

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2026, **EIGHTH** MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. **Tuesday, January 27, 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 Moody led the Pledge of Allegiance.

UNDER THE HEADING BUSINESS FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING CONSENT AGENDA

On motion (26-040) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **January 23, 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	35	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the January 20, 2026 minutes, and Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers
Motion 26	36	To recess the open meeting for a period of 5 minutes
Motion 26	37	To approve the ARPA drawdown request for January 2026

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Motion 26	38	To approve the publication of the Notice of Intent to Vacate a Platted Street located in the Original Town of Ringo, Crawford County, Kansas with a public hearing scheduled for Friday, February 20, 2026 at 10:00 AM
Motion 26	39	To recess this open meeting and to go into a closed executive session for 10 minutes to discuss property acquisition 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 12:56 PM. 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 THE PUBLIC

MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Item One: County Appraiser Zach Edwards addressed the Commissioners. Commissioner Wood stated he has had calls about property taxes. He mentioned Shasta Power attended the last meeting and mentioned they had been in contact with the Appraiser’s office and Commissioner Wood asked if his office provided them with numbers. Mr. Edwards confirmed and mentioned when they first looked in to this project Mr. John Copyak contacted him and Mr. Edwards explained how he gathered these numbers. Mr. Edwards stated the numbers Mr. Copyak has are as accurate as they can be but are still an estimate and took place over a year ago. Commissioner Wood discussed lowering an individuals property tax in the past and asked if the model used to predict the numbers existed 8 to 10 years ago and Mr. Edwards explained. Commissioner Wood stated the person that called him mentioned that a while back this individual called the Appraiser’s office to inquire about a piece of property that sold and was told the information could not be disclosed and so the individual was confused why information was given to Shasta Power. Mr. Edwards explained what records are open in their office and what cannot be disclosed. Commissioner Wood mentioned another individual contacted him and asked if the crypto mining station located within the City of Pittsburg was being taxed and Mr. Edwards explained. Commissioner Wood asked about the industry that has expanded and being tax exempt or in the RHID program and who sets the appraisal and Mr. Edwards explained. Commissioner Blair discussed comparable sales driving valuation on individuals property and Mr. Edwards confirmed. Commissioner Blair stated one thing he did not realize is if once a property sells does their valuation change to that sale price and Mr. Edwards stated that is somewhat true and explained the process. Commissioner Blair asked if he knows about how many properties sell in Crawford County on a yearly basis and Mr. Edwards stated on average they see around 1,000 sales but are not all valid sales. He explained this year was a little lower at around 600 valid sales. Commissioner Wood asked who sets assessed appraised value and if different counties have different percentages and Mr. Edwards explained its two different terms that is appraised value and assessment rate, and he explained the

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difference. Commissioner Wood asked if the assessed appraised value increased this year by 7% and Mr. Edwards says that was about the average appraised value increase but assessed value falls differently. Commissioner Wood stated then it is not true that the State sets the assessed appraised value and Mr. Edwards confirmed. Commissioner Wood asked if the market is hot the assessed appraised value would increase and Mr. Edwards confirmed. Commissioner Moody asked if they were on the low end of state compliance for 2024 and Mr. Edwards confirmed and that he has never seen it on the high end for an overall ratio.

NEW BUSINESS

Item One: Ms. Lusker mentioned every year they do Parks and Recreation and Special Alcohol Fund levy distribution. She stated they are almost completed putting them together and would like to set a work session to get those disbursed. She asked the Commissioners to pick a day in February. Mr. Emerson stated it could be done on February 3rd or February 6th and Ms. Lusker stated February 6th at 9:00 AM would be good.

Item Two: Mr. Emerson stated he is on the agenda for a lease purchase agreement. He stated this was discussed with Communications Director Tim Mikrut before going out for bid and that they were fortunate enough to have five banks bid on the project. Mr. Emerson stated Clayton Holdings, LLC which is Commerce Bank was the low bid for 36 months at 3.86% in the total amount of \$132,179.42. He explained they discussed they previously discussed paying this outright out of the 911 Telephone Tax fund account but that this account is a little lower than it has been previously. Mr. Emerson mentioned this lease purchase is for the Communications and Dispatch consoles. Commissioner Wood asked what this would figure up to per month and Mr. Emerson answered it is \$3,894.24 per month. Commissioner Wood asked if they can make this payment monthly and Mr. Emerson confirmed. Mr. Emerson gave some details regarding the project. Commissioner Wood asked if it can be paid off ahead of time if they have additional money and Mr. Emerson confirmed.

On motion (26-041) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the lease purchase agreement for the Communications and Dispatch consoles with Clayton Holdings, LLC for 36 months in the total amount of \$132,179.42 and authorizing the Chairman to sign.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Commissioner Wood discussed a lease purchase he saw that he did not recognize the name and that he would show Mr. Emerson after the meeting. Mr. Emerson stated their lease purchases are typically through Commerce Bank, GN Bank, and Labette Bank with Community National occasionally.

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Item Three: Commissioner Moody stated they have discussed the library museum in Frontenac and asked if there has been any movement on that yet and Mr. Emerson stated there has not been. Commissioner Moody asked what needs to be done to get that started and if he will reach out to CVB and Mr. Emerson stated he will.

OLD BUSINESS

Item One: Mr. Emerson stated they have set the work session on February 10th with Department Heads and Elected Officials to discuss the infant policy and travel policy and if there is time hopefully some budget discussions. Mr. Emerson stated he would like to set a work session for February 3rd at 9:30 AM to review an updated travel policy.

Item Two: Commissioner Moody stated to have Zoning Administrator May Smith present at the meeting on Friday to give an update on the Highway 160 property with nuisance complaint and update regarding them reaching out to KDHE. Mr. Emerson gave a brief update on KDHE and KDOT right of way at this property but that he will have Ms. Smith attend Friday's meeting.

Item Three: Commissioner Moody asked if they heard anything else regarding the trash on Highway 69 and the piece of machinery. Mr. Emerson stated he is going to talk to Shop Foreman Josh Peak about looking on Purple Wave for this equipment. Commissioner Blair stated he even wondered if MODot could set up a demonstration on the equipment. Commissioner Wood stated it needs to be the State of Kansas or the landfill cleaning the mess up. Commissioner Moody stated he agrees but that they see how they have taken care of it. Commissioner Wood mentioned if the landfill was not there the trash would not be there and he does not feel like it is the county's problem or expense. Commissioner Moody stated maybe they need to look at bringing the state and landfill back to the meeting but he still wants Mr. Peak to look at Purple Wave. Commissioner Wood stated he has heard of crews that go around and clean up where landfills are. Commissioner Wood asked if Mr. Emerson can get ahold of the landfill owner and ask if they have a crew that cleans around the landfill.

Item Four: Commissioner Blair stated with the road conditions there has been a few breakdowns but that they have been worked on and there were no big expensive accidents. Commissioner Blair stated he appreciates the crews that got out and worked on the roads because it was brutally cold.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item One: Commissioner Wood requested an executive session for 30 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship.

On motion (26-042) of Commissioner Blair and second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open meeting and to go into a closed executive session for 30 minutes to discuss legal advice regarding court cases 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 11:07 AM. The motion passed 3-0.

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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 10:37 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:01 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: January 30, 2026- 8:30 AM Work Session to sign bills and payroll vouchers.

Item Two: January 30, 2026- Rock bids due by 10:00 AM and will be opened during the regular session.

Item Three: February 03, 2026- 9:30 AM Work Session to discuss travel policy.

Item Four: February 06, 2026- 9:00 AM Work Session to discuss Parks and Recreation, Elderly, Historical, and Special Alcohol Funding.

Item Five: February 10, 2026- 9:00 AM Work Session with department heads and elected officials.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Item One: January 28, 2026- Kansas Association of Counties Local Government Day. All three Commissioners may be in attendance.

UNDER THE HEADING MOTION TO ADJOURN MOTION TO ADJOURN

Item One: Adjournment

On the motion of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Moody to adjourn the [January 27, 2026](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:02 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.

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Lisa Lusker
County Clerk



This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.

[Taken RJA 1/28/2026 4:22 PM/amended BKW 1/28/26 9:45 AM](#)