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, County Counselor Jim Emerson present and Mr. Joshua Albin present via telephone. The open meeting will resume at 10:55 A.M. The motion passed 3-0
Motion 25	431	To approve the contract between Crawford County and JT Construction for the storage building project and authorizing the Chairman to sign
Motion 25	432	To recess this open meeting and to go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss legal advice regarding eminent domain 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 11:34 A.M. The motion passed 3-0
Motion 25	433	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 10 minutes to discuss 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 IT Director Brandon Spaur attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:37 AM. The Motion passed 3-0
Motion 25	434	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss insurance 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, County Clerk Lisa Lusker, and Director of Fiscal Services Randi Ryan attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:51 AM. The Motion passed 3-0
Motion 25	435	To approve the increase in health insurance individual stop loss to \$150,000
Motion 25	436	To accept CDL Electric as the low bid for the Judicial Center boiler project

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 ELECTED OFFICIALS

MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS

MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

Item One: Ms. Melesia Rhodes addressed the Commissioners. She stated she would like to apologize to Mr. Emerson and the Commissioners because she had a devastating loss earlier in the year and her patience is thin and her frustration level is high. She stated she has been attacked a lot on social media. Ms. Rhodes mentioned Shasta Power has been

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

speaking with a scientist from Pittsburg State University regarding storage batteries for solar. She stated if any of the Commissioners or their staff as well as elected officials for Frontenac or Northeast High School would like to have a tour or speak with PSU privately or in a group they will arrange this. She stated if anyone wants to participate in this type of tour it will need to be at 4:00 P.M. or later otherwise they will be interrupting classes. Ms. Rhodes provided the Commissioners with her contact information. Ms. Rhodes mentioned it has been brought to her attention that someone posted on Facebook that Shasta Power has a representative in the area and that they refuse to speak with anyone and she explained she has always been open to discussion. Ms. Rhodes stated on Wednesdays she is at Block 22 in Pittsburg from 9:30 A.M. until around 3:00 P.M. and that she can be called or texted as well. Commissioner Moody stated the batteries are an issue for him and that he would recommend that they have the representatives from PSU come to the Commission meeting to explain this information to everyone. Ms. Rhodes stated she thought that the Commissioners would like to tour the area where the research and development is being done. She mentioned she will send an email to inform them that the Commissioners would prefer them to come to a meeting. Commissioner Blair stated he agrees.

Item Two: Mr. Danny Childers addressed the Commissioners. He stated all four sides of where he lives will be covered by this proposed solar project. Mr. Childers stated he invested in the 17 acres he lives on and asked the Commissioners if their houses were surrounded by a solar farm would they want to subject their families to the unknown. Mr. Childers addressed the people that benefit from solar projects. Mr. Childers stated these solar farms will stop the growth of Crawford County. Commissioner Moody stated he hears from one side that the projects will lower property value and from the other side that it will not alter property value, but asked Mr. Childers if he has talked to any of his neighbors or anyone in the appraisal business about this topic to get a professional opinion. Mr. Childers stated he asks people often if they would buy the property if it were surrounded by a solar farm and that they always answer no. He mentioned the county is still going to charge taxes for land that they say is worth a certain amount of money even though he could not get rid of it if he wanted to. Mr. Childers mentioned he does not believe he should have to spend the money to get another appraisal done of his property to study if it will lower the property value. Mr. Childers asked the Commissioners if they would buy his property if there was a solar farm by it and Commissioner Moody answered that he would not. Mr. Childers asked Commissioner Blair and he stated he would not purchase it for the price that Mr. Childers thought it would be worth. Commissioner Wood answered that he would not purchase the land either. Mr. Childers stated he thinks it is ridiculous to only get 30 days to make a decision that will affect all of Crawford County. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Childers about Deer Creek and Mr. Childers answered. Commissioner Blair stated he has been by there and asked if that property has recently sold and Mr. Childers confirmed.

Item Three: Ms. Becky Willard addressed the Commissioners. She stated she is back for the moratorium extension request and mentioned she has listed everything they would like added to the moratorium. She provided the list to Mr. Emerson.

Item Four: Mr. Eddie Weber addressed the Commissioners. He shares the same feelings as Mr. Childers. Mr. Weber discussed solar contracts he personally dealt with. Mr. Weber

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

discussed the deer hunters out of state that buy up the land. Mr. Weber stated what he came here for today is a proposed rock quarry in section 24 in Sheridan east plot. He explained the exact location to the Commissioners. He stated he heard last week that there is a signed contract on this and he mentioned he would like to get the rock quarry listed on the moratorium to provide adequate time to decide. Commissioner Moody asked Mr. Emerson about this and Mr. Emerson answered he has heard about it but that he was not sure if anything has been filed yet with Planning and Zoning. Commissioner Blair asked if this is a zoned area and Mr. Emerson confirmed. Mr. Weber stated he wanted to bring it to the Commissioner's attention so they have plenty of time to consider this. Commissioner Blair stated he has heard about it but he also is not sure if anything has been officially filed. Commissioner Blair did state they do have some experience with rock quarries when it comes to the existing Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Emerson stated this would be a question for Zoning Administrator May Smith if this is something that has been officially filed but that he does not believe it has been. Commissioner Wood asked if rock quarries are on the list Ms. Willard provided and Mr. Emerson stated it is not and Mr. Weber asked if it could be added and Mr. Emerson explained it can be added to review.

Item Five: Mr. Philip McNew addressed the Commissioners. He stated Mr. Weber discussed the rock quarry and that he actually owns the property right across the county road from the proposed area. Mr. McNew stated this affects several people and that he would ask the Commissioners to look at an aerial map of the county where the existing rock quarries are and look what is left when they leave. He mentioned it makes the property unusable after the quarry is done. Commissioner Moody asked Mr. McNew how far his house is from the location and Mr. McNew explained.

