

# 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/44JeHvC>

January 2, 2024

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 2nd day of January 2024, 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, Director of Operations

*Members absent:*

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.

Minutes of the December 19, 2023, and December 28, 2023, Regular Meetings were not available.

## **APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:**

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, will present details. An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of December 19, 2023, and ending December 29, 2023.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, presented details.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to ratify appropriations for the period of December 19, 2023, to December 29, 2023. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **III. OLD BUSINESS:**

-There was no Old Business.

## **IV. 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.

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CH #1	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil	(918,161)		(\$134,277.44)	\$43,535.92
Personal Property	(26,942)	\$517.40	(\$5,215.12)	\$161.88
Real Estate	(73,817)		(\$12,742.46)	\$12,742.46
16/20 M Trucks	(29,415)		(\$4,453.90)	\$2,433.86
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>(1,048,335)</b>	<b>\$517.40</b>	<b>(\$156,688.92)</b>	<b>\$58,874.12</b>
Total Taxes	(\$156,171.52)			
Total Records Selected	160			

Commissioner Schlessiger 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 Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **B. RESOLUTION 2024-01: Application for Approval of a Conditional Land Use Permit for a Described Tract of Land:**

-Judy Goreham, Environmental Manager, will provide details. Melissa Nelson, dba Performance Crop Research, wishes to expand her business at 526 SW 20 Ave, Great Bend, Kansas. The site is zoned Agricultural District and an agriculture-related business is a conditionally permitted use in this zoning district. A Public Hearing was held on December 14, 2023, to consider the request, and it was unanimously recommended by the Barton County Planning Commission that the Barton County Commissioners approve this request.

Judy Goreham, Environmental Manager, said she was present for a very exciting reason. Melissa Nelson, Performance Crop Research, had been in business for awhile in Barton County. Nelson purchased land south of Great Bend with the intent to expand her business. Nelson applied for a Conditional Land Use Permit for an agricultural-related business on that property. She plans to build a 60 x 60 office on the northwest corner of the property which would be attached to an 80 x 80 shop with the intent to expand from the area she has near the airport. This would be the first time that the new regulations adopted by the commissioners last May, had gone into the plan we had. The idea was to change the zoning regulations to have more conditional land use applications versus requiring people to rezone their property. This was the perfect example, this 80-acre tract would stay agricultural, and the use would be alright if approved. There would be no future issues if the land sold, the property would go back to ag district unless someone purchased the ground to continue the business. This was a way to not have concerns about an undesirable business going in the location in future years. Public Hearing was held December 14<sup>th</sup>. Eight of the nine planning commissioners were in attendance and all eight voted in favor of sending a recommendation to approve to the commissioners.

Commissioner Hutchinson said that was a perfect example.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve Resolution 2024-01, Application for Approval of a Conditional Land Use Permit for a Described Tract of Land.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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## DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES FOR COUNTY FUNDS:

-Jim Jordan, County Treasurer, will present details. A designation of Barton County financial institutions as official depositories comes before the Commission. Such institutions must meet the 100% pledged securities requirement for all County funds. According to County Resolution 2023-07, all depositories must provide to the County Treasurer proof of security for these funds whenever such information is requested.

Jim Jordan, County Treasurer, said these included all ten Barton County banks and the Municipal Investment Pool, no one was left out.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the following depositories for 2024:

BMO, Great Bend  
Central National Bank, Great Bend  
Equity Bank, Great Bend  
Farmers Bank and Trust, Albert / Great Bend  
First Kansas Bank, Great Bend / Hoisington / Claflin  
Landmark National Bank, Hoisington / Great Bend  
Peoples Bank & Trust, Great Bend / Ellinwood  
Plains State Bank, Great Bend  
Sunflower Bank, Ellinwood / Great Bend  
Wilson State Bank, Hoisington  
Municipal Investment Pool

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

## D. RESOLUTION 2024-02: A Resolution of the Board of Barton County Commissioners Authorizing Participation in the Rural Opportunity Zone Student Loan Repayment Program Calendar Year 2024:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. The Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) Student Loan Repayment Program provides up to a \$15,000 benefit as a workforce recruitment tool for eligible persons establishing domicile in Barton County. The Kansas Department of Commerce requires counties to pass a resolution obligating them to participate in this ROZ program for at least five years.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and asked for consideration of adoption of the resolution.

Commissioner Hutchinson said when he first became commissioner and attended KAC, he noticed that Barton County was one of the few counties not participating in the program. There was no financial obligation to the county.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to adopt Resolution 2024-02, A Resolution of the Board of Barton County Commissioners Authorizing Participation in the Rural Opportunity Zone Student Loan Repayment Program Calendar Year 2024.

