

# 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](mailto:clerk@bartoncounty.org)

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

December 28, 2023

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 15th day of August 2023, at the 1500 Kansas location.

*Members present:*

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1<sup>st</sup> District

Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, (Chairman Pro-Tem)

Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Chairman

Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4<sup>th</sup> District

Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5<sup>th</sup> District

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk

Matt Patzner, County Administrator

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

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## BUDGET AMENDMENT HEARING

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

### **BUDGET AMENDMENT HEARING: 2023 Operating Budget:**

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will present details. This Budget Amendment Hearing has been scheduled to receive comments relative to amending the 2023 Operating Budget for the following Barton County Funds – General Fund, Road and Bridge Fund and 911 Tax Fund. Despite the efforts of elected officials and department heads, budget estimates must be adjusted so that funds fall within budgetary s.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said the General Fund, Road and Bridge Fund and 911 Tax Fund budget amendment requests were due to unanticipated revenue from various sources unrelated to ad valorem tax. All of these funds had sufficient unanticipated revenue and prior year cash carry forward on the requested budget amendments. Requesting the General Fund increase by \$900,000.00 to allow for the transfer of unanticipated revenue to preserve funds for future projects as deemed practical and necessary. Road & Bridge budget would increase budget authority by \$600,000.00 to cover additional purchases of aggregates and other consumable goods necessary for operations as well as future road overlay projects that could be funded by Federal Funds Exchange Money. The 911 Tax Fund would increase by \$100,000.00 to cover unanticipated equipment maintenance costs.

Commissioner Zimmerman said this was typical, we do budget amendments almost every year.

Patzner said this did not obligate these funds, basically preparing for transfer to reserves as deemed necessary, putting all the options on the table.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to close the Budget Amendment Hearing.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## CLOSE BUDGET AMENDMENT HEARING

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## AGENDA MEETING

Following the Close of the Budget Hearing until Close

### I. OPENING BUSINESS:

Commissioner Hutchinson called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2023, Regular Meeting. The December 19, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes were not available.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

### II. OLD BUSINESS:

-There was no Old Business.

### III. NEW BUSINESS:

#### A. AMENDMENT OF THE 2023 BARTON COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET:

-Mr. Patzner will present details. The Budget Amendment Hearing for the 2023 Operating Budget for Barton County was conducted prior to this Regular Agenda Meeting. The Commission is now asked to consider amendments that will allow for the current budget to cover the operating expenses and possible transfers to reserves of unanticipated revenue for the General Fund, Road and Bridge Fund and 911 Tax Fund.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, asked for consideration of approval of the Barton County Budget Amendments as presented.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the 2023 Barton County Budget Amendments.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

#### B. RISK MANAGEMENT AND INSURANCE PROVIDER:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. Barton County received notice that EMC would no longer provide coverage for the County beginning in 2024. This resulted in a search for a provider. On December 12, 2023, the Commissioner interviewed personnel from Copeland Insurance and World Insurance Associates.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said late November 2023, we received notice that EMC would no longer provide insurance coverage for the county beginning 2024. That resulted in the search for a provider. On December 12, 2023, the commission interviewed personnel from Copeland Insurance and World Insurance Associates. It was suggested that the commission select Copeland Insurance to provide administrative control over six separate insurance companies.

Lucas Barta, Copeland Insurance and World Insurance Associates, said they stayed with West Bend on the Worker's Compensation, they were better than the competition by about \$60,000.00. They were able to get auto insurance down approximately \$20,000.00 from the previous presentation. For property, still with Chubb on that as well as the Inland Marine. Client coverage was \$4,431.00 for the year to cover employee theft, forgery and such. For cyber coverage, they selected Crum and Forster, they were very good at what they do. Have a call set up with Dereck after the first of the year to go over policies and procedures. He was able to get the Public Officials Liability down about \$800.00. For General Liability and Law Enforcement, Hudson was still the best quote. Grand total for the year was \$589,289.34.

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Commissioner Hutchinson said they were given thirty days to find new insurance for the entire county. First proposal was for a million dollars, so good job to Barta and Patzner for coming up with this plan.

Patrick Hoffman said we were told that EMC was pulling out of the market, we were not the only one to lose the coverage. There were a lot of claims throughout the Midwest, not limited to Barton County.

Commissioner Zimmerman was appreciative of Hoffman putting them in touch with Barta, it was helpful.

Barta said EMC was still staying in the public entity space but were hard stopping on new business. They were trying to get out and had quite a few losses across all lines of coverage.

Commissioner Zimmerman appreciated everyone's work.

Commissioner Schlessiger said it was considerably less than a million dollars.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to accept the proposal from Copeland for Risk Management and Insurance for 2024. Cost to be paid as follows – For Property and Liability Coverage – General Fund, Insurance / Bonds Line, 001-18-5520 and for Workers Compensation Coverage – Employee Benefit, Worker's Compensation Line, 007-00-5115. It is anticipated that final numbers of coverage amounts will be determined when coverage is bound.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **C. ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES:**

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. It was announced earlier this year that Amy Miller, Emergency Risk Manager, was to retire at year end. The Commission will consider issuing a Letter of Appreciation. At the same time, the Commission will announce appointments to open positions.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said Amy Miller was hired on January 10, 1986, and was currently the county's second longest working employee. She announced her retirement earlier this year with her last day being December 31, 2023.

Commissioner Hutchinson joked that Miller announced her retirement just after hearing about our insurance.

Patzner said unfortunately, Miller was not present and read a letter of thanks.

Commissioner Reif said everyone recognized Miller's name and she had done an excellent job. He referred to the Hoisington tornado and said some others may not have done as good a job as Miller.

Commissioner Zimmerman said it was interesting working with her over the years and seeing how she handled disasters. She handled everything with grace and professionalism.

Commissioner Esfeld said Miller always hung in there and got the job done.

Commissioner Hutchinson said Miller was one of his favorite people.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to thank Ms. Miller for years of honorable service and to issue a Letter of Appreciation.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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Patzner said Sean Kelly was hired August 7, 2017, as the Engineering Technician. He had since been promoted to Emergency Management Director/Engineering Technician. He would work directly for the County Administrator providing emergency services while continuing to provide services as technician for the Engineer. Kelly has a degree in Emergency Management and Homeland Security and had been the Assistant Emergency Manager for three years.

Kelly said he was ready to hit the ground running and pick up where Miller left off. Excited for the opportunity.

## **D. COUNTY ENGINEER: Bridge Replacement – Off-System Bridge No. 202, East Barton County Road at the Wet Walnut Creek:**

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. In 2019, the Commission authorized Kirkham Michael and Associates, Inc., to provide the design work to replace Off-System Bridge No. 202 that was built in 1924. Final design was completed and the construction project was being advertised for bids when the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) announced their new Kansas Local Bridge Improvement Program (KLBIP). The bidding process was cancelled, and after applying for a project under the KLBIP, the County was awarded funding that covers 85% of the construction costs. With additional work required, Kirkham Michael has now submitted the final design cost of \$52,010.61. The Commission will consider approval of an additional \$2,410.61 as \$49,600.00 was encumbered in 2019.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said an additional services request was submitted by Kirkham Michael for the extra design work they did for the bridge replacement project on East Barton County Road. The original design contract in the amount of \$49,600.00 was approved on September 3, 2019. The final design was completed, and the contract was in process when KDOT let the County Engineer know about a new program under which the bridge may qualify. The bid process was halted, and the bridge was ultimately accepted for funding at 85% of construction costs. Kirkham Michael did the additional work as detailed. Kirkham Michael requested an additional payment of \$2,410.61 with the final design cost \$52,010.61.

Commissioner Reif asked the location of the bridge. Darren Williams, Road & Bridge Director, said it was east of Kiowa Kitchen.

Commissioner Zimmerman said we widened one bridge and this was the second bridge, so the whole pathway was now wide enough for implements.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the payment of \$2,410.61 to Kirkham Michael and Associates, Inc. for additional design work of the Off-System Bridge No. 202. Cost to be paid from the Special Bridge Replacement Fund, Construction Related Expenses Lines, 003-92-6191-92.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## ***No Executive Session Held***

## **E. 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.

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## ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

## V. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Schlessiger – CKCC Advisory Board met last week. Representative Troy Waymaster attended, gave pointers on budgets. He also wanted Marissa Woodmansee and the new director, Brooke Haulmark, to possibly come testify about how the budget was put together and money divided to districts. Testifying could make the budget shortfalls known to legislators.


## VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Zimmerman made a motion to adjourn at 9:23 A.M.

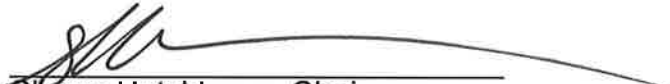
Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler  
Barton County Clerk



Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman