

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/3kL6Jl2>

April 19, 2023

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 19th day of April 2023, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1st District
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District, (*Chairman Pro-Tem*)
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District, Chairman
Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4th District
Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5th District
Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk
Matt Patzner, County Administrator
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the agenda.
Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2023, and the April 12, 2023, Regular Meetings as submitted by the County Clerk.
Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

-There was no Old Business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. PROCLAMATION 2023-07: National Crime Victims' Rights Week:

-Camila Komarek, Victim Advocate, will provide details. In recognition of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, the County Attorney's Office has requested that the Commission adopt Proclamation 2023-07. The week of April 23 – 29, 2023, has been selected to reaffirm the County's commitment to respect and enforce victims' rights and address their needs during Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year.

Camila Komarek, Victim Advocate, said National Crime Victims' Rights Week brings us closer to victims of all crimes. This year, we emphasize our vision of reaching all victims with the Theme, Survivor Voices, elevate, engage, effect change. It calls upon communities to amplify the voices of survivors and create environments where survivors have confidence that they will be heard, believed and supported. In 2022, the Barton County Attorney Office prosecuted approximately 459 criminal cases, 1100 traffic cases, 75 juvenile offender cases with 275 new victims in the year. In 2022, Komarek made 2,842 contacts with victims of crimes including notification of hearings, follow up information to cases, criminal justice support and advocacy in assistance and filing compensation claims with the Crime Victims Compensation Board. It takes a collaboration among agencies in Barton County to ensure that victims had a voice and receive the necessary services to recover from the trauma of becoming a victim. Barton County Attorney Office along with these community agencies provide support and help guide the victim throughout the criminal justice process whether it was immediately following the crime, during the active criminal process or even after prosecution had taken place and the case was completed. Komarek read the proclamation and asked the commission to consider adopting the proclamation.

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Commissioner Zimmerman said she remembered the times before there was a Victim Advocate and the difficulty for victims to get information about what was happening with their case.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to Adopt Proclamation 2023-07, National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. COMMISSION: Barton County Façade Improvement Grants:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. In 2021, the Commission dedicated \$630,000.00 to the Façade Improvement Project. In 2023, the Commission directed \$250,00.00 in funding be reserved for the program. Thus far in 2023, the Commission has awarded \$71,213.66 in funding to priority projects and \$231,374.36 in current funding. The Commission will consider award of funding for a portion of the projects in later items.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said on March 29, 2023, the commission awarded \$53,258.50 in Priority Funding and another \$57,091.61 in Round II Funding. On April 5, 2023, the commission awarded \$17,955.16 in Priority Funding and \$124,609.03 in Round II Funding. April 12, 2023, the commission awarded \$49,673.72 in Round II Funding.

Patzner said today was consideration of INA Alert, Inc., National Billing, LLC and Ehler Chevrolet LLC.

ITEM C MOVED TO AFTER ITEM G

D. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT: National Billing, LLC:

-Mel Waite will provide details. National Billing, LLC has requested \$20,000.00 in grant funding to improve the building located at 105 N Main, Ellinwood, Kansas. The building houses Astra Business Solutions LLC and the Ellinwood Leader. The \$15,113.01 match by the applicant equates to 43% of the project.

Mel Waite, National Billing, LLC, applauded the commission for taking the initiative on the project. Most communities in Barton County had seen a positive impact. After work was done across the street from their business, it made them realize how dated their building was and looked to update. They plan to work on door and door jamb, windows, awning, new signage, masonry work as well as electrical work and exterior lighting. Gunn's Antiques is their neighbor, and they want to coordinate so as not to clash. Even though they are modernizing the building, they were aware of the historic aspect and want to preserve the nostalgic appearance.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve a Façade Improvement Grant for National Billing, LLC for the building located at 105 N Main, Ellinwood, Kansas, in the amount of \$20,000.00. Direct the Commission Chairman to sign the Grant Agreement with the Applicant. Direct the County Administrator to encumber the award amount from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Waite said they changed the business name approximately a year ago to Astra Business Solutions. It was a process to complete the name change and they were not through with it yet.

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FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT: Ehler Chevrolet LLC:

Micah Ehler will provide details. Ehler Chevrolet LLC has requested \$20,000.00 in grant funding to improve the building located at 271 S Main, Hoisington, Kansas. The \$24,230.00 match by the applicant equates to 55% of the project.

Micah Ehler, Ehler Chevrolet LLC, said he had the business for approximately two and a half years. He said things had really progressed and had spent around \$150,000.00 updating the business. He said they must be careful as it was a historical building. Planning new windows and doors as well as HVAC improvements. It would not be the end of the process, they would continue moving forward and adding to it.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve a Façade Improvement Grant for Ehler Chevrolet LLC for the building located 271 S Main, Hoisington, Kansas, in the amount of \$20,000.00. Direct the Commission Chair to sign the Grant Agreement with the Applicant. Direct the County Administrator to encumber the award amount from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-00-6305.

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

F. COUNTY ENGINEER: Kansas Department of Transportation Federal Funds Exchange:

-Barry McManaman, County Engineer, will provide details. The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) has offered to exchange the County's annual federal fund distribution for state funds at an exchange rate of ninety percent. The County has the option of using the full share of federal funds in the amount of \$190,617.71 on a project designed with all federal requirements and restrictions. If the exchange is accepted, the County would have the freedom to use the money on road and bridge work without following federal requirements. There is \$171,555.94 available for reimbursement if the exchange is accepted.

Barry McManaman, County Engineer, presented details and recommended accepting the Federal Funds Exchange.

Commissioner Zimmerman said the county had taken advantage of this for several years and it had worked well.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to accept the KDOT federal funding exchange rate of ninety percent making the amount available to Barton County \$171,555.94. Authorize the County Engineer to submit the Request to Exchange Federal Funds to KDOT. Once received, said monies are to be deposited in the Road and Bridge Fund, State Funds Received Line, 002-00-4325.

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

G. ROAD AND BRIDGE: Final Cost - FleetPride:

-Darren Williams, County Works Director, will present details. On April 20, 2022, the Commission authorized the purchase of two Bibeau beds and advanced hydraulic packages from FleetPride, Wichita, for a total cost of \$102,511.06. With delivery imminent, the price has increased to a total cost of \$115,755.68. Mr. Williams will ask that the Commission approve the updated cost.

Darren Williams, County Works Director, said in April 2022, the commission approved the replacement of the beds on two 1996 Peterbilt dump trucks. The beds were 15 feet long with high lift tailgates, a new tarp system with hand crank, certified hydraulic packages to allow for use of snowplows and salt spreading.

The price also included new controls inside the cabs, painting the frames black and matching the yellow beds to the rest of the fleet. A year later, due to the increase in costs of parts and labor, the price increased \$13,244.62. Asked for approval of the cost difference.

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Commissioner Reif asked how many more years Williams anticipated using the trucks after the replacement of the beds. Williams said he was hoping for 8 – 10 more years.

Commissioner Reif said taking care of the equipment extended the life. Williams said the older trucks do not have to use DEF so that was a benefit.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the FleetPride bid difference of \$13,244.62 for the Replacement Beds on two 1996 Peterbilt Dump Trucks. That cost to be paid from the Equipment Replacement Fund, Road and Bridge Line, 072-00-6485.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT: INA Alert, Inc:

-Nick Strecker will provide details. INA Alert, Inc has requested \$16,155.75 in grant funding to improve the building located at 108 W Santa Fe, Ellinwood, Kansas. The \$5,385.25 match by the applicant equates to 25% of the project.

Laura Strecker, INA Alert, Inc., said their building was on the highway, one of the first things you see driving into town. They were going to paint the building, reframe the doorway and repair siding around the door. They are also redoing the roof and putting up a new sign.

Commissioner Schlessiger said she was excited to see the project get started and felt it would make a great visual impact.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve a Façade Improvement Grant for INA Alert, Inc for the building located 108 W Santa Fe, Ellinwood, Kansas, in the amount of \$16,155.75. Direct the Commission Chair to sign the Grant Agreement with the Applicant. Direct the County Administrator to encumber the award amount from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

No Executive Session Held

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-Chairman Shawn Hutchinson will present. Any Commissioner may make a motion for the board to recess to executive session at this time as allowed by K.S.A. 75-4319. Any motion must contain the justification for the executive session, the subject matter to be discussed, any individuals in addition to the board who will attend the executive session and the time at which the regular session shall resume.

IV. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Schlessiger – announced Evening on the Bricks in Ellinwood, Friday, April 21st from 5:00 – 9:00

Commissioner Esfeld – legislative updates. The bill that would cap valuation at 4% would be going to the House of Representatives. If passed, it would not be voted on until November of 2024 as a Constitutional amendment. She urged citizens to contact their representatives with their concerns.

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ADJOURN.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to adjourn at 9:31 A.M.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman

PROCLAMATION 2023-07

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

WHEREAS, the term "victim" is more than just a label and has legal standing and protections that go along with it; and

WHEREAS, crime victims' rights acts passed in Kansas and at the federal level guarantee victims the right to meaningfully participate in the criminal justice process; and

WHEREAS, victim service providers, advocates, law enforcement officers, attorneys, and other allied professionals help survivors find their justice by enforcing these rights; and

WHEREAS, the right to provide an impact statement ensures that victims' voices are considered in court during the sentencing and, when applicable, restitution processes; and

WHEREAS, including and elevating the voices of survivors makes certain they are heard and seen and creates a path to forging and sustaining community trust; and

WHEREAS, engaging survivors creates responses and services that are credible, meaningful, and centered on individual needs; and

WHEREAS, survivors' lived experience can serve as a catalyst for implementing innovative programs, shifting existing programs in new directions, and changing policies or practices that prevent survivors from accessing services or pursuing justice; and

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to listening to crime survivors in every space where decisions are made that could impact them; and

WHEREAS, the Barton County Attorney's Office is hereby dedicated to amplifying the voices of survivors and creating an environment where survivors have the confidence that they will be heard, believed, and supported.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that the week of April 23 – 29, 2023, is declared as National Crime Victims' Rights Week; and

FURTHER, that Barton County reaffirms its commitment to creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crime during Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year; and expressing sincere gratitude and appreciation for those community members, victim service providers, and criminal justice professionals who are committed to improving the response to all victims of crime so that they may find relevant assistance, support, justice and peace.

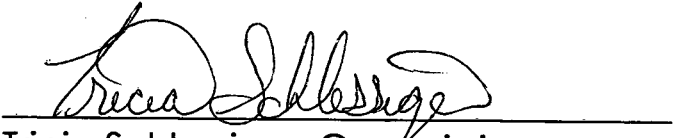
Dated this 19th day of April, 2023.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman


Barb Efeld, Commissioner



Duane A Reif, Commissioner


Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner


Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner

ATTEST:




Bev Schmeidler,
County Clerk