

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2026, **NINETEENTH** MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. **Friday, March 06, 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 (26-109) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **March 03, 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	101	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the February 27, 2026 minutes
Motion 26	102	To approve the Community Corrections Fiscal Year 2027 Comprehensive Plan as presented and authorizing the Chairman to sign
Motion 26	103	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 20 minutes to discuss Explore Crawford County 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

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

		County Counselor Jim Emerson attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 10:46 AM. The Motion passed 3-0
Motion 26	104	To approve the re-establishment of the Crawford County 911 Advisory Board
Motion 26	105	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Explore Crawford County 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 11:09 AM. The Motion passed 3-0
Motion 26	106	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss LEPP 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 26	107	To recess this open meeting and to go into a closed executive session for 10 minutes to discuss 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 11:28 AM. The motion passed 3-0
Motion 26	108	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss LEPP 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 Zoning Administrator May Smith attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:42 AM. The Motion passed 3-0

UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS

Item One: Opening of culvert bids. County Clerk Lisa Lusker opened the bids and read them aloud. She mentioned the first was from Metal Culverts, Inc. and they submitted a “No Bid”. Ms. Lusker mentioned the second bid was from J&J Drainage Products and that the total price was \$69,561.40. She stated the third is from Bo’s 1 Stop in the amount of \$60,295.20. Ms. Lusker mentioned the next bid was from Welborn Sales, Inc. in the total amount of \$59,142.60 and the final bid was from Ferguson Enterprises LLC in the total amount of \$66,213.00. Commissioner Moody stated he would like for them to send these bids to Road and Bridge Coordinator Alyssa Edwards for recommendation.

Item Two: Opening of mowing bids. Ms. Lusker opened the bids and read them aloud. She stated the first bid is from S&B Lawncare with mulch price being \$400 per mulch and that each individual building listed had an individual price per mow. Ms. Lusker mentioned the second bid is from TR Construction with mulch price being \$500 per

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

mulch and that each individual building listed had an individual price per mow. Commissioner Blair asked if this lists anything about Noxious Weed and Ms. Lusker stated the bid mentions this includes the Extension Office at 120 Buffalo but has no price and the previous bid had a \$20 amount listed. Commissioner Moody stated he would like to send these bids to Maintenance Supervisor Robert Gorentz for recommendation.

Item Three: Public Hearing to Vacate a road located in Martin Kane's 2nd Addition in the City of Arma, Kansas.

On motion (26-110) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to open the Public Hearing to Vacate a road located in Martin Kane's 2nd Addition in the City of Arma, Kansas.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

There was no public comment.

On motion (26-111) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to close the Public Hearing to Vacate a road located in Martin Kane's 2nd Addition in the City of Arma, Kansas.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Mr. Emerson referred the Commissioners to a map he provided to inform them of the location. He explained the areas being vacated. Mr. Emerson presented Resolution #2026-012, a Resolution closing and vacating South Street, a portion of Kane Street and an alley in Martin Kane's 2nd Addition to the City of Arma, Kansas, according to the recorded plat thereof.

On motion (26-112) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to adopt Resolution #2026-012, a Resolution closing and vacating South Street, a portion of Kane Street and an alley in Martin Kane's 2nd Addition to the City of Arma, Kansas, according to the recorded plat thereof.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

**MESSAGES FROM CRAWFORD CO LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH
MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES
MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

Item One: Mr. John Copyak with Shasta Power addressed the Commissioners. He provided the Commissioners with history regarding himself and other partners with Shasta Power as well as some projects he has participated in. Mr. Copyak mentioned they started this current project in Crawford County in 2022 and it went under moratorium since May of 2024. He stated originally it was supposed to be a 7 month moratorium but was renewed for the full year of 2025 and then to his understanding is renewed again for the full year of 2026. Mr. Copyak stated he previously approached the Commissioners with a request to end the moratorium in February 2026 because they were given a February deadline by SBP and explained why. Mr. Copyak stated SBP has given them a new date, explained why they provided them with a new date, and mentioned the new date is March 18th. He stated he is offering the county an opportunity but is also explaining where they are at with a deposit needing to be made in April if they can keep the project alive. Mr. Copyak explained the ways this moratorium forces this project to be stuck. He mentioned the work he has done with this project and that he would like to provide them with the results of the survey he conducted but mentioned they are confidential. The results were provided in an envelope and were not viewed. Mr. Copyak stated 23 homeowners signed the survey stating they would like the project to be built and be compensated, 9 homeowners answers no they do not want the project built, and 5 abstained from answering. Mr. Copyak stated 4 of the 5 chose to abstain and were aware of the project and the survey. He mentioned this equates to 72% of the neighbors answering yes and that for every 1 no was 2.5 homeowners that signed yes. Mr. Copyak mentioned the President previously stating he was not interested in solar power but that this opinion has recently changed. He mentioned he is here to reoffer this opportunity to the county and discussed how much money the county would receive as well as Mulberry, the first district, and the surrounding neighbors. Mr. Copyak discussed zoning and the process possibly taking a while but they would really like to invest in Crawford County. Mr. Copyak asked if there is any thought to lifting the moratorium on solar any sooner than planned or possibly giving an exemption to this project on the moratorium. He addressed some potential concerns he could foresee. Mr. Copyak reiterated his request being an exemption of this project on the moratorium or ending the moratorium earlier than planned. He stated again it is a \$400,000,000 investment. Commissioner Moody stated he is not saying they will but asked if they were to lift the moratorium what action would Mr. Copyak take once it was lifted and Mr. Copyak answered the direct reasons for needing the moratorium lifted and that it effects the financing of anything regarding this project. Commissioner Moody asked if Mr. Copyak feels they are doing him an injustice if they lift the moratorium and then his project gets shut down in the Planning and Zoning process and Mr. Copyak answered he understands there is a lot of risk in solar development but that he would love to have it lifted or an exemption. Commissioner Wood asked if he understood that Mr. Copyak stated the Planning and Zoning Board has a plan that he has discussed with them and Mr. Copyak stated no but that on the website there is a zoning proposal regarding zoning with solar. Commissioner Blair mentioned the way he understands it is that they cannot lift the moratorium only for one project and that it would have to be lifted county wide and he does not believe they are ready for that. Commissioner Blair stated he believes they still have a lot left to do. Commissioner Blair

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

added on to what Commissioner Moody had stated. Commissioner Blair discussed the risk of providing an exemption to just this project.

Item Two: Mr. Max Roe with Shasta Power addressed the Commissioners. He thanked the Commissioners, stated they appreciate the process, and that they appreciate the Commissioners are taking time to make the right choices for their county. Mr. Roe reiterated their goal is to collaborate with the county and make sure the project adheres to any rules or regulations that are set by the county. Mr. Roe stated they will be here again on March 26th. Mr. Roe proposed informing all solar and wind projects they cannot have a building permit but lifting the moratorium so that they can at least take the next steps towards the project by financing equipment. Commissioner Blair stated the problem with that is the other project that was mentioned is in a zoned and unzoned area of the county. Mr. Roe stated it was mentioned they could not lift the moratorium without lifting it for the entire county and asked if the moratorium could be amended to have a wind only moratorium as he feels solar is singled out. .

On motion (26-113) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess the open meeting for a period of 5 minutes.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair, Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

NEW BUSINESS

Item One: Mr. Emerson presented Resolution #2026-011, a Resolution authorizing a lease purchase transaction between Crawford County and Labette Bank for financing of a generator for the jail. He explained this was actually passed last year but through no fault of their own it has taken a while to get this equipment purchased and ready for a lease purchase. Mr. Emerson stated they are doing this again because it is now 2026 and there is a new Chairman. He stated the interest rate is for 3.75% and he believes they will have the documents to review for Tuesday.

On motion (26-114) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to adopt Resolution #2026-011, a Resolution authorizing a lease purchase transaction between Crawford County and Labette Bank for financing of a generator for the jail.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Commissioner Wood asked if Mr. Emerson has the contract for the purchase of this generator and Mr. Emerson stated he has the bid. Commissioner Wood stated he would like to look at it.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Item Two: Mr. Emerson presented the Annual Solid Waste Meeting and Recommendations. He stated the Solid Waste Committee met on February 19th and he and Commissioner Blair attended that meeting. Mr. Emerson stated at this meeting they reviewed the Solid Waste Management Plan for Crawford County and this report he has provided by Triad Environmental Services gives the details of the meeting. Mr. Emerson read these items and provided details. He mentioned Mr. Dennis Meier will be back in town next week and they will begin to have the conversations about getting the Solid Waste Committee involved in the removal of debris along roadsides in the county.

On motion (26-115) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the annual review of the Crawford County Solid Waste Plan.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Commissioner Blair stated he believes it is important to again announce that they have one day a month where county residents can take items to the landfill. He believes anything that can fit in a truck bed and within reason they will accept and Mr. Emerson stated the rules are located on the website. Commissioner Moody stated it does have to be tarped or they will be turned away.

Item Three: Mr. Emerson stated he visited with Chief Judge Loy yesterday and that he would like to set up a meeting with the Commissioners on April 7th at 9:00 AM to have a work session on site at the Judicial Center. Mr. Emerson stated they could do 10:00 AM or whatever the Commission wants but that Judge Loy would just like to show them around the building and discuss possible updates. Commissioner Wood asked what time and Mr. Emerson stated he would like to see it happen at 9:00 AM and that it will be called a work session and they would not have an open meeting that day. Commissioner Moody stated it would be interesting to see. Mr. Emerson stated he will let Judge Loy know they will make it if the Commissioners agree and they Commissioners agreed. Commissioner Blair stated this may be a good time to have Courthouse Maintenance Aaron Crozier attend to look around as well.

Item Four: Commissioner Moody asked Mr. Emerson if anything on the Comprehensive Plan will address tiny homes. Mr. Emerson explained the plan is not out for review yet as they are attempting to finish up zoning and asked if that was discussed at last night's public hearing and Commissioners Wood and Moody stated it was not. Mr. Emerson stated it is his understanding that as of right now regulations are just drafts at this time and he does not believe it is discussed. Commissioner Moody stated that this may need addressed. Commissioner Blair stated it was mentioned last night if anything came up they may drop a recommendation to the Planning and Zoning Board to address before everything is finalized and that this would be the time to do this. Commissioner Moody stated that they should address this. Commissioner Wood agreed and stated he believes there are a lot of things he thinks are going to need addressed that have not been.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Item Five: Commissioner Wood stated yesterday morning before 7:00 AM three transfer trucks that were not tarped and unloaded were traveling and that two of the three were blowing trash out of the trucks. Commissioner Moody asked if they had not previously addressed this and Commissioner Wood stated they have addressed this but they seem to still be hauling while not tarped. He mentioned this same thing happened also on 7 Highway the other day as well. Commissioner Wood stated either the Sheriff's Department or Highway Patrol need to come to a meeting to discuss. Commissioner Blair stated he has talked to Sheriff Billy Tomasi recently about truck traffic on 160th and that they briefly discussed this topic as well. Commissioner Wood stated he received four calls yesterday regarding trash on 250th and they are getting ready to establish signs on this road for littering. He mentioned he had his crew picking up this road from 4th street to Quincy street this morning. Commissioner Wood stated this is not the haul road and explained the haul road is 260th down to Quincy. He mentioned he is going to discuss this with Sheriff Tomasi.

Item Six: Commissioner Blair stated one takeaway from last night with zoning discussion was that when it came to zoning the entire county it was mentioned about putting it to a vote. He asked Mr. Emerson if the next time he talks to Mr. Joshua Albin if he could gather an idea of what this looks like and some details. Mr. Emerson stated he would be happy to visit with him about this. Commissioner Wood stated what he gathered from the discussion. Commissioner Blair discussed some of what he gathered of the commercial part of the Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Wood stated they want to be careful not to stop anyone from developing businesses. Commissioner Blair mentioned that Mr. Albin discussed as well that sometimes areas look really great until it is recognized that the infrastructure is not present for support. Commissioner Wood also discussed individuals moving in from out of town without knowing specifics and history about the property it can become an issue and that he likes that Mr. Albin addressed this topic. Commissioner Wood stated there seemed to be a big concern last night after the meeting and he was asked by a few people how many people are in the zoned area and how many are in the area not zoned. Commissioner Wood mentioned more individuals moving to rural area would put strain on water districts and Commissioner Blair stated he knows of a few times water districts have had to say no because they could not handle the proposed development.

OLD BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

On motion (26-116) 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 LEPP 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 11:26 AM. The Motion passed 3-0.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

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 11:26 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: March 10, 2026- 10:00 AM The Board of County Canvassers will meet to canvass the ballots from the 2026 Frontenac Sales Tax Special Election with the Regular Session commencing immediately after the canvass.

Item Two: March 10, 2026- Pittsburg State University President Dr. Thomas Newsom, Executive Vice President for Engagement & Executive Affairs Jim Johnson, Explore Crawford County Marketing & Communications Manager Chris Wilson, and Explore Crawford County Vice Board Chair Renato Pinto discussing PSU Track funding request.

Item Three: March 10, 2026- Zoning Administrator May Smith presenting a subdivision.

Item Four: March 13, 2026- 8:30 AM Work Session to sign midmonth bills and payroll vouchers.

Item Five: March 20, 2026- 10:00 AM Public Hearing on Vacating a Platted Alley located in the Town of Opolis, Crawford County, Kansas.

Item Six: April 7, 2026- 9:00 AM Work Session at the Pittsburg Judicial Center with the Regular Session of the Board of County Commissioners being cancelled.

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 [March 06, 2026](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:44 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.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

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 3/09/2026 1:10 PM/amended BKW 3/9/26 1:20 PM](#)