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

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## **KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES: 2024 Membership:**

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. The Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) has submitted a renewal notice for the 2024 membership. Based on a calculation that includes a base fee, population and valuation, the dues are \$6,384.10. The Association sponsors the annual KAC Conference, various educational meetings throughout the year and lobbies the State and Federal Legislature on behalf of Kansas Counties.

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

Commissioner Esfeld said she felt the county benefitted from this membership.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the 2024 KAC Membership Dues of \$6,384.10. Payment to be made from the Courthouse General Account of the General Fund, Dues, Memberships, Subscriptions Line, 001-18-5455.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **F. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES: 2024 Membership:**

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. The National Association of Counties (NACo) has submitted a renewal notice for the 2024 membership. The balance due is \$553.00. Founded in 1935, NACo unites county officials to advocate county priorities in federal policymaking; promotes exemplary county policies and practices; nurtures leadership skills and expands knowledge networks; optimizes county and taxpayer resources and cost savings and enriches the public's understanding of county government.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said NACo strengthened America's 3,069 counties serving nearly 900 county officials.

Commissioner Schlessiger said they had discussed renewing their membership for this year and exploring what other resources they had to offer.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the 2024 NACo Membership Dues of \$553.00. Payment to be made from the Courthouse General Account of the General Fund, Dues, Memberships, Subscriptions Line, 001-18-5455.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **G. THE LEAGUE OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES: 2024 Membership:**

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. The mission of the League is to strengthen and advocate for the interests of the municipalities of Kansas to advance the general welfare and promote the quality of life of the people who live within Kansas.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said they advocates on behalf of cities, offered training and guidance for cities. The League had been a resource for cities across Kansas since 1910. The county did benefit from contracts, particularly advertising.

Commissioner Esfeld said they talked about not renewing the membership as it was geared more towards cities. Local Government Day will be put on by KAC and The League of Kansas Municipalities. Commissioner Esfeld wanted to table the item until they could gather more information.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if there was enough time before it was due to table it until the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Patzner said it was not due until January 31<sup>st</sup>.

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Commissioner Esfeld moved to table this until the 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **H. KANSAS NATURAL RESOURCE COALITION: 2023 Membership:**

-Mr. Patzner will present details. The Kansas Natural Resource Coalition (KNRC) serves as a conduit between local, state and federal governments to promote balanced, necessary and effective administrative policymaking initiatives that materially affect the natural or human systems governed by individual member counties. The Commission has been asked to consider membership for 2024.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said KNRC was an association of counties who maintain collective and participatory involvement in administrative government on behalf of its citizenry. The Coalition serves as a conduit between local, state and federal governments to promote balanced, necessary and effective administrative policymaking through the mechanism of government-to-government coordination. Our mission is to monitor, analyze, understand, communicate, and participate in those initiatives that materially affect the natural or human systems governed by individual member counties. Further, KNRC members have joined together for collective Coordination on natural-resource and environmental policy initiatives, as well as to respond to Federal governmental actions. Each KNRC county has adopted by Resolution a Natural Resource Land Use Plan codifying its authority to expect Coordination with Federal governmental agencies – either independently or as part of the Coalition.

Commissioner Esfeld said she attended their meeting before KAC. They were on top of things with the water rights at Quivira and other rights affecting farmers. She saw a lot of benefit by staying active with the group.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the 2024 membership to the Kansas Natural Resource Coalition. The \$5,000.00 payment is to be made from the Courthouse General Account of the General Fund, Dues, Memberships, Subscriptions Line, 001-18-5455.  
Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Reif said he was a little hesitant to renew last year. The more he found out about the group, it was really important to the rural areas.

Commissioner Esfeld said friends from Pawnee County made them aware of the group.

Commissioner Reif asked if they had gained more membership since last year, Barton County was on the eastern edge. No one was sure of the numbers.

## **I. KANSAS LEGISLATIVE POLICY GROUP: 2024 Membership:**

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. The Kansas Legislative Policy Group (KLPG) is a bi-partisan coalition of western Kansas counties with the common interest in the preservation of the counties tax base and retention of local control. The KLPG serves as a policy and decision-making body establishing legislative priorities at its annual meeting and providing speakers to address KLPG members about the important topics of the day. At this time, the Commission will consider renewal of the membership, priced at \$5,471.34.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said dues the last few years were, 2015 were \$4,652.90; 2017 were \$4,322.68; 2018 were \$5,009.97; 2019 were \$5,114.65; 2020 were \$4,993.56; 2021 were \$4,869.43; 2022 were \$5,112.13 and 2023 were \$5,471.34. 2024 dues were the same as 2023.

Commissioner Esfeld said at one point in time, the county received a large amount of money because of this group due to a lawsuit. Now, with the addition of KNRC and KAC, she felt we could opt out this year.

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Commissioner Schlessiger agreed with Commissioner Esfeld, sit out this year.

Commissioner Reif said we should not renew just because.

