

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2026, **FOURTEENTH** MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. **Tuesday, February 17, 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 (26-069) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **February 13, 2026** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners, and
2. Approval of the accounts payable warrant numbers 643369 to 643616 dated February 13, 2026 in the total amount of \$435,133.71.

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	65	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the February 10, 2026 minutes
Motion 26	66	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 20 minutes to discuss individual 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 10:54 AM. The Motion passed 3-0

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Motion 26	67	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Counselor’s 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 11:31 AM. The Motion passed 3-0
Motion 26	68	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss maintenance 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 11:47 AM. 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

Item One: Grant Writer Gus Brunetti addressed the Commissioners. He stated he is here to give a grant update. Mr. Brunetti stated the first thing he is presenting is a handful of grants that he is currently working on and the second will be some upcoming grants that they may want to look at applying for. He explained the grants he is currently working on. Commissioner Wood asked how much the RJA grant is for and Mr. Brunetti explained it goes through RJA completely so he is unsure as the county does not fund this at all. Commissioner Blair asked if this they are securing this grant since the program was previously funded with ARPA money and Mr. Brunetti confirmed. Commissioner Wood asked about a previous grant and Mr. Brunetti explained. Mr. Brunetti continued discussing current grants he is working on. Mr. Brunetti moved on to upcoming grants that could benefit the county. Commissioner Wood asked how many CDBG grants the county could apply for and Mr. Brunetti explained. Commissioner Wood stated he is going to make an appointment for himself and Mr. Brunetti to attend a meeting with Homer Cole Community Center to get information to apply for one of these grants. Mr. Brunetti continued discussing other upcoming grants. Commissioner Blair stated he would like to talk to Mr. Brunetti about courthouse projects so they can see if any of them will match a grant. Commissioner Wood asked what all the CDBG grants can do for the courthouse and Mr. Brunetti explained. Commissioner Wood asked what the amounts of the grants are and Mr. Brunetti answered. Mr. Emerson stated the county is a member of the Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission and that they have individuals who specialize in writing CDBG grants so that could be a resource the county utilizes. Commissioner Wood asked if he could print out the information of one of the grants so he can have it. Commissioner Wood stated RJA is supposed to be having a grant writing class and he asked when that would be and Mr. Brunetti stated he will have to find out for him but he believes he emailed the information. Commissioner Wood asked for Mr. Brunetti to send this information out to all of the department heads. Mr. Brunetti asked if they are still looking to work on the air units and Commissioner Wood confirmed and asked if that grant is up to apply for again and Mr. Brunetti explained it falls in to the

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small facilities grant. Commissioner Wood asked if they will get the storm sirens before storm season and Mr. Brunetti explained that is under Communications Director Tim Mikrut now because the grant was completed.

MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC NEW BUSINESS

Item One: Ms. Lusker stated Director of Fiscal Services Randi Ryan has requested a work session to discuss ARPA on February 20th at 9:30 AM. The Commissioners agreed.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson presented 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. He explained this will be effective February 1, 2026 to February 1, 2029. Commissioner Moody stated they are fortunate to have Mr. Gilmore to serve on this board. Commissioner Wood stated he is in his district and has known him for years and that Mr. Gilmore goes above and beyond.

On motion (26-070) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Blair 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. Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Blair, and Moody

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Three: Mr. Emerson presented 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. He explained this will be effective February 1, 2026 to February 1, 2029. Commissioner Blair stated he is happy Mr. Martinson has agreed to serve as finding people to fill these positions can sometimes be difficult.

On motion (26-071) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Moody 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. Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Moody, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Four: Mr. Emerson stated Thursday, February 19, 2026 the Solid Waste Committee will meet for the annual review of the Solid Waste Plan and to discuss any other ongoing issues at the City of Pittsburg city utilities annex conference room located at 1506 N Walnut St in Pittsburg at 6:00 PM.

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Item Five: Mr. Emerson mentioned he visited with Zoning Administrator May Smith about scheduling a work session with the Commissioners to discuss RHID. He stated they would like to schedule this for March 3, 2026 at 9:30 AM. The Commissioners agreed.

Item Six: Mr. Emerson stated he was asked to print out House Bill 2728 regarding energy, utilities, and telecommunications. He presented the Commissioners with this information and briefly explained the bill. Mr. Emerson stated as of this morning they have not heard of a hearing yet for this bill but that he has also sent it to the county's lobbyist to make sure he is watching it.

Item Seven: Mr. Emerson stated he just received an update from Ms. Angie Hadley that the grant writing training was hosted last Thursday. Commissioner Wood stated he wonders how many attended from the county.