Item Six: Ms. Judy Prince addressed the Commissioners. She stated she would like to reiterate what Mr. Weber explained.

NEW BUSINESS

Item One: County Clerk Lisa Lusker presented the ARPA drawdown request for October. She explained this was discussed earlier this morning in a work session and explained the requests.

On motion (25-438) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the ARPA drawdown request for October 2025.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Commissioner Blair asked Mr. Emerson if they can get an update soon on the ARPA funding and what is left and Mr. Emerson confirmed.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson stated they do have the courtroom scheduled on November 13 at 5:30 PM for the public hearing regarding the land annexation request from the City of

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Mulberry. He explained they will have to have a notice published in the paper at least 7 days prior to the hearing and they will notify the petitioning landowners as well. Commissioner Moody asked for clarification that this hearing will be strictly regarding the proposed land annexation and Mr. Emerson confirmed and explained. Mr. Emerson stated there will not be a decision made on the night of November 13 and that he is anticipating the decision will be made at the open meeting on November 18. Mr. Emerson stated if they have to have a special meeting on November 19 they will, but that November 19, 2025 is the final day.

Item Three: Mr. Emerson mentioned he received an email from the treasurer of the SEK Recycling Center stating that they are having a meeting tonight at 5:30 P.M. at the Pittsburg Public Library to discuss the future of the recycling center. Mr. Emerson stated he is planning on attending this meeting and that the Commissioners are invited as well. He stated he will provide more information after this meeting. Commissioner Wood stated he is planning on attending as well.

Item Four: Mr. Emerson mentioned he was instructed by the Commissioners to go out for lease purchase bids and that he has two proposed Resolutions and a lease purchase document to review. Mr. Emerson explained they went out for lease purchase quote on six Sheriff's Department vehicles and explained they are the vehicles being transitioned out of the Enterprise lease program. Mr. Emerson stated Clayton Holdings LLC, which is Commerce Bank, was the low bid for 48 months at 3.8% interest. Mr. Emerson stated this is much better than the rate being paid with the Enterprise program. Commissioner Wood asked how many months this is for and Mr. Emerson answered it is 48 months. Commissioner Wood asked if these vehicles are insured through the county and not through Enterprise and Mr. Emerson confirmed. Commissioner Wood asked if that will have to be changed over and Mr. Emerson explained.

On motion (25-439) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Moody to adopt Resolution #2025-030, a Resolution authorizing a lease purchase transaction between Crawford County and Clayton Holdings LLC for the lease purchase financing of six Sheriff's Department vehicles.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Moody, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Five: Mr. Emerson mentioned the second lease purchase request was for a generator at the jail. He explained the generator is needed. Mr. Emerson explained the low bid was from Labette Bank for 36 months at 3.75% interest. Mr. Emerson stated maintenance is working on a list of priority items that are needing fixed so that they do not come as a surprise when it is time to take care of them. Commissioner Wood asked if this lease purchase can be paid off before the 36 months and Mr. Emerson confirmed.

On motion (25-440) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Moody to adopt Resolution #2025-031, a Resolution authorizing a lease purchase transaction

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

between Crawford County and Labette Bank for lease purchase financing of a generator for the jail.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Moody, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Six: Mr. Emerson presented the Commissioners with the lease purchase agreement between Crawford County and Clayton Holdings LLC. He explained the agreement to the Commissioners. Mr. Emerson stated the total lease purchase payment to Enterprise was \$208,801.20 good through the end of this month. Mr. Emerson explained the payment schedule will be \$4,696.37 per month.

On motion (25-441) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the lease purchase agreement between Crawford County and Clayton Holdings LLC and authorizing the Chairman to sign.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Blair, and Moody

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Seven: Commissioner Wood stated he would like for the EMS Director to come in for a work session on November 4th to discuss financial projections.

Item Eight: Commissioner Wood stated they are preparing for the Purple Wave sale and asked Commissioner Moody if he has looked into this. Commissioner Moody stated he has not yet looked into this but his will discuss with his foreman today.

OLD BUSINESS

Item One: Ms. Lusker stated she would like to mention early voting is still taking place in the Clerk's Office and that there was a good turn out at Homer Cole Community Center on Saturday for early voting. She mentioned there was about 270 voters. Ms. Lusker explained early voting in the Clerk's Office is from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM for the rest of this week, and then on Monday November 3 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Commissioner Wood asked if the early voting at Homer Cole Community Center took place on Sunday also and Ms. Lusker explained it was just on Saturday. Mr. Emerson asked how the turn out was and Ms. Lusker stated there was about 270 voters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

On motion (25-442) 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

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

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 11:23 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 11:08 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:23 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

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

On motion (25-443) 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 Comprehensive Plan 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 11:40 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 11:25 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:39 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: October 31, 2025- 8:30 AM Work Session to sign bills and payroll vouchers.

Item Two: October 31, 2025- 9:00 AM Work Session with SEK Recycling Center.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Item One: October 28, 2025- 5:30 PM SEK Recycling Center meeting at the Pittsburg Public Library. All three Commissioners may be in attendance.

Item Two: November 4, 2025 – 2025 General Election Day. Polls will be open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

UNDER THE HEADING MOTION TO ADJOURN

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Item One: Adjournment

On the motion of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Moody to adjourn the [October 28, 2025](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:40 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.

Lisa Lusker
County Clerk

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This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.

[Taken RJA 10/30/25 12:10 PM/amended BKW 10/30/25 1:00 PM](#)