

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/3wJEQiv>

August 6, 2024

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 6th day of August 2024, at the Barton County Courthouse

Members present:

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

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Minutes of the July 30, 2024, Regular Meeting were not available.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

-There was no Old Business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Employee Engagement Committee: Committee Bylaws:

-Judith Castro, EEC President, will present details. When the Employee Engagement Committee was established, the Committee members were directed to develop bylaws to address term, meeting and other operational details; establish short- and long-term goals and provide for project development. The bylaws will be presented at this time.

Ryan Lichter, EEC Committee, said the committee had recommended changes to the bylaws for final approval by the commission. Lichter said the committee members were Judith Castro, Charlotte Konrade, Chris Schartz and himself. They had an open position due to Gina Werth stepping down because of time constraints. Lichter said a survey was sent to all employees concerning Christmas gifts. The options were a Christmas Party, meat bundle or coffee mug. The majority voted for the meat bundles. The EEC would contact Ellinwood Packing for prices of meat bundles. Lichter also wanted to discuss the Employee Recognition Award. They did receive a nomination, but it had not yet been finalized. They would be back before the commission at a later date.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she liked the implementation of meeting quarterly, easier to get together. Lichter said it was incredibly hard to meet once a month.

Commissioner Hutchinson wanted to encourage Barton County employees to join the EEC. The committee was set up to hear from the employees.

Lichter said they were trying to make calendars also.

Commissioner Schlessiger thanked those employees on the committee for being involved.

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Commissioner Reif said special meetings could also be held if needed.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the Barton County Employee Engagement Committee Bylaws.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. COMMUNITY ANTI-DRUG COALITIONS OF AMERICA: Mid-Year Training Institute Recap:

-Tyler Morton, Juvenile Services Prevention Advocate, Central Kansas Partnership board member and Youth Crew task force leader; Holly Bowyer, The Center for Counseling, Central Kansas Partnership board member and Suicide Prevention taskforce leader; and Nichelle Holinde, Family Crisis Center and Youth Crew stakeholder; will provide details. Eight (8) area youth attended the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) Mid-Year Training Institute in July. Those teens will present a power point covering the event.

Tyler Morton, Juvenile Services Prevention Advocate, Central Kansas Partnership board member and Youth Crew task force leader, said they attended the CADCA Mid-Year Training Institute in Chicago. Morton thanked the commissioners for their support, it was a big trip and an expensive trip. Morton also thanked Nichelle Holinde and Holly Bowyer for going on the trip.

Holly Bowyer, The Center for Counseling, Central Kansas Partnership board member and Suicide Prevention taskforce leader and parent to Youth Crew kids, said everyone should be proud of the group of kids. The kids were well prepared and received many compliments. Bowyer said there were three other Kansas groups in attendance, some had also been at the YLINK Conference so there were a lot of community connections.

Morton told about some of their adventures and shared a power point presentation.

Youth Crew members, Alvin Bowyer, Brooklyn Cooley, Damian Palma, James Ray Short, Jasmine Figueroa and MaKiah Webber shared their experiences and information about the sessions they attended.

Morton said he was proud of the kids, and they made connections with each other and people all over the world.

C. CENTRAL KANSAS COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: Program Update:

-Brooke Haulmark, Director, will provide details. Under the administrative control of Barton County and the CKCC Advisory Board, Central Kansas Community Corrections operates in the 20th Judicial District. The department promotes public safety by providing highly structured community supervision to felony offenders with a goal of affecting a change in the behavioral and cognitive thought processes that have led to unlawful behaviors. Change is made by using evidence-based practices, teaching new coping tools and building behaviors for the maintenance of a new and lawful lifestyle. Programming is funded through Kansas Department of Corrections grants and user fees. Staff will be introduced to the Commission and the new mission statement will be announced.

Brooke Haulmark, CKCC Director, said her office was fully staffed and added an administrative assistant. She had been able to save a lot of time for the team by helping them with paperwork and getting prepared for court. Haulmark said they were going back to basics and working on orientation. They had 18 new people assigned to CKCC in July. Staff had been working on time management skills. Two of the counties had requested visits only twice a month which cut down on travel time and wear and tear on vehicles. Haulmark said they were looking at different types of drug testing and had gone to instant mouth swabs which was beneficial. They were changing their late night to Wednesday starting September 4th

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and would also do orientation that night. They were working on a resource center for clients with clothing and food, basic needs.

Commissioner Esfeld said it sounded great and it took time.

Commissioner Hutchinson congratulated her on being fully staffed.

Haulmark said it was a work in progress and they were growing and building as a team.

D. TREASURER'S OFFICE: Kansas Department of Revenue Audit:

-Jim Jordan, County Treasurer, will present details. One duty of the Treasurer's Offices in Kansas is to provide for motor vehicle functions, to include vehicle registration, renewal and other related services. This requires employees to perform tasks in strict compliance with statutory and other guidance offered by the Kansas Department of Revenue. Mr. Jordan will review the finding of a recent audit.

Jim Jordan, County Treasurer, said they were mandated by the state to do motor vehicle work. Audits started in his office in 2018. In 2018, it was 46%, 2019 was 75%, 2020 was 90%, 2021 was 92%, 2022 was 95% and he was proud to say it was 100% in 2023. Jordan said his staff had to put up with a lot from the public only because the public did not understand the processes they had to go through. He was proud of what they had accomplished in the last three years and wanted the commissioners and the public to know how hard they worked. Jordan said he also wanted to recognize Renee Kasselmann in the Appraiser's Office and County Counselor, Patrick Hoffman. Jordan said he had hit a brick wall in reclaiming back oil taxes but with their help, was able to collect several thousand dollars in back taxes back to 2006. Jordan named his staff.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he gets a lot of questions about the \$2.50 facility fee and asked Jordan if that was per tag. Jordan said it was per tag.

Commissioner Hutchinson said the reason Barton County had to charge that fee was because of being underfunded by the state for what it cost to provide the service. Jordan said when he took office, the state said they would not give any more money because the facility fee had not been implemented. Jordan said he put it into place three years ago but was still battling the state. Eventually, it was going to come back to the taxpayers where he would have to ask for more money to meet the costs. If they would get more money from the state, the facility fee could be eliminated in the future.

E. ROAD AND BRIDGE: Purchase of a Broom:

-Darren Williams, County Works Director, will present details. The 2002 Broce broom, with 3,515 hours, currently utilized by Road and Bridge, has passed its effective life. Road and Bridge requests that a newer model be purchased and the current broom be left in-house for parts. After accepting bids, it is suggested that the Commission approve the purchase of the RCT350 Broce Broom from GW Van Keppel for \$73,900.00 with payment coming from the Equipment Replacement Fund.

Darren Williams, County Works Director, said two bids were received for a broom. Berry Tractor bid \$79,318.16 for a 2024 Superior Broom DT74F and GW Van Keppel bid \$73,900.00 for a RCT350 Broce Broom. Williams recommended going with the low bid for the Broce Broom. Both were made in Kansas and were quality brooms.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Williams to explain to the public what the broom was for and the condition of the one being replaced. Williams said after roads were sealed, the broom was used to sweep off the roads to prepare for the striping. The broom was 8 feet wide on the front of a machine and over the years gets a lot of wear and tear.

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Commissioner Reif said Williams had said previously that there were 4 brooms and all of them had numerous hours on them. He understood that the one being replaced would be kept for parts. Williams said that was correct. Williams said there was a lot of maintenance due to cleaning filters, sometimes several times a day.

Commissioner Reif said Barton County had 389 miles of paved roads to maintain. Williams said yes and they do about 100 miles of sealing each year.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she was glad to see they were going with the Broce because the other one was 22 years old and parts could be interchanged.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the purchase of the RCT350 Broce Broom from GW Van Keppel for \$73,900.00. Purchase price to be paid from the Equipment Replacement Fund, Road and Bridge, 072-00-6485.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

F. COMMISSION DISCUSSION: Wind Energy:

-Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor, will provide details. Barton County is currently zoned to Conditionally Permit Commercial-Scale Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS) in the Agricultural District of the County. The Commission will consider a directive to the Barton County Planning Commission to review current Commercial-Scale WECS zoning in Barton County.

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor, said last week, the commissioners toured the Planning and Zoning Department. During that tour, one of the things that came up was discussion about commercial wind regulations. Hoffman said it was up to the commissioners, but one option would be to direct the Planning Commission to review the current wind energy regulations and potentially update it.

Commissioner Hutchinson said it was a good idea to get ahead of this while it was on everyone's mind.

Hoffman said the current regulations were put into place in the 2010's and if an application were to be received, it would be under the current regulations. It was always good to review and update.

Jim Welch, Planning Commission member, said they had been talking informally, for about three months, about updating wind energy regulations. In the past, they had focused on solar energy and were now ready to address wind energy. Welch said that a few weeks ago, Judy Goreham obtained wind regulations from Labette County and distributed them to the members to review. Welch said nobody on the Planning Commission objected to reviewing them.

Commissioner Reif said he had received some calls about the subject and like Hoffman said, there had not been any applications made yet.

Commissioner Hutchinson said that Barton County did not seem like a good place for a wind farm considering we had a flyway.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to direct the Barton County Planning Commission to review Article VIII - Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS) of the Barton County Zoning Regulations, Version II, as it pertains to future development of Commercial-Scale WECS in Barton County.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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G. COURTHOUSE HVAC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: Brentwood Builders – Outside of Original Scope:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will present details. Barton County has received notice of work completed by Brentwood Builders outside the scope of original plans. Work areas include the roof, breakroom, Clerk's Office, Treasurer's Office and restrooms.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and asked for approval.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he felt the words change order implied they went over budget, when actually, these things were added once the project started.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the Change Order for the Courthouse HVAC Improvement Project as presented by Brentwood Builders. Total cost, \$52,933.34, to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment – General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

No Executive Session Held

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-Chairman Barb Esfeld 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 Hutchinson – shout out to all Election workers today.

Commissioner Schlessiger – Pawnee Rock hosting the Hard Rock Race and 1-mile Fun Walk Saturday.

VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Reif moved to adjourn at 10:09 A.M.

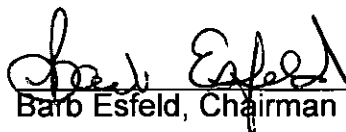
Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Barb Esfeld, Chairman