

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2026, FIFTEENTH MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. Friday, February 20, 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 Blair led the Pledge of Allegiance.

UNDER THE HEADING BUSINESS FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING CONSENT AGENDA

On motion (26-074) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the February 17, 2026 minutes of the Board of County Commissioners, and
2. Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers.

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	69	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the February 13, 2026 minutes, and Approval of the accounts payable warrant numbers 643369 to 643616 dated February 13, 2026 in the total amount of \$435,133.71
Motion 26	70	To adopt Resolution #2026-005, a Resolution to reappoint Charles (Bob) Gilmore to serve on the Crawford County Planning and Zoning Board and Joint Board of Zoning Appeals
Motion 26	71	To adopt Resolution #2026-006, a Resolution to appoint Ross Martinson to serve on the Crawford County Planning and Zoning Board and Joint Board of Zoning Appeals

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Motion 26	72	To approve the payment of the 2025 Tyler Technologies bill out of carryover funds
Motion 26	73	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Maintenance Department 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 10:59 AM. The Motion passed 3-0

UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD

MESSAGES FROM CRAWFORD CO LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH

MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS

MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

Item One: SEK-CAP CEO Jamey Whitney addressed the Commissioners. He stated they have kept two of the routes running which includes one of the county routes. Mr. Whitney mentioned they had a conversation yesterday with Girard Medical Center and will be talking again today. He mentioned next week they will be going to the cities, counties, and private providers to seek additional assistance. Mr. Whitney mentioned if they receive more money before June they will continue to increase the routes. Commissioner Wood asked if they cut one route in the county and Mr. Whitney confirmed. Commissioner Wood asked if after the end of their fiscal year will they continue to only run one route to save money and Mr. Whitney answered it will depend on what money comes in. Mr. Casey Brown stated that would be up to the Commissioners wants for the county as the City of Pittsburg has already pledged what is needed to keep their routes going 5 days a week. Commissioner Wood stated that when these men previously attended a meeting they mentioned the county agreed to give them more than what they did which was only around \$14,000. Mr. Brown stated the pledges they received over the last 3 years from the county were \$15,000, \$16,000, and \$17,000 but when they filled out the elderly funding application they were only awarded around \$14,000 and County Clerk Lisa Lusker confirmed this was true. Commissioner Wood asked what happened to the additional \$3,000 they were supposed to give and Mr. Emerson answered the funding is based off of what is collected and taxes are never 100% collected but that they will need to look in to this closer this upcoming year. Commissioner Wood asked for clarification that if they do not collect it then they do not get the full funding and Mr. Emerson confirmed. Commissioner Wood asked if they could still give them the extra \$1,000 they pledged and Mr. Emerson explained that they could. Commissioner Moody explained this does not just happen to SEK-CAP but to all the applicants. Ms. Lusker explained all the elderly funding as well as the parks and recreation, historical, and special alcohol funding have not been increased in several years. Mr. Brown asked what the Commissioners want and what they can support because what they supply now does not cover the routes they run. He also mentioned that he knows Commissioner Wood stated his focus is the individuals in the county in rural areas but that they do not differentiate between county residents in different areas of the county. Commissioner Wood stated he just wants to help the elderly people of Crawford

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County especially in rural areas because City of Pittsburg is taken care of. Mr. Brown mentioned they will be meeting with the Girard city commission to discuss funding soon. Mr. Whitney stated they understand it is not fair to put all the funding burden on the county because the other communities benefit from this as well. He stated the other issue they want to make sure to address is the loss of grant if they do not use the transportation. Commissioner Wood asked if they would come back once they are finished talking to the cities. Mr. Brown stated they also want to come back before the county finalizes the budget for the next year. Commissioner Blair stated they have already finalized the budget for this year so if they can do anything it would have to be a supplement from somewhere else.

NEW BUSINESS

Item One: County Clerk Lisa Lusker presented the ARPA draw down request for February 2026. She mentioned first the request is from New Foundations for \$100,000 and Sugar Creek for \$119,631.94 and explained these requests.

On motion (26-075) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the ARPA draw down request for February 2026 including the requests from New Foundations and Sugar Creek.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Ms. Lusker stated there is a request from Point Forward for \$211,609.58 and explained this request and that she believes this finishes their funds. Commissioner Blair stated they understand the discrepancy through KDHE regarding the number of daycare students.

On motion (25-076) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the ARPA draw down request for February 2026 including the request from Point Forward.

On a Roll Call vote.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Moody

Nays: Commissioner Wood

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Ms. Lusker stated the next requests come from Adam Jones Law Firm for \$6,595.80, Turnkey LLC for \$3,588.96, and Design Mechanical for \$53,128.00 and explained these requests.

On motion (25-077) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the APRA draw down request for February 2026 including the requests from Adam Jones Law Firm, Turnkey LLC, and Design Mechanical.

On a Roll Call vote.

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Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Commissioner Wood asked how much is left for Adam Jones Law Firm and County Counselor Jim Emerson explained. Commissioner Wood asked about Greenbush payment and Mr. Emerson explained they are paid annually.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item One: Commissioner Wood requested an executive session for 30 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (26-078) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 30 minutes to discuss EMS 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 EMS Billing Jill Warford attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 10:54 AM. The Motion passed 3-0.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 10:24 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 10:50 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS

Item One: Public Hearing on Vacating a Platted Street located in the Original Town of Ringo, Crawford County, Kansas.