Commissioner Zimmerman said this group had been very beneficial to Barton County for a number of years. Oil and Gas Depletion Trust Fund money was a huge suit that the county participated in but she also agreed that by being a member of the KNRC, we were doubling up. Both of the groups primarily represent western Kansas so we are already represented and she agreed to not renew the membership.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to decline to renew our membership with the Kansas Legislative Policy Group for 2024.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **J. ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES:**

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. Recently hired personnel will be introduced.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said they conducted interviews in December for CKCC Director. Patzner said the clear choice was Brooke Haulmark. She brought a strong background to Corrections. As a CKCC Board Member, she was familiar with our program. During her interview, Haulmark expressed a number of ideas to bring to the county.

Brooke Haulmark, CKCC Director, said she was very excited for the opportunity. She had been in the criminal justice system for a couple of decades. The ability to help our community be safe and work with the team at CKCC, ensure that they had the tools to be successful was very exciting.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she was fortunate to participate on the interview panel and they had four very good candidates. She agreed with Patzner that Haulmark was the clear choice.

Commissioner Schlessiger also was on the interview panel and said Haulmark rose to the top.

## **K. HEALTH DEPARTMENT: Professional Liability / General Liability Insurance Renewal:**

-Karen Winkelman, Health Director, will provide details. The Barton County Health Department is required to hold Professional Liability / General Liability insurance. The Health Department worked with the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments and received a quote from the Association Member Benefits & Insurance Agency (AMBA). Given that coverage was ending and the late delivery of the renewal, the billing has been approved. It is suggested that the expenditure be ratified by the Commission.

Karen Winkelman, Health Director, said they had this insurance for a number of years, and they go out to bid for all of the counties. Winkelman submitted reapplication in October, but they have to wait for all of the counties. Due to that lag, she spoke with Patzner and they went ahead and paid the insurance. She asked for ratification.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to ratify the Professional Liability / General Liability Insurance with AMBA for \$5,408.00. Cost was paid from the Health Fund, Insurance/Bonds Line, 006-52-5520.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Health Department Advisory Committee:**

-Ms. Winkelman will provide details. Barton County solicited applicants for uncompensated positions for the Health Department Advisory Committee. The Health Department Advisory Committee provides guidance, recommendation and assistance to the Barton County Health Department staff.

Karen Winkelman, Health Director, said when she was before the commissioners a few weeks ago, they had filled eight of the nine positions for the committee. Winkelman received an application from Tracey Post after that meeting. Post was a Registered Nurse since 2003. She was an instructor at Fort Hays and also works as a PRN nurse at University of Kansas Health Systems.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to appoint Tracey Post to the Health Department Advisory Committee. The uncompensated position terms December 31, 2025.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **M. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Local Emergency Planning Committee:**

-Sean Kelly, Emergency Management Director / Engineering Technician, will provide details. The Barton County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is comprised of representatives from the following groups: state/local officials; law enforcement; firefighting; emergency management; health; hospital; broadcast media and/or communications media; transportation; local environmental group; community service/civic group; emergency medical services; and facilities/industries regulated by SARA Title III. With the retirement of Amy Miller as Emergency Risk Manager, it is suggested that Mr. Kelly be appointed to the LEPC.

Sean Kelly, Emergency Management Director / Engineering Technician, said there were 12 or 13 on the committee and asked that he be appointed since Amy Miller retired.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to appoint Sean Kelly to the LEPC for Barton County, Kansas. Direct Mr. Kelly to provide notification to the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and the Kansas Commission on Emergency Planning and Response.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **N. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: South Central Regional Council for Homeland Security:**

-Mr. Kelly will present details. The South Central Regional Council for Homeland Security supports statewide all-hazard preparedness while reducing vulnerabilities. The Council works to accomplish this by building capabilities and developing comprehensive strategies in partnership with other government agencies and the private sector. At this time, the Commission will consider the appointment of Mr. Kelly for the next two-year term.

Sean Kelly, Emergency Management Director / Engineering Technician, asked that the commissioners appoint him to represent Barton County. The Emergency Manager generally served on the council.

Commissioner Reif moved to appoint Mr. Kelly to the South Central Regional Council for Homeland Security for a Two-Year Term ending December 31, 2025. Direct the Commission to sign the appointment letter.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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

### **O. 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.

### **V. ENDING BUSINESS:**

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

### **VI. OTHER BUSINESS:**

There was no other business.


### **VII. ADJOURN.**

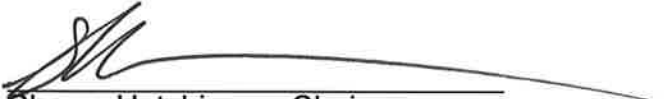
Commissioner Schlessiger moved to adjourn at 9:32 A.M.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bev Schmeidler  
Barton County Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman