

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/3WgDHRk>

October 3, 2023

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 3rd day of October 2023, at the 1500 Kansas location.

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 Schlessiger moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2023, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

-There was no Old Business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. CENTRAL KANSAS COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: Fiscal Year 2023 Year-End Outcomes:

-Amy Boxberger, CKCC Director, will present details. The Kansas Community Corrections Act provides grants to Kansas Counties to develop and maintain a range of programs for adult offenders assigned to Community Corrections agencies. A Comprehensive Plan (grant application) was submitted that established the goals for Fiscal Year 2023. The Year End Outcomes then set out the results at the year's close and require the review and approval of the Barton County Commissioners as the Administrative County for the Judicial District.

Amy Boxberger, CKCC Director, was here to obtain signature of approval to submit the FY2023 Year End Outcomes report. Their year runs from July to June. They tabulate data, look at what went well, what needed to be worked on in the future and how they did with the goals set in the comprehensive plan. The biggest goal of the state was that they achieve or maintain a success rate of 75% or higher or improve by 3% from the last fiscal year. For 2023, there were 172 probationers who were discharged from CKCC. 39 probationers, or 23%, were revoked, while 133, or 77%, did not go to prison. The 77% achievement rate did not meet the goal of a 3% improvement but did meet the mandated goal of the state. Some of the things they did to achieve that goal were assessments. They want to make sure that they engage all the moderate to high-risk probationers into interventions that will help them change their behavior to live a productive lifestyle, stay out of prison and maintain their goal of overall public safety. They had some behavioral health funding that 97 probationers benefitted from. This year, 64 probationers who were discharged and had received benefits of the behavioral health funding completed at an 80% rate. Boxberger said they learned that they wanted to change the curriculum for cognitive services. In FY2023, they entered the Family Piece Initiative with Stepping Stones to Recovery.

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Commissioner Esfeld said it was hard to meet goals with substance abuse and addiction, she appreciated the job that Boxberger and her staff do. When someone goes to jail, it affects the whole family. Boxberger said it causes a ripple effect on the community.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Boxberger what percentage of the clients that CKCC dealt with have substance abuse issues. Boxberger said probably upwards of 90%. Hutchinson said the National Institute of Drug Abuse said 40% - 60% relapse. Boxberger said the expectation was that everyone getting off the program was sober. Boxberger said if it were not for the high expectations for these people, what a sad world it would be. She knows people do recover, some of the best people she knows have addictions in their history. She said she also knows that incarceration does not work. What worked was instilling hope, good jobs, having their families together and being in a world that did not put them down repeatedly for their past. Very few people on their caseload do not have the ability to do great things.

Commissioner Schlessiger said she had been on the advisory board for 7 months. In that time, positions had been filled, they had engaging and productive dialogue in the monthly meetings with good attendance. Schlessiger said Boxberger had done a great job providing information every month and working on the new system they now use to make it work better for them. Schlessiger added that the purpose of the advisory board was to help with the creation and implementation of the comprehensive plan. The commission had assisted with the creation of a diverse board to help Boxberger and her program. Schlessiger said she was asked what she brought to the board. She felt she brought a diverse perspective representing the voters and was a voice for the community.

Commissioner Hutchinson said the different people on the board with different backgrounds brought more community buy-in.

Commissioner Zimmerman said those partners help educate others in the community.

Commissioner Esfeld said she appreciated Boxberger's positive attitude.

Commissioner Reif felt it was important to educate the community to encourage the clients.

Boxberger said any employers willing to hire felons, please reach out and give someone a chance.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2023 Year End Outcomes Report for Central Kansas Community Corrections and authorize the Chair to sign the grant forms as needed.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. SOLID WASTE: Repair of Caterpillar 826K Compactor Transmission:

-Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, will present details. The Barton County Landfill operates a Caterpillar 826K Compactor. In May, the transmission failed and was repaired. Foley Industries has determined that trash buildup caused overheating of the transmission, resulting in the failure. Under the rebuild warranty, the Landfill is responsible for \$31,599.57 of the repairs.

Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, said Barton County did not have to pay the full amount because it was discovered that some of the bolts in the torque converter were coming loose. Basically, only having to pay for parts.

Commissioner Hutchinson said this was about as good as it could have been.

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Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the \$31,599.57 cost of repairs to Foley Industries Inc. Payment to be made from the Solid Waste Fund Line, Maintenance of Machinery and Equipment Line, 140-68-5460.

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

C. BARTON COUNTY EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK: Update – Policy 302, Holidays / Holiday Pay and Policy 302.1, Holiday Premium Pay:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. It is suggested that Policy 302, Holidays / Holiday Pay and Policy 302.1, Holiday Premium Pay, be revised. Proposed revisions include an update of observed holidays as well as clarification to the process of paying employees that physically work on actual holidays.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and said the change would affect those who physically work the holidays to include emergency personnel who work weekends and holidays. We are asking these employees to spend time away from their families and they should be compensated fairly.

