

# Board of Crawford County Commissioners

## Commissioners' Journal

2026, THIRTEENTH MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM  
Girard, KS. **Friday, February 13, 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 Counselor Jim Emerson was seated with the Board.

Chairman Blair led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **UNDER THE HEADING BUSINESS FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING CONSENT AGENDA**

**On motion (26-065)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **February 10, 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	63	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the February 06, 2026 minutes
Motion 26	64	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 10:29 AM. The Motion passed 3-0

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## 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:** SEK-CAP CEO Jamey Whitney addressed the Commissioners. He stated he presented at the Pittsburg City Commission meeting the other night so that they were aware of the transportation services as well. Mr. Whitney gave a recap of what the information they provided last time they attended the Commission meeting. He also provided some transportation statistics. Commissioner Wood asked about the bus transportations and Mr. Whitney explained. Commissioner Wood asked about the two PSU routes and the total amount of routes and Mr. Whitney answered there is seven routes total including PSU. Commissioner Wood asked if 6 of the routes including PSU serve only City of Pittsburg and Mr. Whitney explained. Commissioner Wood discussed decreasing the days the routes run to save money and Mr. Scott Christiansen explained they have people that they take to work every day so this would not benefit those individuals if they cut down the route days. Mr. Whitney discussed the PSU routes and explained those are not concern for funding and are not included in the numbers. Mr. Casey Brown explained the funding details and concerns. Commissioner Wood stated he does not see the donors he wants to see and that he would like for SEK-CAP to get a plan together and see where they are at for funding as of right now. Mr. Whitney explained it will just be an approximate number and that it is a moving target. Commissioner Wood asked if they know the approximate age of the riders and Mr. Christiansen answered it is typically older individuals but that they do provide services to younger individuals as well. Commissioner Blair asked what the process of scheduling a ride looks like and Mr. Christiansen explained. Commissioner Wood asked if the hospital does not run transportation and Mr. Christiansen stated they no longer do this. Commissioner Wood asked why they cannot charge insurance for giving rides to doctor's appointments and Mr. Whitney explained they cannot do this because they are not an emergency medical transportation service but that they are in the process of trying to be able to collect from insurance. Commissioner Wood asked what exactly they are wanting to do because he knows the Commissioners would like to help and Mr. Whitney answered the county does give them consistent support with the same amount of funding every year but that it is vastly short of the funding that they need. Mr. Whitney stated that it was not even the amount the Commissioners pledged to give and was far short of that amount. He stated as a taxpayer he believes this is a wonderful service for the county. Commissioner Wood asked if they can talk to the hospital and gather some more of their information and come back to the Commissioners and he will also see what he can do in this time as well. Mr. Whitney stated they need to remember when their fiscal year ends in June 2026 the new year starts the following day and the numbers start again. Commissioner Wood asked how many routes they ran for the county 5 or 6 years ago and Mr. Christiansen answered. Commissioner Blair stated he is interested to see how much cost goes in to one transportation van and Mr. Christiansen gave an answer of overall costs. Commissioner

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Wood asked for clarification that they are needing \$40,000 from locals to keep the routes running and Mr. Christiansen answered it is \$40,000 to secure one route. Mr. Whitney stated they can calculate out exactly what it will be and daily cost and then they will come back to the Commissioners and can also provide the ridership on each route. Commissioner Wood asked when they would like to come back and Mr. Whitney stated next Friday would work. Commissioner Moody stated he did not see the meeting with Pittsburg and asked how it went and Mr. Whitney stated he thought it went well although there is no commitment at this time but provided information on their previous funding. Mr. Christiansen explained the handout they provided to the Commissioners. Commissioner Wood asked about the other counties funding and it was answered that they are fully funded.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Item One:** Emergency Manager Quinton Parsons requested an executive session for 20 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

**On motion (26-066)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody 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 Emergency Manager Quinton Parsons attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 10:54 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 10:34 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 10:54 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

### NEW BUSINESS

**Item One:** Mr. Emerson mentioned he received news that Champlin Tire Recycling is raising their prices \$10 per tire on the processing side. He explained they are raising it by \$10 per tire, not the total price being \$10 per tire. Commissioner Blair stated he would be interested to know how much it would be to take them to landfill even if it is more work if the landfill would agree. Commissioner Wood stated he is going to get some more information on this.

**Item Two:** Commissioner Wood mentioned he and Mr. Emerson visited SEK Recycling Center last week. He stated he went yesterday with Emergency Manager Quinton Parsons and their goal with the HHW building is to clean out everything they can. Commissioner Wood stated he has two people from his Road and Bridge crew and he would like for Commissioner Moody and Commissioner Blair to send one person each from their crews to help and it will take 3 or 4 days.

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## MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS

**Item One:** Mr. Parsons discussed their meeting at SEK Recycling yesterday and that mostly it is just household items. He explained he has gear for the individuals to wear as well as masks and eye protection while they take care of this. Mr. Parsons mentioned from his understanding they will be dumping the debris in to barrels and Commissioner Wood stated they will absorb it by shredded paper or cat litter. Commissioner Moody stated he believed there is people who buy the cooking oil and Mr. Parsons agreed he had the same thought and stated there is a large amount of cooking oil. Commissioner Blair asked if the SEK Recycling Center has just abandoned the HHW building and now the county has to clean it and Mr. Emerson explained they have not abandoned it yet and they are working with the hazardous items. Mr. Emerson stated since it is county building he thought instead of them dragging this on and the county having to keep paying for this that getting a crew out there to take care of it would be quicker. County Grant Writer Gus Brunetti stated CBDG program is doing a small facilities grant for \$50,000 to \$210,000 and explained what this grant would cover. He stated he can email this to the Commissioners but he wanted to bring it up to the Commissioners while they were on the topic. Commissioner Wood stated the deadline with SEK Recycling is in April. Mr. Emerson stated they have two deadlines one being the deadline to close the place by April but that there are things that need fixed on the building. Mr. Brunetti stated this grant is in October 2026. He also mentioned there are building renovation grants that he will send as well to get an idea if any of them will work. Commissioner Wood stated he believes they should go ahead and continue with clean up. Commissioner Blair asked if the procedure has been developed by Mr. Parsons and Mr. Parsons and Mr. Emerson both explained. Commissioner Blair stated he wants to know that it is organized safely and the recommendations are coming from someone who should make those recommendations before he sends a county employee out there to take care of this. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Emerson if he believes the woman is able to make those recommendations and Mr. Emerson mentioned she is certified and has been to the classes so he believes so. Mr. Parsons stated he believes this can be completed in 3 days. Commissioner Moody asked when they want this to begin and Mr. Emerson answered starting Tuesday. Commissioner Moody asked if they should have the rest of the hazardous materials removed before they start and Mr. Emerson stated the inspectors have not shut it down and that they just will not handle this material. Mr. Parsons stated everything is organized and separated.

## NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

**Item Three:** Commissioner Wood discussed the extra warranty on the John Deere tractor that was totaled last year. He stated two tractors were bought before he was with the county and they bought the extended warranty. He mentioned when he gets additional information on this he will bring it and present it to the other Commissioners.

**Item Four:** Commissioner Wood stated Foreman Josh Peak is looking into the warranty on the three skid loaders and if it has not run out he would like to extend the warranty on them. He mentioned he will come back with a price for this.

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**Item Five:** Commissioner Wood stated he would like Ms. Jill Warford from EMS to come and discuss billing in a work session whenever she is available. He asked Mr. Emerson to set this up and he agreed.

**Item Six:** Commissioner Wood stated he is having a lot of trouble on 250th going to C&D Landfill with trash all over the road. He stated he talked to the sign foreman and mentioned signs for littering with a \$1,000 fine if caught. Mr. Emerson stated if caught littering is a misdemeanor with fines from \$250 to \$1,000 for first offense. Commissioner Wood stated he would like to get this enforced and that sign foreman stated they would have to have a resolution passed for this. Mr. Emerson mentioned he will look in to this.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Item One:** Commissioner Moody stated he would like Zoning Administrator to come up and give an update on the Highway 160 nuisance property. Mr. Emerson stated she and KDHE will be present at a work session on February 24th. Commissioner Moody stated he would like to be kept updated because he drove by yesterday and it is worse than it has ever been. Mr. Emerson explained he believes KDHE has a \$10,000 limit and the county will have to cover the rest of the cost.

**Item Two:** Commissioner Blair stated there was another couple today expecting to hear from Shasta Power. He mentioned that to be fair to everyone involved he mentioned he will not be making a decision without everyone being informed and if it is not on the agenda. He mentioned if Shasta Power shows up one day without being on the agenda that is his plan. Commissioner Moody asked if the other Commissioners received an email from Mr. Copyak and they confirmed. Commissioner Wood stated the way he read it was they are just waiting on answers and that the deadlines they mentioned have went away. Commissioner Blair stated he just does not want there to be a surprise attendance to the meeting expecting a decision for the moratorium. Commissioner Wood asked if they contact Mr. Emerson when they are attending and Mr. Emerson stated he believes they typically contact the Clerk's office. Commissioner Wood asked if he can provide a note to the Clerk's office that if they do contact them the Commissioners or Mr. Emerson will tell them when they can come. Commissioner Blair stated he just believes they need to put themselves on the agenda because they can come talk to the Commission anytime they want just like everybody else but they should not expect action if not on the agenda. Commissioner Moody agreed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION CONTINUED

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

**On motion (26-067)** 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 Counselor's 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 and County Counselor Jim Emerson attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:31 AM. The Motion passed 3-0.

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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 11:16 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:31 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

**Item Three:** Commissioner Blair requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

**On motion (26-068)** 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 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 11:47 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 11:32 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:43 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

### NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

**Item Seven:** Mr. Emerson stated he needs to correct a mistake he made earlier regarding tire disposal. He mentioned it is a \$10 per ton increase not per tire.

### UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### FUTURE BUSINESS:

**Item One: February 17, 2026-** County Grant Writer Gus Brunetti presenting a grant update.

**Item Two: February 17, 2026- 9:30 AM** Work Session with Courthouse Maintenance Aaron Crozier to discuss maintenance department.

**Item Three: February 20, 2026- 10:00 AM** Public Hearing to Vacate a Platted Street located in the Original Town of Ringo, Crawford County, Kansas.

**Item Four: February 20, 2026-** SEK-CAP CEO Jamey Whitney, Public Transportation Director Scott Christiansen, and Community Engagement Coordinator Casey Brown discussing Public Transportation.

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**Item Five: February 24, 2026- 9:00 AM** Work Session with Zoning Administrator May Smith and Mr. Toby Coon with KDHE regarding nuisance property.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Item One: February 16, 2026-** The Courthouse will be closed in observance of the President's Day holiday.

### 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 13, 2026](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:46 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

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

Taken RJA 2/13/2026 11:50 AM/amended BKW 2/13/26 12:30 PM