

# Board of Crawford County Commissioners

## Commissioners' Journal

2026, **SECOND** MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM  
Girard, KS. **Tuesday, January 6, 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 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 (26-003)** of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **January 02, 2026** 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 26	1	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the December 30, 2025 minutes, and Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers
Motion 26	2	To make it known that the board hereby issues a license to "sell at retail", cereal malt beverages from the place of business as shown in the application APPLICANT: Kim Brewer "Countryside Golf Course" PREMISES: 469 E 520th Ave, Pittsburg, KS 66762 (For consumption on the premises)

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## UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

### REORGANIZATION

The time having arrived, pursuant to Kansas Statutes Annotated Chapter 19, Article 2, Section 19, to reorganize the Board of Crawford County Commissioners, the Board took the following action to fulfill their statutory obligations:

#### **Item One: Election of the Chairman.**

County Counselor Jim Emerson explained the reorganizational procedure that takes place in January of each year.

**On motion (26-004)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the nomination of Commissioner Bruce Blair to serve as Chairman of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners for a one-year term commencing immediately.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Blair, and Moody

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Commissioner Moody passed the gavel to Commissioner Blair.**

**Commissioner Blair assumed the duties of the presiding officer.**

#### **Item Two: Election of the Vice Chairman**

**On motion (26-005)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the nomination of Commissioner Carl Wood to serve as Vice Chairman of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners for a one-year term commencing immediately.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

### **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**

**Item One:** Chief Judge Kurtis Loy addressed the Commissioners. Judge Loy discussed the 11th Judicial District briefly. He explained he provided the Commissioners with the 11th Judicial District case load information as well as his business card. Judge Loy mentioned the judicial district now has a public defender office that just began in July 2025 that includes four attorneys that handle felony cases. He stated recovery court is

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operating well, that Commissioner Blair attended their first graduation on December 4th, 2025, and explained the funding for this program. Judge Loy stated the greatest cost with recovery court is treatment and transportation. He explained he is hoping to come back to the Commissioners sometime hopefully in the summer to discuss how much they are spending in recovery court versus how much it is saving in the criminal justice system. Judge Loy stated they have a new District Court Judge John G. Mazurek. Commissioner Moody thanked Judge Loy for what he does with district court. Commissioner Wood thanked Judge Loy and stated he does a wonderful job, and Commissioner Blair stated he agrees and was very impressed with Recovery Court and the good they are doing for these individuals.

### MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

**Item One:** Mr. Roger Lomshek addressed the Commissioners. He provided the Commissioners with some property tax information. Mr. Lomshek thanked County Clerk Lisa Lusker and County Treasurer Joe Grisolano for being so helpful in getting him information and explaining information. He discussed the information he handed out to the Commissioners. Commissioner Wood discussed the increase in assessed appraised value. Commissioner Wood stated he believed the budget was only 33 million and Ms. Lusker explained there is only a portion of the budget that they have to collect tax money for. Commissioner Wood stated he was addressed yesterday at a store discussing taxes and that he receives these questions all the time and would like to have the answers to them. Commissioner Wood asked what the budget is and Ms. Lusker stated she can get a copy of the budget to look at. Commissioner Wood asked what else funds the budget besides property taxes and Mr. Emerson explained. Mr. Lomshek stated this years total property tax revenue is \$17,986,075.00. He stated last years was \$16,202,343.00 which makes an increase in property tax revenue this year of 1.783 million dollars or around an 11% increase in revenue. Mr. Lomshek stated the problem is the initial calculation was based off of properties that are not taxable and the calculations were forced to raise the mill levy after budgets were set. Mr. Lomshek stated during the revenue neutral hearing Mr. Emerson stated the mill levy the last few years has been reduced not knowing that it was going to increase and Mr. Emerson stated at the time he said this it was a true statement but due to other circumstances it did not turn out that way. Mr. Lomshek stated after having the numbers his request is to just go back to last year's mill rate by cutting \$760,000 out of budget. He stated he is asking them to consider reopening the budget and finding somewhere to take the \$760,000 off to drop the mill levy. Mr. Lomshek stated this will help individuals struggling and show the Commissioners support them. He mentioned he is going to go to the City of Pittsburg and ask the same of them as well. Ms. Lusker stated she will mention that it seems like a very simple thing to do but that it is not as simple as going back into the budget and cutting and will cost thousands extra to do this process as well. Commissioner Wood asked if she knows how much it will cost to do this and Commissioner Blair stated they are looking at \$60,000 or more as well as time constraints. Mr. Lomshek stated at the most he is hoping they could come to an agreement or decision by the end of January. Mr. Lomshek reiterated that he is going to ask the same of City of Pittsburg and that he is even going to talk to USD 250 school board as well. Commissioner Moody stated he would like to hear what happens with the City of Pittsburg. Commissioner Blair stated he has 2022 through 2025 budgets and that