Commissioner Zimmerman said the payroll system was cumbersome in handling these situations, but they had found a work around.

Commissioner Schlessiger thanked Dena Popp and the dispatchers for bringing this to light.

Commissioner Hutchinson said what an important department in the county who often gets overlooked. They are in a separate location, in a hardened infrastructure.

Dena Popp, Communications Director, said AT&T builds their structures as structurally sound as possible.

Commissioner Reif said they were underappreciated and 911 was the first responder. Reif said he was a big cheerleader for Communications.

Commissioner Schlessiger said she had been unaware of the amount of training a dispatcher receives.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to adopt revised Policy 302, Holidays / Holiday Pay and Policy 302.1, Holiday Premium Pay. Authorize the Administrator to make such revisions as are necessary to incorporate the updates into the Barton County Employee Handbook and to provide such updates to County employees. I further move to add this item back to the agenda next week as we continue to discuss improved holiday pay compensation.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. ADOPTION OF THE 2023 / 2024 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS LISTING:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. It is suggested that the following revisions be made effective this date: Register of Deeds be reduced to 2 full-time employees, Communications be reduced to 14 full-time employees and a notation be made to the listing: When staffing at Communications falls to a minimum of 8 persons, the Director is herein authorized to hire temporary employees until said staffing shortage is resolved. Resolution shall include a minimum of 8 fully trained persons. Persons on a provisional period shall not be included in this count.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details.

Commissioner Hutchinson said this would be a way to help Communications and the new Register of Deeds was going to have just herself and one employee and utilize the shared clerk.

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Commissioner Zimmerman said she understood that Popp had already reached out to a few people to work part-time on a temporary basis. Popp said she had three people lined up at this time.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the updated 2023 / 2024 Authorized Positions Listing.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. COURTHOUSE HVAC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: Change Request No. 6:

-Mr. Patzner will present details. Barton County has requested certain operational updates to the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning improvement project. This includes moving the Treasurer's Office to Room 107, allowing for easier access for the public. To facilitate the move, it is suggested that Emergency Risk Management occupy Room 102; the Administrator and Human Resources occupy Room 108 and that the Engineer and Mapping be moved to Room 206.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and said the total cost of the change order would be \$226,778.76.

Commissioner Hutchinson said while renovating the courthouse, moving the Treasurer to the first floor would benefit the public. It would be the easiest and least expensive time to accommodate the move. 90% of the foot traffic was to the Treasurer's Office, the move would reduce strain on the elevator. The elevator can not be any bigger than it currently was, no more room for a bigger elevator shaft.

Commissioner Zimmerman said it was the best time to do it.

Commissioner Reif said he did some research and found the elevator was installed in 1952, we got a lot of good use from it.

Commissioner Schlessiger said it was a great improvement for the taxpayers to have the Treasurer on the first floor.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve Change Request No. 6 in the amount of \$226,778.76 for the Courthouse HVAC Improvement Project. Cost to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment – General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Jim Jordan, County Treasurer, thanked the commissioners.

F. DISTRICT CORONER: Appointment of Special Deputy Coroner:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. Dr. Patrick Stiles was re-appointed as District Coroner effective January 1, 2023. At the recommendation of Stafford County, Dr. Stiles requests that Jill Burbank be appointed as a Special Deputy Coroner.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and asked for an appointment of Jill Burbank.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to appoint Jill Burbank as a Special Deputy Coroner to a term ending December 31, 2023.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

G. COMMISSION UPDATE: Kansas Legislative Policy Group Annual Meeting:

-Commissioner Barb Esfeld will provide details. The Kansas Legislative Policy Group (KLPG) held its annual meeting September 28 – 29, 2023. A detail of information presented will be given at this time.

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Barb Esfeld, County Commissioner, said this was a group of rural counties, approximately 33 counties. Barton and Ford were probably the largest in the group. There were representatives from Senator Mann's office and Troy Waymaster's office. The big topic this year was, of course, property taxes. They were discussing Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction (LAVTR), having that come back directly to property owners and not filtered through the counties. Nobody wanted to lose local control, particularly in the western counties. There will probably be work done refining SB13 and some other things. The group would like the money to come back to the taxpayers. Esfeld said mental health, education and daycare were other common interests for the group. A representative from the KBI talked to the group about fentanyl and the dangers of it. Finney County talked about their daycare and how it was working for them, all the counties have the same issues.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked how many daycares Finney County had.

Commissioner Esfeld was not sure how many they have; they talked about their model and said it was very successful.

Commissioner Hutchinson said Finney County was the one that ABCC is building was modeled after. He thanked Esfeld for keeping them updated.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she appreciated Esfeld attending KLPG board meetings. It represents the smaller western Kansas counties well.

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 Esfeld – shoutout to Venture Corporation for sponsoring lunch at the KLPG meeting.

VI. ADJOURN:


Commissioner Zimmerman made a motion to adjourn at 9:42 A.M.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk


Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman