

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/3EAPwAJ>.

February 27, 2024

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 27th day of February 2024, at the 1500 Kansas location.

Members present:

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1st District
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District, Chairman
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District
Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5th District
Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk
Matt Patzner, Director of Operations
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

Members via phone:

Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4th District, (Chairman Pro-Tem)

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the agenda and table Item D until next week.
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2024, Regular Meeting.
Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS: Fourth 13th Month:

-Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, will present details. An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period ending December 31, 2023. This is considered the fourth "13th Month" for 2023 expenditures.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, presented details and asked for approval.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve 13th Month appropriations for the period ending December 31, 2023 and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.
Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

III. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:

-Ms. Schmeidler will present details. An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of February 13, 2024, and ending February 27, 2024.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, presented details and asked for approval.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve appropriations for the period of February 13, 2024, to February 27, 2024 and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.
Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

-There was no Old Business.

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V. NEW BUSINESS:

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

-Ms. Schmeidler 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.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, presented details and asked for approval.

BATCH #5	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil				
Personal Property	(8,872)		(\$1,497.98)	\$748.99
Real Estate	(40,565)		(\$6,718.72)	\$178.26
16/20 M Trucks				
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	(49,437)	\$0.00	(\$8,216.70)	\$927.25
Total Taxes	(\$8,216.70)			
Total Records Selected	18			

Commissioner Reif 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 Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to table Item B until next week's meeting.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ITEM TABLED

B. COMMISSION DISCUSSION: Quivira Water Rights Impairment Issue:

-Commission Tricia Schlessiger will provide details on the Ground Water Management District 5 meeting held on February 15, 2024. The District has been working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and its consultant, Olsson, to complete a Rattlesnake Creek Watershed Plan Environmental Impact Statement (Plan-EIS). The Plan-EIS should provide long-term agricultural water management and address the impairment of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) senior water rights for Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The draft Plan-EIS document has been submitted to NRCS for technical and administrative review. This is the final step before being presented to the public for review and comment.

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C. COMPUTER INFORMATION CONCEPTS: Annual Peopleware Agreement:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will present details. In 2013, the County purchased a commercial software package from Computer Information Concepts, Inc. (CIC). The software includes tax administration, budgetary / fund accounting, indexing / imaging, payroll / personnel and time / attendance. Added since that time are portals for the Treasurer and the Appraiser.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said earlier this year, the county received the annual agreement. It was down \$75.00 from last year and the current contract expires Thursday.

Commissioner Esfeld said she was aware that other companies were working on it but at this time, there was really no one else offering the same services. Patzner said other companies provide pieces but not the entire package.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she felt their software was very good, but she was disappointed in their service and the lack thereof.

Commissioner Esfeld said she understood that when employees put in service calls, it took a long time to be answered and that was frustrating.

Commissioner Zimmerman said sometimes not answered at all and that was very frustrating. The software was good and many of the people that worked there were good.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the Annual Peopleware Agreement with Computer Information Concepts, Inc. The agreement cost, \$47,800.00, is to be paid from the Courthouse General Account of the General Fund, CIC Maintenance Fees Line, 001-18-5476.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to amend the agenda and put Item D back on.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. NOXIOUS WEED: Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report and Management Plan:

-Darren Williams, County Works Director, will provide details. The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) is responsible for laws aiding in the control and management of noxious and invasive weeds in Kansas. The KDA requires Kansas counties to submit an annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report as well as a Management Plan.

Darren Williams, County Works Director, asked for approval of the 2023 Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report as well as the 2024 Management Plan. Williams said the annual report was basically a financial statement of the Noxious Weed Department. The Management Plan was the goals for 2024.

Commissioner Zimmerman said it looked similar to previous years.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the 2023 Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report as well as the 2024 Management Plan. Direct Mr. Williams to submit both to the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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E. 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.

At 9:12, Commissioner Hutchinson moved to recess into Executive Session for a period of twenty minutes, until 9:30 A.M. The purpose and justification for this Executive Session would be attorney client privilege, and the reason was to discuss matters of attorney / client privilege. Those to be included in this Executive Session is the executive board of commissioners as well as the County Administrator and County Counsel.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

At 9:32, Commissioner Zimmerman moved to return to regular session with no action taken.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

VI. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Reif – Jennifer Hamby took him on a tour of the landfill, it was very beneficial.

Commissioner Esfeld – they plan to do videos of county operations to be posted on the website.

Bev Schmeidler – possibly start early voting tomorrow for the Presidential Preference Primary, Election Day March 19th.

Lindsey Bogner – landowner, spoke about the solar regulations meeting last week. She understood that the Planning Commission was going to request an extension of the moratorium until June 30th and asked that the commissioners approve that with no further extension after that date. Bogner also recommended having a mediator at the Planning Commission meetings to avoid some of the issues that arose at the last meeting.

Commissioner Hutchinson – he watched the meeting and noted it was important to remember that the zoning process in the works at this time was for the entire county, not a specific project. As far as the moratorium goes, it had been suggested that the County Commissioners were rushing the Planning Commission, but the commissioners only had control over the moratorium that they had imposed. The Planning Commission could take as long as they needed to write the regulations. The commissioners wanted to lift the moratorium as soon as possible to restore rights to landowners.

Commissioner Esfeld – this was not strictly for solar farms but much more.

Dan Witt – Friends of Cheyenne Bottoms would hold their first meeting Friday night at 6:00 P.M. at the Kansas Wetlands Education Center.

Jettie Zoller – had concerns of hazards regarding solar farms and fires and property taxes being negatively impacted. Zoller said she had asked how much money Barton County would receive for any pilot program but did not get an answer.

Commissioner Hutchinson – said there was no pilot program and could not be until regulations were in place.

Commissioner Zimmerman – then there would be an application and be determined from that point.

Zoller – at that point it was too late.

Commissioner Hutchinson – it would be a conditional use permit, any application submitted after regulations were adopted could still be rejected. That was when fire suppression and training would be discussed.

Commissioner Zimmerman – the applicant would assume that cost.

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Zoller – was confused about who Patrick Hoffman was representing at the meeting last week, taxpayers, landowners or commissioners.

Patrick Hoffman – he was the attorney for the Board of County Commissioners. He and the commissioners attended as a courtesy, and it was not appropriate for the commissioners to comment at that time.

Zoller - also asked the commissioners to be transparent about if they or any family members would benefit from the solar farm. Each commissioner said they had no interests, conflicts or lease agreements in reference solar projects.

Commissioner Esfeld – said she received a call about Planning Commission members possibly having a conflict. She would be speaking to Judy Goreham.

Forest Ormes – read part of an email he would be sending to Fish and Wildlife regarding threatening endangered species.

VIII. ADJOURN.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to adjourn at 9:57 A.M.

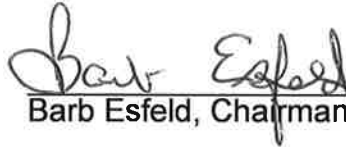
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Barb Esfeld, Chairman