Item Eight: Commissioner Wood stated he checked on the price of a tire cutter and that a couple years ago the cost was \$10,000 and he explained its function. Commissioner Moody asked if it cut the tires fairly easy and Commissioner Wood confirmed. Commissioner Wood stated the place they could take the tires would cost \$3/tire or \$11/semi tire. He stated last year the county took them to recycle and spent \$3,200 and in 2024 when they had tire pickup it cost \$24,000. Commissioner Wood stated he believes they could save money by purchasing this equipment. Commissioner Moody asked how long it takes the machine to cut one tire and Commissioner Wood answered it takes about one minute and probably a little longer for a semi tire. Commissioner Wood stated he could get brochures on the equipment if they are interested and Commissioner Moody stated he would like to see it.

Item Nine: Commissioner Wood stated they started cleaning the HHW building today and that he sent two Road and Bridge employees but that no others were sent. Commissioner Moody stated he was going to send somebody but he had just forgotten. Commissioner Wood stated they could use a couple more people and he would like to see it done in about a week.

Item Ten: Commissioner Wood stated he is going to talk to Mr. Bill Towery about if they can do a septic tank project in house or if they will need to find someone else to do it.

Item Eleven: Commissioner Wood stated that Thursday, February 19th at 9:00 AM he and Mr. Emerson will be meeting with Community National Bank to discuss credit cards.

OLD BUSINESS

Item One: Mr. Emerson discussed mowing services. He mentioned he talked to the Sheriff's Department who spoke with EMS about mowing a property so that it can be removed from the list. Mr. Emerson stated last year they spent \$22,755 on mowing for all places combined. He stated if the Commissioners would like him to move forward with the bid he is happy to do that but if they want to discuss an alternative in house that is fine too. Commissioner Blair stated he does not think they have the equipment to even begin and asked how many locations there are. Mr. Emerson explained all the locations.

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Commissioner Wood asked if the bid packet is ready and Mr. Emerson stated it is put together besides removing the property they just discussed and stated he will bring it to Friday's meeting.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson stated if he does not hear more feedback from anyone else he is hoping to have a resolution on Friday to adopt the two policies they have been discussing in work session.

Item Three: Mr. Emerson mentioned that the CDL bill at the Judicial Center has been looked over by Courthouse Maintenance Aaron Crozier and that he is discussing a couple of things with CDL currently. He stated Mr. Crozier so far has agreed to pay 85% and keep the 15% in retainage and that he believes their bid was around \$77,000 and that they have processed partial pay of \$66,000. Mr. Emerson stated they have around \$11,000 in reserve and that Mr. Crozier is working with them on a couple of concerns.

Item Four: Mr. Emerson presented the Tyler Technologies bill. He stated most of this is current but that some items are new that need to be moved to the cloud. He mentioned he talked to Ms. Randi Ryan this morning and that they have \$107,000 left in general budget from last year that could be moved and that this is a last year's expense. Mr. Emerson explained the other funds that will contribute to pay this bill as well. Mr. Emerson reiterated this is last year's bill but that Mr. Tim Mikrut stated this year's bill will be received anytime now. Commissioner Wood stated he believes it would be good to use carry over money and Mr. Emerson agreed. Commissioner Wood asked about general miscellaneous and Mr. Emerson explained. Commissioner Wood asked if he has ran this by Mr. Adam Harrison to see if he has approved and Mr. Emerson confirmed. Mr. Emerson stated he is unsure if they need a motion but that since they are paying a little extra out of the miscellaneous fund it is probably not a bad idea to have a motion.

On motion (26-072) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the payment of the 2025 Tyler Technologies bill out of carryover funds.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Moody, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Five: Commissioner Wood stated he has spoken to his foreman once but will talk to him again about the expensive equipment sitting out. He asked if the Commissioners would like his foreman to communicate with theirs to get this cleaned up and put away. Commissioner Blair asked what equipment is out and Commissioner Wood answered. Commissioner Wood asked again if they want his foreman to contact their foremen and Commissioner Moody stated that is fine.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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On motion (26-073) 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 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.

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 10:44 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 10:55 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: February 20, 2026- 9:30 AM Work Session with Director of Fiscal Services Randi Ryan to discuss ARPA.

Item Two: February 20, 2026- 10:00 AM Public Hearing to Vacate a Platted Street located in the Original Town of Ringo, Crawford County, Kansas.

Item Three: February 20, 2026- SEK-CAP CEO Jamey Whitney, Public Transportation Director Scott Christiansen, and Community Engagement Coordinator Casey Brown discussing Public Transportation.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Item One: February 19, 2026- 6:00 PM Solid Waste Committee meeting to discuss Solid Waste Plan located at 1506 N Walnut Pittsburg, KS. One or more Commissioners may be in attendance.

UNDER THE HEADING MOTION TO ADJOURN MOTION TO ADJOURN

Item One: Adjournment

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On the motion of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to adjourn the [February 17, 2026](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 10:56 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 2/19/2026 10:45 AM/amended BKW 2/19/26 12:30 PM](#)