

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2026, **SIXTEENTH** MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. **Tuesday, February 24, 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 (26-086) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **February 20, 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	74	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the February 17, 2026 minutes, and Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers
Motion 26	75	To approve the ARPA draw down request for February 2026 including the requests from New Foundations and Sugar Creek
Motion 26	76	To approve the ARPA draw down request for February 2026 including the request from Point Forward
Motion 26	77	To approve the APRA draw down request for February 2026 including the requests from Adam Jones Law Firm, Turnkey LLC, and Design Mechanical

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Motion 26	78	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
Motion 26	79	To open the Public Hearing on Vacating a Platted Street located in the Original Town of Ringo, Crawford County, Kansas
Motion 26	80	To close the Public Hearing on Vacating a Platted Street located in the Original Town of Ringo, Crawford County, Kansas
Motion 26	81	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
Motion 26	82	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
Motion 26	83	To approve going out for bids for mowing and the opening of mowing bids on March 6, 2026
Motion 26	84	To adopt Resolution #2026-008, a Resolution adopting an Infant at Work Policy
Motion 26	85	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

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

MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

Item One: Mr. Paul Frederick addressed the Commissioners. He explained he lives across from one of the proposed solar projects and that he was going to speak today thinking that Shasta Power would be in attendance. Mr. Frederick stated they would be one of the people that Mr. Copyak would describe as not responding because they did not want their name anywhere near this regardless of if the answer were yes or no. Mr. Frederick mentioned there were a couple of reasons they did not feel comfortable signing the agreement and explained these reasons. He mentioned he is not impressed with how Shasta Power seems to be shifting the pool numbers when it comes to their survey to attempt to meet the required number. Mr. Frederick mentioned the timing of this is bad with the bills being proposed in Topeka, the county working on the Comprehensive Plan,

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

and zoning issues still being addressed in the county. He referenced an article in The Morning Sun regarding solar. Mr. Frederick mentioned he is confused if they have completely scrapped the Deer Creek area for the project because he has heard different things. Commissioner Wood mentioned they had also told them they were going to scrap Deer Creek area but then came back with a proposal of building houses as a buffer. Mr. Frederick mentioned he does not understand why Shasta Power has not brought in information from the other counties with solar projects to show exactly what it could do for the county and that to him that is a red flag. Commissioner Wood asked when these individuals came to his house to discuss this proposed project did they try to strong arm him and Mr. Frederick mentioned the only time they came to their house was to drop off the information but had left a couple of messages. He confirmed they did not talk to these individuals personally and just wanted to express their concerns here. Commissioner Wood explained why he asked this question. Mr. Frederick stated the contact with Mr. Copyak has been very limited to just the few voicemails that he left for them and the sending of the information. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Emerson if Shasta Power had previously mentioned they would be back at the meeting today and Commissioner Blair stated they received an email recently stating they will not be back until sometime in March. Mr. Frederick mentioned that is also a red flag to him regarding this company because they had pushed so heavily on the deadlines they have to meet. Mr. Frederick thanked the Commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS

Item One: County Counselor Jim Emerson stated he would like to give an update on the ARPA funding progress. He presented the Commissioners with a handout regarding this funding and explained the list of remaining funds. Mr. Emerson gave a recap of what has been spent in total of this funding and the total amount of what is left. Commissioner Blair stated he will contact City of Cherokee to let them know about their remaining funds.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson stated they had a nice visit with Mr. Toby Kuhn with KDHE in a work session this morning. He mentioned Mr. Kuhn has taken over the cleanup program at the State for solid waste sites and that it is a program the county has used in the past. Mr. Emerson discussed the nuisance property at the corner of 260th and Highway 160. He mentioned the plan is for the county to get out in a 3 to 4 week timeframe to begin working if all the paperwork gets approved. Mr. Emerson mentioned the county is responsible for 25% of the cost of cleanup and the State is responsible for 75% and that the labor and equipment cost at the county will be able to serve as their match funding. Mr. Emerson presented Resolution #2026-009, a Resolution regarding the cleanup of the property located in Crawford County, Kansas, and providing for cooperation with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in achieving said cleanup. Mr. Emerson explained the purpose of this resolution. Commissioner Moody mentioned this has been an ongoing problem with this property for over a year now and he receives around three calls a week about it. He stated he is hoping this will alleviate the problem and that he is thankful for KDHE for helping with this project.

On motion (26-087) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to adopt Resolution #2026-009, a Resolution regarding the cleanup of the property located

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

in Crawford County, Kansas, and providing for cooperation with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in achieving said cleanup.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Three: Mr. Emerson stated Restorative Justice Authority Program Coordinator Angie Hadley asked if he would present their Fiscal Year 2027 Comprehensive Plan and their Fiscal Year 2027 Comprehensive Plan Grant. Mr. Emerson explained the grant and that they are receiving the same amount of funding as last year which funds the court programs, juvenile intake and assessment, and immediate intervention program. He stated this has been reviewed by JCAB.

On motion (26-088) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the Restorative Justice Authority Fiscal Year 2027 Comprehensive Plan and authorizing the Chairman to sign.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Four: Mr. Emerson presented the Commissioners with a Crawford County Museum Fund Proposal. He stated he met with Explore Crawford County Advisory Board a week or so ago and wanted to discuss this. He mentioned there has been one new museum request for the museum located in Frontenac. Mr. Emerson explained each museum receives \$25,000 from the museum account and that the Crawford County CVB approved an additional \$20,000 for the museum in Frontenac but that it would require Crawford County to expend an additional \$5,000. He explained this means CVB had picked up majority of the request for funding from the Frontenac museum. Mr. Emerson explained this \$5,000 would have to come from a different fund this year but could be added on to historical funding next year. Commissioner Wood asked if the county will be paying \$50,000 in total for museum funding this year and Mr. Emerson explained. Commissioner Wood asked about CVB funding and Mr. Emerson explained they had raised their funding budget last year knowing this request would be coming. Commissioner Wood asked if they are receiving more funding than the other museums and Mr. Emerson explained that they will be receiving the same amount. Commissioner Blair asked where Mr. Emerson recommends they take the funds from this year and Mr. Emerson stated for this year he recommends the \$5,000 to come from Operating Reserve Fund if the Commissioners would approve.

On motion (26-089) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the funding of \$5,000 from the Operating Reserve Fund to the Heritage Hall Museum in Frontenac.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Five: Commissioner Moody stated he has received several calls about the garbage on Highway 69 and that it is not only not getting better but is getting worse. He stated there are entire bags of garbage now. Commissioner Moody stated he called the Sheriff to have him send some deputies to possibly go through the bags and try to find names because even though it is not the county's, it still needs to be looked at. He stated the first thing people are seeing when they enter our county is trash and that he does not know what the answer is but that something has to be figured out. Commissioner Blair stated he has an idea of using the Solid Waste Committee to try to get everyone together to come up with a plan. He mentioned he believes it is a good way to address this and come up with hopefully a long term solution. Commissioner Wood asked what Mr. Emerson thinks and asked about trucks being tarped. Commissioner Moody mentioned there is no way this trash came from a tarped truck since it was entire bags. Commissioner Wood mentioned you cannot get on one road here without there being trash on it. Commissioner Moody asked Mr. Emerson to set something up with the Solid Waste Committee and Mr. Emerson confirmed that he will.

OLD BUSINESS

Item One: Ms. Lusker mentioned she has the ARPA signature sheet from last week regarding funding because a correction had to be made. She stated Turnkey LLC had to be reallocated and explained this. Mr. Emerson gave some information regarding this correction. Commissioner Wood asked if there is money in ARPA that they could use to fund this request and Mr. Emerson explained they cannot move other ARPA money to supplement this funding request and that this was planned for.

On motion (26-090) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the corrected ARPA signature sheet as presented.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Two: Ms. Lusker stated early voting has began for a week in the Clerk's Office for the Frontenac Special Election that takes place on March 3, 2026. She mentioned this is every week day from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM and until 12:00 PM on Monday March 2nd.

Item Three: Commissioner Wood stated all the paint and some other items have been cleaned up at the SEK Recycling Center. He stated he thought they would be cleaning the entire building out but they are not so he is going to stay on top of this to get that completed. Commissioner Moody asked why they did not just clean out the entire building and Commissioner Wood stated he was told the SEK Recycling Center staff could handle it.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

On motion (26-091) 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 Maintenance Department regarding 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 and County Counselor Jim Emerson attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 10:55 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 10:40 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 10:54 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 Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (26-092) 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 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 and County Counselor Jim Emerson attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:10 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 10:55 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:06 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED

Item Four: Commissioner Blair asked if they are able to attend this Planning and Zoning Public Hearing on March 5th or if they should not attend and Mr. Emerson explained they can attend but should not participate. Commissioner Wood asked if the audience can interact and Mr. Emerson confirmed and stated this is their chance to have discussion.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

FUTURE BUSINESS:

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

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

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

Item Five: 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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 24, 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 2/26/2026 1:35 PM/amended BKW 2/26/26 1:50 PM