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if you look at the amount of budget that was not used in some departments it is substantial. He stated they try to make sure that carryover is used properly or watch departments monthly that have overspent. Commissioner Blair stated if they predict it is more likely to cost \$70,000 to go back over budget, resend statements with postage, issue refunds, and pay for the man hours to do so it seems wasteful and that he would hope that they could put that \$70,000 to something better next year would be ideal. Commissioner Blair stated with Road and Bridge he believes there is things they can cut a little on to provide a bigger carry over for the next year which can lower the mill next year. Mr. Lomshek stated in that case he is saying they would rather keep the \$760,000 to not spend \$70,000 of it to do all that needs to be done with refunds which is understandable but that he could ask Mr. Grisolano what it cost to do the first statements plus extra man hours. He stated his concern with that proposal is are they promising next year they will run a tighter budget and also take another \$760,000 off of it or another million in order to reduce next year's tax burden to make up for this year and Commissioner Blair stated that is what he means. Commissioner Blair stated he thinks they can go through and look at needs versus wants on budgets that are not running so efficiently. Mr. Lomshek asked what budget this year was and Ms. Lusker stated 37 million and Mr. Emerson explained about 4 million of that is double entered because it is required to be showed that way. Mr. Lomshek stated so next year they will not only not increase next years budget but will also reduce the budget and hold themselves to that by a million and a half. Commissioner Blair stated that it is going to take conversations with departments and Mr. Lomshek stated this is the concern that everyone is going to voice. Mr. Lomshek explained a situation taking place in Wichita right now. Mr. Lomshek stated there are people leaving Crawford County and Kansas every day so they can find cheaper property taxes. Commissioner Wood discussed the traffic on the bypass in the mornings that he believes are people coming from Missouri to work in the Pittsburg area. Mr. Lomshek stated it is his request that the Commission begins the process of reducing the taxes and he asked Mr. Emerson if that means they need to make a motion to begin doing calculations to reduce the mill levy. Commissioner Blair stated to be truthful to get rid of \$700,000 out of the budget you are looking at cutting department's jobs or benefits to reach this amount. Commissioner Blair stated he believes there is some surplus but that most money is spent in employee pay and benefits. He mentioned they could look at now buying equipment for Road and Bridge for 2026 and that it won't add up to the \$700,000 plus dollars but would help. Commissioner Moody stated they could reduce rock and how much asphalt they can do next year. Commissioner Moody discussed EMS and that how the last thing someone wants to know is if there are enough units to care for the county. Mr. Lomshek asked if none of this had happened with the calculation errors and they knew they would need the extra money would they have intentionally raised taxes and Commissioner Wood answered no and discussed mill levy and budget. Ms. Lusker reiterated they are not collecting any more money off of this mistake and Mr. Lomshek stated the burden has just been shifted to the taxpayers. Commissioner Blair stated they go through each department 5 or 6 times and look at things to be cut until they can get to the final budget number. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Emerson about carryover and budgets and Mr. Emerson explained budget always begins with carryover. Mr. Emerson stated carryovers are estimated at budget time. Commissioner Wood asked if there is a way to find out exact carryover and Mr. Emerson explained not until audit time. Ms. Lusker asked about the departments that go over budget and where the money comes from to fix that and Mr. Emerson explained the carryover is used to help that. Mr.

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Lomshek stated \$760,000 would be a 2% cut to budget and that the first question would be who can they look at taking 2% off of. Mr. Emerson explained they had to provide EMS with \$250,000 this year and that it made an impact. Commissioner Blair stated certain departments have already hired based off of the set budgets and that if they go back and take that away those new hires are at risk of losing their jobs because there will not be budget to sustain them. Mr. Lomshek mentioned the question is can they dig into the budgets and find every spare dime possible. Commissioner Blair reiterated the possible job cuts if budget changes and Mr. Lomshek stated that he is making that statement before looking into budgets. Commissioner Blair explained some budgets like coroner's budget cannot be predicted because they cannot predict how many autopsies will need to be done in a year. Commissioner Blair stated they can go through and look at the budget. Commissioner Blair stated if need be they could send budgets out to all departments stating if they have to lower budget what can they do without and Mr. Lomshek stated what could the departments cut without cutting people. Commissioner Wood asked Ms. Lusker what the deadline would be if they review the budget again and Ms. Lusker stated she does not know what this process is going to look like. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Lomshek if the City of Pittsburg and USD 250 do the same thing and make changes what would the savings look like and Mr. Lomshek explained each entity is completely separate. Mr. Lomshek stated he appreciates the Commissioners time. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Lomshek to keep the Commission informed on the decisions of City of Pittsburg and USD 250 School Board.

### MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS

**Item One:** Emergency Manager Quinton Parsons addressed the Commissioners. He stated he is here to give an update on how they do burn bans and discussed the process briefly. Mr. Parsons discussed that individuals can sign up to receive notifications about burn bans and that if they have trouble they can call or email him and he will help. He stated with the help of IT Director Brandon Spaur they set up a burn ban hotline which can be called to receive information on if there is a burn ban in place and it is updated every morning at 8:30 AM. He stated the number is 620-724-6270. Mr. Parsons stated they also post to the social media accounts when there is a burn ban in place as well. Commissioner Wood asked if Mr. Parsons can talk to the newspaper to see if they can put something small in the paper everyday regarding burn bans. Mr. Parsons stated he believes that the newspaper just put out something regarding the burn ban in yesterday's paper.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Item One:** The time having arrived to name the official working banks for the business of the taxpayers of Crawford County and the following were recommended as the current working banks of the county: Exchange State Bank of Girard, GNBANK, Commerce Bank and Equity Bank.

**On motion (26-006)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to name Exchange State Bank of Girard, GNBANK, Commerce Bank and Equity Bank as the official working banks for the business of the taxpayers of Crawford County for a period of one year commencing immediately.

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Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Wood, and Moody

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Two:** The time having arrived to name the official newspaper publication of Crawford County and the following was recommended as the current official newspaper of the county: *The Morning Sun*. Commissioner Wood stated he believed Girard newspaper was listed as well and Mr. Emerson stated it has normally just been *The Morning Sun*.

**On motion (26-007)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to name *The Morning Sun* as the official newspaper publication of Crawford County for a period of one year commencing immediately.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Wood, and Moody

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Three:** Ms. Lusker presented the December 2025 Clerk's Report. Commissioner Wood thanked Ms. Lusker for providing a copy of this report ahead of time and that his only question is the payment to detention this month but that there was not a payment last month. Ms. Lusker stated she will ask Director of Fiscal Services Randi Ryan about this.

**On motion (26-008)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the December 2025 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.**

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Item One:** County Counselor Jim Emerson requested an executive session for 20 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

**On motion (26-009)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair 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 Maintenance Director Robert Gorentz attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:31 AM. The Motion passed 3-0.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

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Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:11 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:30 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

### MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC CONTINUED

**Item Two:** Ms. Michelle Stockebrand from Faith Services addressed the Commissioners. She stated they are an area provider that takes care of adults with intellectual developmental disabilities. She mentioned she was contacted by Mr. John Lair with New Hope Services about the intellectual disabilities funding and that they wanted Faith Services to be part of the group that receives this funding. Ms. Stockebrand stated she was told that sometime this month Faith Services would receive some of this funding. Ms. Stockebrand discussed some of the ways they are considering spending this funding. Commissioner Wood asked if she is in with the other companies and if she was included when they all came together and Ms. Stockebrand confirmed. Commissioner Wood asked how many people Faith Services provides for and Ms. Stockebrand answered they provide for 14 individuals in Crawford County. Commissioner Moody asked how many people they employ and Ms. Stockebrand answered they have 20 employees. Commissioner Wood asked if she receives funding from other places and Ms. Stockebrand explained. Commissioner Wood asked if they serve individuals with dementia or similar conditions and Ms. Stockebrand confirmed.

**Item Three:** Mr. Andrew Schwartz with Haven Support Services addressed the Commissioners. He stated they serve 38 individuals currently and employ around 50 employees. Mr. Schwartz stated they are known for taking harder to serve individuals. Commissioner Wood asked if they do transports and Mr. Schwartz explained their services. Commissioner Wood stated he does not quite understand what their services are and Mr. Schwartz explained further. Commissioner Wood asked where they receive their funding and Mr. Schwartz stated they receive theirs the same way Faith Services does. Commissioner Wood asked what age group they serve and Mr. Schwartz answered 18-68 years of age. Commissioner Wood asked how long they have been in business and Mr. Schwartz answered he believes they have been open since 2002 but he has been employed since 2003. Commissioner Wood asked if he was also contacted by Mr. John Lair and Mr. Schwartz confirmed. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Schwartz for coming. Ms. Lusker stated they are getting ready to do allocation for mill levy funds and that Mr. John Lair is part of the group that meets to discuss the funding.

### NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

**Item Four:** Mr. Emerson presented a Capitol Strategies annual contract. Mr. Emerson discussed there may be a local government caucus this year and explained how this may benefit Crawford County. Mr. Emerson briefly discussed the nuisance bill. He stated the price is the same as it has been previously. Commissioner Wood stated he has used this

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company twice and that he thinks they do a good job. He stated he believes it is money well spent. Commissioner Moody stated he agrees with Commissioner Wood.

**On motion (26-010)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the contract between Capitol Strategies, LLC and Crawford County authorizing the Chairman to sign.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Five:** Commissioner Moody stated he visited with Mr. Seth Nutt with Frontenac regarding the CVB funds available for museums and asked Mr. Emerson if they know where those funds are sitting at right now. Mr. Emerson stated they have a work session with CVB next Tuesday and that was going to be one of his items to discuss.

**Item Six:** Commissioner Wood discussed the 911 committee and asked Mr. Emerson if he has contacted the individuals yet. Mr. Emerson stated he has not heard back from all individuals but has made contact with most of them. Commissioner Wood stated they are having a LEPC meeting Thursday morning in Girard and Mr. Emerson stated they will not be ready by that time. Commissioner Wood asked for a list of these individuals. Mr. Emerson stated he has received good feedback but it is not finalized.

**Item Seven:** Commissioner Wood stated they previously discussed per diem and that he was going through bills today and that there was an expense for \$725 at a seminar. He stated he is going to work through this morning to get some details regarding this expense. Commissioner Wood also stated departments have got to start listing what the bills are for. He stated his main concern is that they are not putting this on the front page and he does not have time to look through all of them and see. Commissioner Wood stated he is going to give them another month and if they do not do better he is going to call each department in one by one. Commissioner Moody stated he has a suggestion for Commissioner Wood to get with Mr. Emerson to draft a platform of what he would like to see so they can provide this to the departments so they know what he wants to see. Commissioner Moody stated he has brought it up to some of them and that they have stated they list it in the packet but he understands that he is wanting it upfront. Commissioner Wood also discussed the consolidation of bills.

**Item Eight:** Commissioner Blair asked Ms. Lusker when she needs payroll changes by. Ms. Lusker stated as soon as possible would be ideal. Commissioner Blair stated he looked at all the sheets and how to save money he believes they need to put a maximum on the cost of living raise this year. Commissioner Wood stated if they go off of the 3% cost of living raise that he states he is 100 percent against he believes it is \$402,000 increase in wages. He stated he wants to do hard money starting at \$0.70 and capped at \$1.00 all except for one person and he will discuss this individual later. Commissioner Blair stated they could run those numbers. Commissioner Blair asked if he means a minimum of \$0.70 and Commissioner Wood confirmed and stated he can give him numbers on this at a later time. Ms. Lusker stated last year was difficult because Fiscal

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Office had to back pay the cost of living increase. Commissioner Wood stated he has been talking to Ms. Randi Ryan and he believes Mr. Emerson has discussed with her too but that Ms. Ryan will provide them what it costs to have an individual employed. Commissioner Wood discussed classifications. Commissioner Wood stated the Friday after Christmas KDOT was working and that he was told that it was a national holiday.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Item One:** Commissioner Moody stated he believes his road crew and KDOT were at the Highway 160 house with nuisance complaint to have them remove the clutter from the state right-of-way. He stated this is not the final solution but is a start.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION CONTINUED**

**Item Two:** County Counselor Jim Emerson requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship.

**On motion (26-011)** of Commissioner Blair and second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open meeting and to go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss legal advice regarding early retirement contract 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 12:16 P.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 12:01 PM and reconvened the Open Session at 12:16 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

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

**Item One: January 9, 2026-** Mr. Wally Wilson from Ryan Insurance discussing Property/Casualty insurance.

**Item Two: January 13, 2026- 9:00 AM** Work Session to discuss Explore Crawford County.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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

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## Item One: Adjournment

**On the motion** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to adjourn the [January 6, 2026](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 12:16 PM and to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled time with open doors.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

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.**

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**Lisa Lusker**  
County Clerk

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**This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.**

[Taken RJA 1/8/2026 12:55 PM/amended BKW 1/8/2026 1:30 PM](#)