

Barton County Commission Agenda Meeting Minutes

Recorded audio is available on compact disk upon KORA request to the Barton County Clerk's Office, 1400 Main – Room 202, Great Bend, Kansas 67530.

Phone (620) 793-1835 \ Fax (620) 793-1990 \ Email clerk@bartoncounty.org

Meetings Live Streamed through **Microsoft Teams** at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3sXge2b>

May 4, 2022

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 4th day of May 2022, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Kirby Krier, Commissioner, 1st District
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District, (Chairman Pro-Tem)
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District, Chairman
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District
Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk
Matt Patzner, Director of Operations
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

Members absent:

Jon Prescott, Commissioner, 4th District

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

Commissioner Hutchinson called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the agenda.
Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2022, and the April 20, 2022, Regular Meetings.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:

-An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of April 13, 2022, and ending April 27, 2022.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to ratify appropriations for the period of April 13, 2022, to April 27, 2022. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.
Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business at this time.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE: Request for Approval – Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes:

-Chris Saenz, Deputy County Clerk, will present a listing of Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes. Orders for these actions are kept on file in the County Clerk's Office. These are used to correct assessments and are requested by the County Appraiser's Office or the County Clerk's Office.

Chris Saenz, Deputy County Clerk, presented details.

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BATCH #8	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas	(18,783)		(\$2,778.80)	
Oil	(23,471)		(\$3,964.54)	\$3,875.30
Personal Property	(9,772)		(\$1,415.16)	\$191.52
Real Estate	(67,732)		(\$12,472.16)	
16/20 M Trucks				
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	(119,758)	\$0.00	(\$20,630.66)	\$4,066.82
Total Taxes	(\$20,630.66)			
Total Records Selected	23			

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the Listing of Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes as reviewed by the County Appraiser and presented by the County Clerk's Office. Direct the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. PROCLAMATION 2022-11: National Bike Month, May, 2022:

-Dale Hogg, Be Well Barton County committee member, will present details. The bicycle is an economical and environmentally sound form of transportation and an excellent tool for health, recreation and enjoyment of Barton County's scenic beauty. Throughout the month of May, citizens are urged to increase public awareness of bicyclists in an effort to reduce collisions, injuries and fatalities and improve health and safety for everyone on the road.

Dale Hogg, Be Well Barton County committee member, said he appreciated the commissioners recognizing National Bike Month. Over the years, Barton County has done a lot to help cyclists. Signage around the county is appreciated by cyclists and motorists and Bj Wooding, County Cartographer, created a wonderful cycling map with landmarks and suggested cycling routes around the county. A sub committee of Be Well Barton County, Make Great Bend a Bike Town's, main project has been a new bicycle campground behind Central Baptist Church at Lakin and Harrison. It is for the Transamerica riders use; Great Bend is on Route 76 of the Transamerica Bike Trail. Kansas has only 5 bike friendly communities. The designation is made by the League of American Cyclists based on ordinances, infrastructure and attitudes towards bicycles.

Commissioner Schartz asked Hogg how a community gets the designation. Hogg said there have to be ordinances in place, infrastructure, signage and bike lanes as well as other requirements.

Commissioner Schartz asked if the committee was working toward it. Hogg said they and the City of Great Bend have made a lot of efforts but are still a long way from it.

Commissioner Esfeld asked Brandon Steinert, Be Well Barton County committee member, if he had any suggestions since he was injured while cycling. Steinert said the biggest thing would be for motorists to stay off of their phones.

Pilot Club has helmets available.

Commissioner Krier moved to adopt Proclamation 2022-11, National Bike Month, May, 2022.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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PROCLAMATION 2022-12: Mental Health Awareness Month, May, 2022:

-Julie Kramp, The Center's Executive Director, will present details. It is the goal of The Center to cultivate a culture of acceptance, access and inclusion for all members of the community. Coming together for mental health will create opportunities to promote the emotional, psychological and social wellbeing of individuals and groups. The proposed Proclamation, which would declare May, 2022, as Mental Health Awareness Month, outlines the steps that community members can take to come "Together for Mental Health".

Julie Kramp, The Center's Executive Director, presented details and said The Center for Counseling had been operating since 1967.

Commissioner Schartz said she had been on the board for The Center for many years. She said she had seen more positive growth in the last 5 years since Kramp became director. Commissioner Schartz felt there was more awareness about mental health and that lessens the stigma associated with mental health. There are good mental health services available in the community.

Commissioner Esfeld asked Kramp about grant money to provide someone to work in the jail. Kramp said they have provided a survey to the jail for those incarcerated to obtain data and working toward a jail liaison.

Commissioner Krier asked if that would take the place of the inmates having to go to Larned State Hospital. Gayle Sullivan, Clinical Director, said it may help prevent someone getting to the crisis stage and needing to go to Larned State Hospital.

Kramp said Mental Health Awareness Day is May 24, 2022, at Jack Kilby Square. Holly Boyer handed out forms for the event. Booth spaces available for any community member that wishes to participate.

Commissioner Schartz moved to adopt Proclamation 2022-12, Mental Health Awareness Month, May, 2022.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. RESOLUTION 2022-14: Resolution of Support, KDOT Transportation Alternatives Program K-4 Scenic Overlook Improvements:

-Barry McManaman, County Engineer, will provide details. After being named a Kansas Scenic Byway in 2004, a national designation was awarded in September, 2005, to the Wetlands and Wildlife National Scenic Byway. In 2016, the Cheyenne Bottoms K-4 Scenic Overlook was constructed to enhance use of the informational kiosk. The Engineer's Office has proposed an expansion of the turn-around area with stamped and colored concrete, the addition of concrete pavement to create a larger turning radius and increased parking through the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) Transportation Alternatives Program. Should this Resolution be adopted, it authorizes submission of the grant.

Barry McManaman, County Engineer, said the turning circle was somewhat tight. KDOT said it was a viable project and part of the application process was the adoption of a resolution. The State would pay 80% of the cost, approximately \$80,000.00. The county's share would be approximately \$32,800.00.

Commissioner Schartz said they did not know how popular the Scenic Overlook would be, need to maintain the area.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked the cyclists if they ever stop at the Scenic Overlook. John Krug said some years ago, he participated in Bike Across Kansas, the route was along K-4 highway and hundreds of bikers went there.

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Commissioner Krier moved to adopt Resolution 2022-14, Resolution of Support, KDOT Transportation Alternatives Program K-4 Scenic Overlook Improvements.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

Duane Reif said I am also a bicycle rider, ride by myself usually. That is one of my favorite rides is going east of Hoisington and out to the kiosk. I mean it is really a nice place. I mean I think you all should take a trip out there to see what it is. I have to agree with him, there is not a big room to turn around. Cars would not have any trouble at all but there would be issues with some large vehicles. It is a good place to relax and overview. I am not sure if you are aware of it or not but Pete and Lois Krier donated that land. Maybe Kirby might remember. There is a small plaque, I would like to see if you would consider putting a bigger plaque up so people could see it. Really where it is located, right inside a metal beam, most people cannot see it.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. SANDPIT: Sale of Real Property:

-Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor, will provide details. On March 16, 2022, the Commission finalized the purchase of ground in the W/2, Sec. 5, T20S, R11W for use as a sandpit. At this time, the Commission will be asked to consider the sale of the northwest 20 acres, more or less, of that property.

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor, said a natural gas pipeline goes through the property which creates a natural dividing line. The county would take offers for the purchase of the property.

Commissioner Krier moved to sale 20 acres, more or less, of County-owned property in the northwest corner of the W/2, Sec. 5, T20S, R11W. Authorize the Director of Operations to have the land surveyed and to prepare an offer form for consideration.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion and said I would like to see us sell it because it would be a to have it put back on the tax roll.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

F. COMMISSION OVERVIEW: 2023 Budget Planning Meeting:

-Chairman Shawn Hutchinson will lead the discussion. On Monday, April 25, 2022, the Commission held a 2023 Budget Planning Meeting at the Great Bend Events Center. All local taxing entities were invited to the meeting. At this time, the Commission will provide an overview of the meeting.

Shawn Hutchinson, Commission Chair, said it was a good turnout, approximately 30 people. Discussed having a bigger event next year, possibly guest speakers

Commissioner Esfeld had hoped for more dialogue, but it was a first-time event. Budgets are tight.

Commissioner Hutchinson said with inflation so high, if taxing entities do not raise taxes at all, that is around 10% reduction in their budget.

Commissioner Schartz felt it was a good idea to have and liked the idea of planting a seed. Next year have a formal agenda so expectations were known.

Commissioner Krier said Chris Komarek, City of Ellinwood, asked how many taxing entities planned to go over their budgets from what they spent last year. Only a couple thought they would go over.

G. COMMISSION OVERVIEW: Kansas County Commissioners Association Conference:

-Commissioner Barb Esfeld will lead the discussion. Commissioners attended the Kansas County Commissioners Association Conference last week in Salina. At this time, the Commission will provide an overview of the conference.

Barb Esfeld, County Commissioner, presented details about the conference and some pending bills.

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V. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Krier said a concerned citizen was going to come speak to the commissioners regarding the landfill.

Commissioner Schartz said she also knew of a citizen coming in to speak to the commissioners.

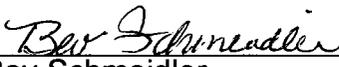
VII. ADJOURN.

Commissioner Schartz moved to adjourn at 10:12 A.M.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman

Executive Session in Study Session

Notes from Director of Operations, County Clerk not present

People present – Jennifer Schartz, Kirby Krier, Shawn Hutchinson, Barb Esfeld, Patrick Hoffman, Matt Citzner.

Jennifer moves we go into executive session until 1:33 for attorney/client privilege

Barb Seconds. All in favor aye from all

Jennifer moves to come out of executive session with no action taken

Kirby seconds. All in favor aye from all

Jenifer moves to go back into executive session until 1:50

Kirby seconds. All in favor aye from all

Jenifer motions to come out of executive session with no action taken.

Kirby seconds. All in favor aye from all