

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2025, [SEVENTY-EIGHTH](#) MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. **Friday, October 31, 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.

Director of Fiscal Services Randi Ryan 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 (25-444) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **October 28, 2025** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners, and
2. Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers.

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	437	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the October 24, 2025 minutes
Motion 25	438	To approve the ARPA drawdown request for October 2025
Motion 25	439	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
Motion 25	440	To adopt Resolution #2025-031, a Resolution authorizing a lease purchase transaction between Crawford County and Labette Bank for lease purchase financing of a generator for the jail

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Motion 25	441	To approve the lease purchase agreement between Crawford County and Clayton Holdings LLC and authorizing the Chairman to sign
Motion 25	442	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss 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
Motion 25	443	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

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 spoke to Mr. Ram Gupta and Mr. Tim Dossey with PSU about coming to do a presentation about solar batteries and they declined. She mentioned if the Commissioners would like them to come sit down and talk they would answer their questions but that they do not want to do something publicly. Ms. Rhodes presented the Commissioners with a paper including information on these batteries. Commissioner Moody asked about one of the batteries listed and if it is the battery most people had concerns with and Ms. Rhodes explained. Ms. Rhodes stated her goal with Shasta Power is to make sure they have the safest equipment possible. Commissioner Moody asked who would run the fire department and Ms. Rhodes answered the closest place they were advised to house the equipment would be Crawford County Fire District #2. Commissioner Moody asked if anyone has spoken with Fire District #2 and Ms. Rhodes answered she has not spoken with them. Ms. Rhodes provided the Commissioners with information on decommissioning of the potential solar farm. Commissioner Wood asked about the bond Ms. Rhodes mentioned and asked if it would be paper or cash bond and Ms. Rhodes answered it would be a paper bond with the state.

Item Two: Mr. Steve Morrison addressed the Commissioners. He stated he is the Mayor of Frontenac and that he is in some way representing the City of Frontenac today but also is representing his own personal beliefs. Mr. Morrison mentioned he has not had anyone in the City of Frontenac reach out to him stating that they are in favor of this solar farm project but has had several asking him to do what he can to make sure this does not happen. He discussed that this could impede the future growth of Frontenac. Mr.

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Morrison stated the City of Frontenac had received one phone call from a landowner asking them to look into this solar project and stated there would be a follow up call that was never received so he mentioned it is hard to believe the City of Mulberry had this idea on their own and that someone reached out to them. Mr. Morrison mentioned Mr. Ken Collins is a good friend of his but for it to be mentioned he is the State Representative that is working on this but is also a city council member in the City of Mulberry is a conflict of interest. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Morrison if the City of Mulberry contacted the City of Frontenac and Mr. Morrison stated they have had no notice from the City of Mulberry. Mr. Morrison explained how he discovered this process was going on. Commissioner Blair asked if the City of Frontenac is willing to give a formal response to this situation in regards to the public hearing that will be held regarding the annexation and Mr. Morrison stated he is not sure what the City of Frontenac can do regarding this. Mr. Morrison mentioned their next council meeting is November 12th and he will see what he can do. Commissioner Wood asked if City of Frontenac could be represented at the public hearing and Mr. Morrison stated he plans on attending.

Item Three: Ms. Melesia Rhodes addressed the Commissioners. She stated she can talk with Mr. Morrison regarding this. She mentioned she plans on attending the City of Frontenac council meeting on November 12th and Mr. Morrison stated his issue with this is that nobody has ever attended the meetings previously regarding this land annexation but wants to attend now. Ms. Rhodes stated she knows a landowner approached someone with the City of Frontenac and Mr. Morrison confirmed that is what he stated when he spoke and Ms. Rhodes stated the landowner mentioned they did not want to be annexed by Frontenac. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Morrison if he understands the public hearing is just about the annexation and Mr. Morrison confirmed and discussed the fact that Mulberry is not wanting to annex any roads but that they are only wanting to annex the land.

Item Four: Ms. Judy Prince addressed the Commissioners. She asked if annexation is a first come first serve situation or if any city can attempt annexation at the same time. Mr. Emerson mentioned this is not something he has looked into but that if it was for the same property they would have to go through one process first before another city could request annexation. He explained if the process is approved then it becomes city property but if the process is denied then another city could request annexation and go through the process as well. Ms. Prince asked if they could request annexation of land around the already requested area and Mr. Emerson confirmed. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Emerson how far out a city can request annexation and Mr. Emerson answered there is no real limit and explained. Ms. Prince asked if the annexation currently in question should be approved how soon could a neighboring city or county residents file for an appeal and Mr. Emerson answered that he will not answer that without looking into it further. Ms. Prince discussed the purpose for land annexation being discussed if an appeal is filed and Mr. Emerson explained the appeal would be to district court and not to the Commissioners.

Item Five: Ms. Melesia Rhodes addressed the Commissioners. She stated the landowners that have owned this land for decades asked to be petitioned by the City of Mulberry. She explained it was not an entity coming in and forcing these landowners to do anything but

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that the landowners asked to be annexed. Ms. Rhodes stated this was news for herself and Shasta Power because they did not know this was an option until it was presented at a county commission meeting. Ms. Rhodes stated she does not believe they should have a hostile annexation from another community and that the surrounding cities should be good neighbors and have cooperation. She stated this annexation is for the livelihood of Mulberry.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item One: Health Department Director Debra Anthony requested an executive session for 30 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (25-445) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 30 minutes to discuss Health 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, Sheriff Billy Tomasi, Undersheriff Jason VanBecelaere, Health Department Director Debra Anthony, and Nurse Practitioner Kayla Crowell attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 10:57 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 10:27 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 10:57 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

NEW BUSINESS

Item One: Mr. Emerson presented the Commissioners with the end of the month EMS budget/operations. He stated in order to close the month out in a positive direction they will need to approve two transfers. He mentioned one transfer would be \$36,039.48 from EMS Reserve to EMS and a second request to transfer \$13,215.04 from ARPA Training Funds to EMS for reimbursement of the trainer. Mr. Emerson stated the remaining amounts. Ms. Randi Ryan explained they had a small deposit today but not much. Commissioner Blair asked for any information regarding the billing and Ms. Ryan explained they are holding on billing Medicare because they do not want it to get denied. Commissioner Blair asked if they had any idea when that is going to open up and Ms. Ryan stated she does not know. Commissioner Wood asked if since the ARPA money was marked for something else can they transfer it to EMS and Mr. Emerson explained.

On motion (25-446) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the transfer of \$36,039.48 from EMS Reserve and \$13,215.04 from ARPA Training to EMS.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

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Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson stated he was approached by the City of Girard. He explained they are upgrading their water lines and one of the locations needs an easement. Mr. Emerson explained this is at the Fire Station #4 property and explained the details. Mr. Emerson stated he discussed this with Chief Scotty Thomas and that he stated he does not think this would be an issue for them.

On motion (25-447) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Moody to grant the Right-Of-Way Easement to City of Girard.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Moody, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Three: Mr. Emerson mentioned he was approached by Farmers Bank while they were working on a transaction in the county. He provided the Commissioners with paperwork and maps regarding this and mentioned a temporary easement that the county had. Mr. Emerson mentioned the property had been obtained by a quit claim deed and was not done the way a temporary easement should have been. He explained the bank and title company would appreciate a quit claim deed back to the property owners for the temporary easement area only.

On motion (25-448) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the Quit Claim Deed as presented authorizing the chairman to sign.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

OLD BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SESSION CONTINUED

Item Two: Commissioner Wood requested an executive session for 10 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship.

On motion (25-449) of Commissioner Moody and second of Commissioner Blair to recess this open meeting and to go into a closed executive session for 10 minutes to discuss legal advice regarding budget 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 11:19 A.M. The motion passed 3-0.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Blair, and Moody

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Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:09 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:19 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

Item Three: Commissioner Wood requested an executive session for 10 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship.

On motion (25-450) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to recess this open meeting and to go into a closed executive session for 10 minutes to discuss legal advice regarding the zoning board 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 11:29 A.M. The motion passed 3-0.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:19 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:22 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

Item Four: Mr. Emerson presented the Commissioners with bids on the HRRR project. He stated KDOT bid this project out and that the low bid received was B&B Bridge out of St. Paul. Mr. Emerson gave some details regarding this project. Commissioner Wood asked about the location of the project and Mr. Emerson explained. Commissioner Wood asked about another company that bid on the project and Mr. Emerson explained. Commissioner Wood asked the total cost of the project and Mr. Emerson stated the total project cost is \$81,663.00. Mr. Emerson explained the amount the county has paid on this project. Commissioner Moody asked if there is any reason not to move on this approval today and Mr. Emerson answered he does not believe so.

On motion (25-451) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the contract with B&B Bridge as presented and authorizing the county match of \$9,000.00.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

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Item Five: Mr. Emerson stated the planning and zoning board has gotten into the thick of their role in the Comprehensive Plan which includes meetings with the consultant, meetings to review proposed zoning regulations, and eventually meetings to review the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Emerson stated the planning and zoning board is not allowed to be paid by statute and they have never been paid or received a travel stipend. Mr. Emerson stated he believes with all the meetings they are attending they deserve some reimbursement for their expenses and would suggest authorizing a \$20.00 travel stipend per meeting going back to start on October 1, 2025 because there have already been a couple of meetings this month and authorizing this through the end of the Comprehensive Plan process. Commissioner Wood stated he agrees.

On motion (25-452) of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Moody to authorize a \$20.00 per meeting travel stipend for the Planning and Zoning Board members beginning October 1, 2025 through the remainder of the Comprehensive Plan process.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Moody, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Six: Commissioner Moody mentioned he will be absent from the meeting on Friday November 7th and so will Mr. Emerson. Commissioner Blair mentioned the election taking place on this week as well. Commissioner Wood asked about having things prepared for the public hearing on November 13th and Mr. Emerson stated he believes they can have things discussed and taken care of at the November 4th meeting.

On motion (25-453) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to cancel the open meeting on Friday, November 7th, 2025.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: November 7, 2025- Ms. Leslie Lackamp from Mosaic and Mr. Bob Davis from Class LTD giving a county mill presentation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

Item Two: November 7, 2025- The Regular Session of the Board of County Commissioners is cancelled.

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Item Three: November 13, 2025- 5:30 PM Public Hearing to discuss land annexation request from the City of Mulberry located in the courtroom on the 3rd floor of the courthouse.

UNDER THE HEADING MOTION TO ADJOURN MOTION TO ADJOURN

Item One: Adjournment

On the motion of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Blair to adjourn the [October 31, 2025](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:34 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.

Randi Ryan

Director of Fiscal Services

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This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.

[Taken RJA 11/03/25 12:45 PM/amended BKW 11/3/25 1:20 PM](#)