On motion (26-079) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to open the Public Hearing on Vacating a Platted Street located in the Original Town of Ringo, Crawford County, Kansas.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

There was no public comment.

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On motion (26-080) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to close the Public Hearing on Vacating a Platted Street located in the Original Town of Ringo, Crawford County, Kansas.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Mr. Emerson stated this was a landowner request to vacate and explained the area. Mr. Emerson presented Resolution #2026-007, a Resolution closing and vacating a portion of second street in the Original Town of Ringo, Crawford County, Kansas, according to the recorded plat thereof.

On motion (26-081) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to adopt Resolution #2026-007, a Resolution closing and vacating a portion of second street in the Original Town of Ringo, Crawford County, Kansas, according to the recorded plat thereof.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

Item Two: Commissioner Wood thanked Commissioner Moody for sending a crew member to help at the SEK Recycling Center. He also mentioned they have gotten one piece of equipment that he previously mentioned put away and is not outside any longer but that two are left he would like to see put up. Commissioner Wood stated they are probably going to be working over at the SEK Recycling Center for another week. Commissioner Moody stated he has not had a chance to go by yet but asked if they were making progress and Commissioner Wood confirmed.

Item Three: Mr. Emerson presented a Notice of Intent to Vacate a Platted Alley in the Town of Opolis, Crawford County, Kansas. Mr. Emerson explained the location and details of the vacate. The public hearing is set for March 20, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

On motion (26-082) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the publication of the Notice of Intent to Vacate a Platted Alley in the Town of Opolis, Crawford County, Kansas with a public hearing scheduled for Friday, March 20, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

Yeas: Commissioner Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

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Item Four: Commissioner Blair mentioned at the Solid Waste Planning Committee meeting last night the trash in the county has been brought up again. He stated it was not just about 69 Highway but the bridges and the county roads as well. Commissioner Blair asked if they have fines in place for dumping and Mr. Emerson explained that would be a criminal statute for illegal dumping and that yes there are fines in place for that. Mr. Emerson explained there are separate fines for littering but that he believes it could be charged either way. Commissioner Blair asked if the Sheriff's Department would have to look into this and Mr. Emerson explained. Commissioner Blair stated if they continue to find this from now on he will inform the individuals to inform the Sheriff's Department when they come across the dumping. Commissioner Wood stated he thinks they need fined the first time they are caught and not given a chance to clean up the mess.

OLD BUSINESS

Item One: Mr. Emerson presented the Notice to Bidders for mowing services. He stated he would like to go ahead and send this out to bidders and that it is not mandatory that they accept the bids they receive. Mr. Emerson mentioned Noxious Weeds Director Tommy Scales sent some specs that he has included in the bid package. Commissioner Wood asked if they could add to the mulching that they need to contact Mr. Scales to decide if the mulching is necessary and Mr. Emerson stated he will contact Mr. Scales about this.

On motion (26-083) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve going out for bids for mowing and the opening of mowing bids on March 6, 2026.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Moody, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson stated he is still working on the Travel policy and that he wants it to be more detailed.

Item Three: Mr. Emerson presented the Infant at Work Policy. He stated they had a meeting with Department Heads and Elected Officials regarding this policy and that he has had no comments regarding the policy. Mr. Emerson state this policy does require the Department Head and employee to have a policy in place before the infant is brought to work as well as agreements and waivers in place. Commissioner Blair asked if it is a department that it does not benefit it just will not happen for them and Mr. Emerson explained. Mr. Emerson presented Resolution #2026-008, a Resolution adopting an Infant at Work Policy.

On motion (26-084) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Blair to adopt Resolution #2026-008, a Resolution adopting an Infant at Work Policy.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Moody, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

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Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION CONTINUED

Item Two: Commissioner Blair requested an executive session for 20 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (26-085) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 20 minutes to discuss Maintenance Department 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 Courthouse Maintenance Aaron Crozier attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:32 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 11:12 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:32 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: February 24, 2026- 9:00 AM Work Session with Zoning Administrator May Smith and Mr. Toby Kuhn with KDHE regarding nuisance property.

Item Two: March 03, 2026- 9:30 AM Work Session with Zoning Administrator May Smith to discuss RHID.

Item Three: March 05, 2026- 5:30 PM Planning and Zoning Public Hearing located at the Girard Civic Center at 102 N Ozark St Girard, KS.

Item Four: March 06, 2026- Opening of culvert bids.

Item Five: March 06, 2026- Opening of mowing bids.

Item Six: March 06, 2026- 10:00 AM Public Hearing to Vacate a road located in Martin Kane's 2nd Addition in the City of Arma, Kansas.

Item Seven: March 20, 2026- 10:00 AM Public Hearing to Vacate a Platted Alley in the Town of Opolis, Crawford County, Kansas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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UNDER THE HEADING MOTION TO ADJOURN MOTION TO ADJOURN

Item One: Adjournment

On the motion of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to adjourn the [February 20, 2026](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:33 AM 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

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This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.

[Taken RJA 2/23/2026 11:25 AM/amended BKW 2/23/26 12:15 PM](#)