

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/3KSJleF>.

June 25, 2024

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 25th day of June 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 Hutchinson moved to approve the agenda.
Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2024, Regular Meeting.
Minutes of the June 18, 2024, Regular Meeting were not available.
Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

-There was no Old Business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. PROCLAMATION 2024-14: Great Bend Bat Cats Day ~ June 25, 2024:

-Chairman Barb Esfeld will provide details. The Great Bend Bat Cats began playing in June, 2017, at Al Burns Memorial Field in Great Bend, Kansas. Managed by Roger Ward, Head Coach, the Bat Cats play from June through the end of season tournaments, with both home and away games. The Commission will be asked to adopt a Proclamation recognizing the players, staff and sponsors for their dedication to the game and their commitment to health, leadership and community.

Commissioner Esfeld said it was her pleasure to introduce the Great Bend Bat Cats. Commissioner Esfeld said it recently came to light that not everyone knew the players were going to college and seeking good careers. The players were also helping in the community at Camp Hope, the Fair, Final Fridays on Forest among others.

Each player introduced themselves, said where they were from, the college they were attending and position they played.

Commissioner Esfeld said this was an amazing team and fun to watch.

Roger Ward, Head Coach, said this was the eighth year. Ward grew up in the community and you always see good things happen. They seemed to gain a little steam each year as far as community

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olvement. Ward said it was not always about winning or losing. Winning was great, but for him, it was about getting back in the dugout and enjoying the game of baseball. He said you may never cross paths with any of these guys again or you may get to help them in the future when they enter the professional world. Ward said he enjoyed this group the most, it was a great group of people, not just baseball players. They did a great job relating to the kids that attended the games and could inspire future players.

Commissioner Esfeld said she had seen the kids lined up to meet the players after games, they had quite a following.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she was very impressed with the guys, the image and the impact they had on the community.

Commissioner Hutchinson said it was a lot of fun.

Commissioner Schlessiger congratulated the team.

Commissioner Reif said community involvement was very important.

Commissioner Esfeld read the proclamation.

Commissioner Hutchinson said his 9-year-old son pitched the night before and won his game.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to adopt Proclamation 2024-14, Great Bend Bat Cats Day ~ June 25, 2024.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

voted aye. Motion passed.

B. SOLID WASTE: Diesel Fuel Quote 2024-2025:

-Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, will provide details. The Landfill accepted quotes to purchase 25,000 gallons of diesel fuel. The quote requested a price per gallon, with the fuel price extending through July 1, 2025, or the 25,000-gallon mark is exceeded.

Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, said they solicited bids to provide diesel fuel for their operations starting July 1, 2024, for 25,000 gallons. The price would be good for the entire year or 25,000 gallons, whichever came first. Hamby said they solicited bids from American Plains Co-op, Moeder Oil and Besthorn Oil & Gas Service. The only bid received was from American Plains Co-op for \$2.99 per gallon. Hamby asked for approval of the bid.

Commissioner Hutchinson said they started contracting fuel for Road & Bridge a couple of years ago. Was this the same time they started contracting fuel for the landfill. Hamby said yes, the same time.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he was sure that had saved the county a considerable amount of money. Hamby said she could get some numbers for the savings.

Commissioner Reif asked Hamby if they had good service from American Plains Co-op. Hamby said absolutely, they were wonderful. Commissioner Reif said that was important and that was a good price.

Commissioner Schlessiger asked Hamby how much fuel they could store. Hamby said there was a 5,000-gallon tank and a 300-gallon portable tank. Hamby said that was the reason they delivered fuel once a week. Hamby said some other companies did not find it feasible to come out once a week.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if the \$2.99 per gallon was the delivered price. Hamby confirmed it was.

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Commissioner Schlessiger said you might receive more bids if there were more storage. Hamby said yes. Commissioner Schlessiger said that was a good price.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the \$2.99 price per gallon from American Plains CO-OP for one year or up to 25,000 gallons of diesel fuel. Cost to be paid from the Solid Waste Fund, Heavy Equipment Fuel Line, 140-68-5415.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. COUNTY ENGINEER: Design agreement for the replacement of Off-System Bridge No. 189:

-Barry McManaman, County Engineer, will provide details. Requests for qualifications were accepted for the design work associated with replacing Off-System Bridge No. 189. The bridge is located on NE 20 Avenue, a short distance northeast of Great Bend over the Dry Walnut Creek. Kirkham Michael was the only firm to express interest. The firm has submitted a design agreement in the amount of \$74,000.00 for design services.

Barry McManaman, County Engineer, said under consideration today was a design agreement with Kirkham Michael for the replacement of Off-System Bridge No. 189. It was located about one mile east of Stoneridge or approximately one mile north of the KDOT and crossed the Dry Walnut Creek. This bridge had been on the county radar for a number of years. McManaman said while researching, he found that it was a KDOT project back in 2011. It was programmed at that time, but that was when KDOT switched over to the Federal Funds Exchange Program that we now take advantage of. That project was cancelled at that time and the county submitted bridge applications to KDOT from 2016 -2021 but were never successful. In 2023, the guidelines for the Off- System Bridge Program changed and the county applied. This particular bridge was only 18 feet wide with tall rails and equipment could not get through. This was the narrowest bridge in the county and had a sharp s-curve. Kirkham Michael was the only bid and they submitted an agreement for design services in the amount of \$74,000.00. McManaman asked for approval to proceed with the design agreement.

Commissioner Schlessiger asked McManaman if the power lines would have to be moved. McManaman said there could be some power lines moved. The concept had been to move the bridge slightly west and that would allow for the curves to be smoothed out. McManaman said if they were located on public right of way currently, they would have to move them at their expense. That would be determined later.

Commissioner Schlessiger said the bid documents stated there would be three designs submitted and asked McManaman to explain how one would be chosen. McManaman said he requested that because there would be some considerations for the commissioners as to how much roadway alignment we wanted to have. The bridge could be moved a little to the west and perhaps retain some of the sharpness. The further the approaches would be extended out from the bridge, the more the curves could be smoothed out. He had asked Kirkham Michael to meet with the commissioners to show the options

Commissioner Schlessiger said when she drove through the area, she noticed the narrow bridge and the sharp curves and wondered how much equipment could get through. She had concerns about changing the neighborhood. McManaman said the bridge would move to the west and the homes were to the east so it should not change very much.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if any of the three designs would involve only the bridge and not straightening the road. McManaman said they probably all would address the curves.

Commissioner Reif said the land that would need to be used was wasteland. McManaman said it was agricultural currently.

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Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the design agreement for the replacement of Off-System Bridge No. 189 in the amount of \$74,000.00. Cost to be paid from the Special Bridge Fund, Professional Service Fees, Line 003-92-5475-92. Authorize the Chairman to sign such documents as are necessary for the Kirkham Michael design agreement.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. COUNTY APPRAISER: Continuation of Employment Agreement:

-Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor, will provide details. Per Kansas statute, an Appraiser must be appointed for a four-year term every fourth year following July 1, 1993. Wendy Prosser, currently serving as County Appraiser, was last appointed for a term beginning July 1, 2021. At that time, she was offered an employment agreement that ended in 2024. It is suggested that the employment agreement be extended to June 30, 2025, thus coinciding with the statutory end date of her current four-year term.

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor, presented details and said the County Appraiser was a unique position in the county. It is an unelected department head of an important county department. The position was also reviewed by the state directly on their valuations and the standards they had to employ.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the Employment Agreement between Barton County and Wendy Prosser for the position of County Appraiser for the period ending June 30, 2025.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Wendy Prosser, County Appraiser, thanked the commissioners and said that Barton County had been a great place to work. It was challenging but taxpayers had always asked questions and met with staff even though the high valuation spike during COVID. It was a great learning opportunity to get to work with the taxpayers of Barton County.

Commissioner Hutchinson said that was almost diplomatic enough to be an elected official. Prosser said she did not want to be elected, keep the appraiser an appointed position. It had been a pleasure to get to know so many people. Unfortunately, she had to upset them to get to meet them.

Commissioner Reif said she handled it well. Prosser said she tried to put herself in their shoes, not understanding the process.

Commissioner Zimmerman said Prosser's numbers were good and asked Prosser to speak to that. Prosser said her median was at 101.2, she had not received final notification yet. To be in compliance with the state, you must be within 10%. The ratio study the state does should be between 90-110. Barton County had been in the low 70's the last few years. Her office did a huge commercial overhaul, looking at the analysis and tried to get back to fair and equitable. Over time, some areas had been bumped and some had remained the same, so they tried to get it more consistent and up to equity. That brought the ratio from the low 70's to just over 100. When properties sell, they come in right around the county's appraised value, which was what her job was to do.

Commissioner Esfeld said taxpayers had said that Prosser explained things well so they could understand. Prosser said she had big shoes and had a good role model.

E. GREAT PLAINS DEVELOPMENT INC: Continuation of Membership:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will present details. Great Plains Development, Inc. (GPD) boosts job creation, spurs economic development and improves the quality of life in Southwest Kansas. GPD provides financing, loan packaging and business assistance to individuals, businesses and government agencies to stimulate economic development within their 28-county region. Partners include city and

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County governments, local banks, Kansas Department of Commerce, Kansas SBDC business planning, EDA, SBA, USDA and NetWork Kansas.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and said Great Bend Economic Development was also a partner. Patzner asked the commission to consider continuing membership with Great Plains Development Inc. through a cost share with the City of Great Bend, cost of \$3,636.60.

Commissioner Hutchinson said after going through it again, the fourth time for him, he thought it was worth it.

Commissioner Schlessiger said they give quite a bit of assistance to economic development and taxpayers.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to continue membership with Great Plains Development, Inc. through a cost-share with the City of Great Bend. Direct the County Administrator to pay \$3,636.60 from the Courthouse General account of the General Fund, Dues, Membership and Subscription Line, 001-18-5455.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

No Executive Session Held

F. 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 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 – would attend the SDSI meeting on Wednesday.

Commissioner Esfeld – said former Russell County Sheriff John Fletcher passed away. He was very involved in the community and was running for County Commissioner in Russell County.

Bev Schmeidler – updated the commissioners about the School Finance Levy Residential Exemption.

Karen Winkelman – Health Department staff would be at the Barton County Fair Thursday morning providing Healthy Lab services, WIC signup and tetanus shots.

VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to adjourn at 9:45 A.M.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk


Barb Esfeld, Chairman

PROCLAMATION 2024-14

Great Bend Bat Cats Day ~ June 25, 2024

WHEREAS, the Great Bend Bat Cats, members of the Jayhawk Collegiate League, began playing in June, 2017; and

WHEREAS, managed by Roger Ward, Head Coach, the 2024 roster includes 27 players hailing from Iowa, Minnesota, Oklahoma and Texas, with Kansas players from Chase, Hays, Manhattan, Shawnee, Topeka and four from Barton County; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the family friendly atmosphere at home games, area businesses often sponsor activities at Al Burns Memorial Field in Great Bend.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, name Tuesday, June 25, 2024, as Great Bend Bat Cats Day; and

FURTHER, the Commission recognizes the players, staff and sponsors for their dedication to the game and their commitment to health, leadership and community; and

FURTHER, the Commission encourages our citizens to support the Great Bend Bat Cats by attending the free at home games and following away games on line; and

FURTHER, the Commission thanks those families and businesses that offer assistance to the Bat Cat family through player hosting, facility improvements and community support; and

FURTHER, that the Commission applauds the Bat Cats for the 5th place finish in the 2023 NBC Word Series and wish the 2024 team the best of luck with the Jayhawk League Championship and the NBC World Series.

Adopted this 25th day of June, 2024.

BARTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Barb Esfeld, Chairman


Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner


Duane A Reif, Commissioner


Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner


Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk

