

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/48LxVnx>.

March 19, 2024

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 19th day of March 2024, at the 1500 Kansas location.

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, Director of Operations
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the agenda.
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2024, Regular Meeting.
Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

-There was no Old Business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

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

-Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, 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.

BATCH #6	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil				
Personal Property	(5,672)		(\$895.88)	\$439.75
Real Estate				
16/20 M Trucks				
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	(5,672)	\$0.00	(\$895.88)	\$439.75
Total Taxes	(\$895.88)			
Total Records Selected	7			

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Commissioner Hutchinson 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 and direct the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. TREASURER'S OFFICE: Tax Statement \ Mill Levy Correction:

-Jim Jordan, County Treasurer, will provide details. On March 7, 2024, Mr. Jordan released a video detailing the efforts being taken to correct tax statements following an incorrect mill levy calculation. Those efforts will be detailed at this time.

Jim Jordan, County Treasurer, provided an update on the mill levy correction. Jordan said the corrections were made by Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, and sent to the Treasurer for approval. Jordan said they currently had gas and state assessed completed. Working on updating oil and sending out any refunds due to the taxpayers. Jordan said they still had personal property, real estate and special assessments to do. Himself and two others were working on these and hoped to have oil completed by the end of the month. There were more than 50,000 files to do which was very time consuming. Jordan wanted taxpayers to know that new tax statements would not be sent out as this did not affect all of Barton County. Not everyone would be due a refund. He encouraged taxpayers to send in their payments and if necessary, they would be issued a refund.

Commissioner Esfeld wanted taxpayers to know they were still responsible for any interest if they had not paid their taxes.

Jordan said the public had the misconception that hundreds of dollars were involved when in fact, it was pennies in most cases.

Commissioner Esfeld said she owned four houses and would not be getting a refund. The state requires a taxpayer to know that if they own property, they know they have to pay taxes. Even if a statement were not received, it was known you have taxes to pay.

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor, said by statute, we do not have the ability to waive the interest. Please just pay on time.

Commissioner Esfeld said the first half taxes were due December 20th and the second half were due May 10th. If a taxpayer did not pay the first half in December, did interest accrue from then or not until after the second half was due. Jordan said if the first half was not paid, interest was charged on the full amount.

Commissioner Schlessiger asked about tax statements for groundwater. Jordan said tax statements would be sent out for groundwater.

Commissioner Zimmerman noted that there would be 45-day deadline for those as they were an added tax. Jordan said that was correct.

Commissioner Hutchinson thanked Jordan doing an amazing job and for all his hard work. He appreciated the video that Jordan put out showing the work involved in the process.

Commissioner Schlessiger thanked everyone in the Treasurer's Office for stepping up.

Commissioner Esfeld said the commissioners wanted to recognize Jordan for interest earnings in 2023 of \$1.32 million. That was exemplary and having those funds allowed the mill levy to be lowered. They

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presented Jordan with a plaque that was purchased with funds provided by the commissioners personally.

C. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – ROUND II: Grant Deadline Extension:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. In 2023, the Commission authorized the second in the series of Façade Improvement Grants. There are approximately eleven projects that remain unfinished. The Commission will be asked to extend the grant period to December 31, 2024.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said the original deadline was a rolling year from the approval date. Asked the commission to extend it to December 31, 2024. The July hailstorm set back progress.

Commissioner Esfeld said her own home was just now being repaired from the July storm.

Commissioner Hutchinson said even though the funds had been allocated to the projects, the money was still in Barton County drawing interest.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to extend the contract period for the remaining Façade Improvement Project, Round II recipients, to December 31, 2024.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

No Executive Session Held

D. 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.

V. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Hutchinson – thanked Commissioner Esfeld for making the videos of the progress at the courthouse.

VII. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Reif moved to adjourn at 9:19 A.M.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Barb Esfeld, Chairman