

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/3TovToa>.

May 7, 2024

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 7th day of May 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, 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 Schlessiger seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2024, Regular Meeting.
Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:

-Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, will present details. An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of April 23, 2024, and ending May 7, 2024.

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

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve appropriations for the period of April 23, 2024, to May 7, 2024. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

-There was no Old Business.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. COMMISSIONERS: Kansas Association of Counties – Requesting a Veto Regarding CCR for HB 2096:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. The Kansas Association of Counties and its members are respectfully requesting that Governor Laura Kelly veto the Conference Committee Report on House Bill 2096, which is essentially a "government competition bill". HB 2096 would require that if a local government entity provides services substantially similar to those of restaurants, health clubs, or childcare, any private entity located either in the same city or within five miles of that government entity would, under this bill, be eligible for a property tax rebate. Property tax is the primary source of funding for local government in Kansas.

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Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said essentially KAC was concerned about government either having to shut down these services or if they were kept in place, the tax burden would have to be spread to other taxpayers. Asked the Board of County Commissioners to support requesting the Governor to veto.

Commissioner Esfeld said she had been following the bill. It was going on the third year. It started out with YMCA and health clubs. Commissioner Esfeld said anytime something became exempt, the burden was put somewhere else.

Commissioner Zimmerman said it was unfortunate that it was thrown into the Conference Committee report because there were other important pieces to the bill.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to direct the County Administrator to allow KAC to include the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, as a signer to the correspondence requesting a veto regarding CCR for HB 2096.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. PROCLAMATION 2024-10: National Bike Month, May, 2024:

-Dale Hogg, Be Well Barton County committee member, will present details. The bicycle is an economical and environmentally sound form of transportation and an excellent tool for health, recreation and enjoyment of Barton County's scenic beauty. Throughout the month of May, citizens are urged to be mindful of bicyclists in an effort to reduce collisions, injuries and fatalities and improve health and safety for everyone on the road.

Dale Hogg, Be Well Barton County committee member, said bicycling was also a great tool for mental health and relieved anxiety and stress. Hogg said the county had been incredible over the years in putting up signage for bicyclists, they helped riders and motorists. Hogg said Barton County would be hosting Bike Across Kansas. Cyclists would be spending the night in Hoisington. May 17th will be Bike to School Day and Bike to Work Day.

Commissioner Reif said he believed there would be approximately 700 riders in Hoisington. Hogg said that was correct.

Commissioner Reif asked how many miles they ride. Hogg said approximately 500 miles. They start in Tribune and average approximately 50-60 miles a day, sometimes 70-80 miles per day.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Hogg if they set up tents. Hogg said they could but most camp out in the gyms in communities.

Hogg said his first year was in 2014 and he read the proclamation.

Commissioner Reif moved to adopt Proclamation 2024-10, National Bike Month, May, 2024.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. HEALTH DEPARTMENT: 2024 Child Passenger Safety Station of the Year:

-Karen Winkelman, Public Health Director, will provide details. The Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office announced its selections for the 2024 Child Passenger Safety Station of the Year awards. This distinction is given for continuing efforts to check car seat installations for caregivers in their communities. Christina Delgadillo, RN, Car Seat Technician, and Sarahi Prieto, WIC Clerk/Breastfeeding Peer Counselor/Car Seat Technician, checked 65 seats in 2023, resulting in the Barton County Health Department being honored. The Health Department is one of two agencies to be named in 2024.

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Karen Winkelman, Public Health Director, said it was a unique service the department offered and she was here to recognize two employees. Winkelman was notified by The Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office that Barton County Health Department was one of two who earned the 2024 Child Passenger Safety Station of the Year Award for their continuing efforts to check car seat installations in their community. Barton County Health Department checked 65 seats. Winkelman introduced Christina Delgadillo and Sarahi Prieto.

Prieto and Delgadillo presented a slideshow and asked questions about car seat safety. They said a lot of people were not aware that car seats had expiration dates or that a car seat should be replaced after a car accident.

Commissioner Esfeld asked where someone could go to make sure a car seat was installed properly. Prieto said they could come to the Health Department.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked what caused a car seat to expire. Prieto said basically wear and tear from regular braking in a vehicle.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked how much storage the car seats they distribute takes up. Prieto said they struggled until they got the storage pod.

Prieto said they will be performing car seat checks at the Community Baby Shower on June 13th.

Delgadillo said they will also have future events in Hoisington, Claflin, Ellinwood and Pawnee Rock.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to recognize Ms. Delgadillo and Ms. Prieto for their efforts in earning the 2024 Passenger Safety Station of the Year.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. PROCLAMATION 2024-11: Honoring the Work of the Central Kansas Debriefing and Peer Support Team:

-Ms. Winkelman; Kelley Johnson, LCPC-S, LCAC, Coordinator; and Detective John Reynolds, Peer Support, Great Bend Police Department, will provide details. Central Kansas Debriefing has supported Central Kansas First Responders and Safety Personnel since the 1980's. The team has changed, the tools modernized, but the heart remains the same. Team assembly is dependent upon requesting entity, but generally consists of mental health, chaplain and first responders / safety personnel / medically trained members.

Karen Winkelman, Public Health Director, said she took the opportunity during Mental Health Awareness Month to introduce and recognize a very important and unique group as well as the work they do for First Responders in the county. Mental health was considered a public health emergency across the nation and Barton County was no exception. Barton County employees on the team were Dena Popp, Lt. David Paden and Winkelman. Winkelman introduced other members present: Kelley Johnson and Detective John Reynolds.

John Reynolds, GBPD Detective, said he had been with the GBPD just over 30 years. He was also in the military full time and served on two combat tours. In his career, he had seen a lot of things no one should ever see. Reynolds said you always remember the images and details from incidents responded to. He lost a friend to suicide and became interested in preventing others from being lost to suicide. A Critical Incident Debriefing class was offered a couple of years ago. He attended and worked towards being certified to help others. The group was utilized a lot last year, Reynolds attended approximately 27

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debriefings. Unfortunately, Barton County had many suicides last year. Reynolds had traveled to many different locations in Kansas. Studies found that debriefings could limit the number of officers that get PTSD. It helped to mitigate the psychological effects in the long term.

Kelley Johnson said she got involved with critical incident debriefings after the 16th Street shootings in Colorado. She took the Jeffrey Mitchell training and became certified. Life brought her to Kansas and joined the local team. Johnson said the team had to be called in, they could not reach out after an incident. They want to keep the first responders doing what they do. Johnson said they had a phenomenal team that volunteered. Johnson introduced John Makings, another member of the team.

Commissioner Esfeld asked Johnson who calls for the team. Johnson said often leadership contacts them.

Commissioner Reif said the team did not initiate the call, was that correct. Johnson said yes, it was usually the Fire Chief, Police Chief or Sheriff, someone in that role.

Commissioner Reif said any First Responder in a smaller community would eventually have a call involving a friend or family member. He really appreciated the team. Johnson said the debriefings were only for those on the scenes.

Dena Popp, Communications Director, said she took the class in 2019 and at that time, the group was dormant. The group had come together, modified and made changes over the last few years. It was a huge benefit.

Popp read the proclamation.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to adopt Proclamation 2024-11, Honoring the Work of the Central Kansas Debriefing and Peer Support Team.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. PROCLAMATION 2024-12: Mental Health Awareness Month, May, 2024:

-Holly Bowyer, Accounting Specialist, and Rick Bealer, Board Member for The Center, will present details. The Center for Counseling & Consultation has submitted this year's proclamation dealing with Mental Health Awareness Month, May, 2024. The Proclamation details the prevalence of mental health conditions in our community and recognizes the need for intervention, awareness and inclusivity.

Julie Kramp, The Center, introduced Connie Holliday, Noell Miller and Amy Blackburn from The Center. Kramp said they are a CMHC, Community Mental Health Center; and also, pre-certified as a CCBHC, Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic. They expected to receive word within the week of their full certification. Part of the requirement of CCBHC was that they provide care coordination which was a lot of collaboration in the community. Kramp said with the agenda today and those present, you could see the need for mental health was growing. They partner with many groups in the community. The Annual Mental Health Awareness Day would be May 21st at the courthouse square. Kramp read the proclamation.

Commissioner Hutchinson said we were blessed in Barton County to have an organization like The Center for Counseling to support mental health needs.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adopt Proclamation 2024-12, Mental Health Awareness Month, May, 2024.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

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All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Reif said he attended a health assessment at Clara Barton Hospital a few weeks ago. Mental Health was the number one topic.

F. PROCLAMATION 2024-13: National Prevention Week:

-Vicki Richardson, Central Kansas Partnership Chair, will be joined by Central Kansas Partnership task force members and area teens to present this Proclamation. The focus of National Prevention Week is to change the prevention landscape by providing evidence-based and accessible resources to facilitate collective action and story-sharing. By showcasing the work of our partners in prevention, we can confront the societal challenges surrounding substance misuse together while celebrating stories of prevention.

Vicki Richardson, Central Kansas Partnership Chair, said they partner with Be Well Barton County and focus on bicycle safety. They also partnered with Chronic Disease Reduction, Katelyn Sigler; Youth Crew; Central Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition; Suicide Prevention Task Force and Rise Up Central Kansas. Richardson said Central Kansas Partnership included Barton County, Stafford County, Rush County, Pawnee County, Ellsworth County and Rice County.

Mya Brewer, Jasmine Figueroa, Valencia Reif, Vicki Richardson, Flor Sanchez, Vanessa Maher and Chris Maher read the proclamation.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to adopt Proclamation 2024-13, as National Prevention Week. Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

G. SOLID WASTE: RFP - HVAC System Replacement for the Barton County Landfill:

-Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, will present details. The Barton County Landfill currently has a building on-site that is used for scale operations, office space and employee training. The HVAC system for this building is estimated to be 40 years old and is no longer efficient. After soliciting proposals, it is suggested that the Comfort Pro, Inc. bid of \$7,600.00 be accepted.

Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, said the proposal was to include a 60,000 BTU 96% propane furnace and 3-ton, R-410 16 seer A/C system and to include installation of the new system as well as removal of the existing system. Two bids were received, one from Glassman Corporation, out of Hays for \$12,750.00 and Comfort Pro of Great Bend for \$7,600.00. Hamby asked for approval of the bid from Comfort Pro.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she loved when the low bid was local and said they got their money's worth from the old unit.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the replacement of the Landfill HVAC system by Comfort Pro, Inc. Total cost, \$7,600.00, to be paid from the Solid Waste Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment, 140-68-6325.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

H. 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.

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

BATCH #8	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil	(7,653)		(\$1,267.76)	\$1,267.76
Personal Property				
Real Estate	(157,223)		(\$27,034.04)	\$10,822.72
16/20 M Trucks				
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	(164,876)	\$0.00	(\$28,301.80)	\$12,090.48
Total Taxes	(\$28,301.80)			
Total Records Selected	14			

Commissioner Zimmerman 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 Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

I. COUNTY COUNSELOR: Warranty Deed with Knop Sand:

-Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor, will provide details. On November 2, 2022, the Commission approved the Agreement for Purchase or Sale of Real Estate between the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, and Knop Sand Company, Inc. This agreement essentially authorized the trade of the northwest 20 acres of the sandpit area, located in the W/2, Sec. 5, T20S, R11W for industrial water rights. With the Permit to Appropriate Water for Beneficial Use approved by the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources, it is appropriate to approve the deed.

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor, said it was contingent on the Division of Water Resources actually approving the transfer of water rights. The transfer was approved and now we needed to deed the 20 acres to Knop Sand.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the Warranty Deed between the Barton County, Kansas, Board of County Commissioners, Grantor, and Knop Sand Company, Inc., Grantee, reference the trade of water rights for acreage.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

No Executive Session Held

J. 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.

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V. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business.

VII. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Reif moved to adjourn at 10:11 A.M.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk


Barb Esfeld, Chairman

PROCLAMATION 2024-10

National Bike Month, May, 2024

WHEREAS, the bicycle is an economical and environmentally sound form of transportation and an excellent tool for health, recreation and enjoyment of Barton County's scenic beauty; and

WHEREAS, maintaining a bicycling-friendly community has been shown to improve citizens' health, well-being, and quality of life, growing the economy of Barton County, attracting tourism dollars, improving traffic safety, supporting student learning outcomes and reducing pollution, congestion, and wear and tear on streets and roads; and

WHEREAS, Be Well Barton County, the Barton County Commission, the League of American Bicyclists, schools, parks and recreation departments, police departments, public health districts, hospitals, private businesses and civic groups will promote bicycling during the month of May, 2024, and throughout the remainder of the year.

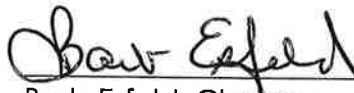
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that May, 2024 is Bike Month in Barton County, and

FURTHER, citizens are urged to be mindful of bicyclists in an effort to reduce collisions, injuries and fatalities and improve health and safety for everyone on the road; and

FURTHER, that citizens are reminding that biking is a low-impact form of experience and can help protect citizens from serious diseases such as stroke, heart attack, some cancers, depression, diabetes, obesity and arthritis.

Dated this 7th day of May, 2024.

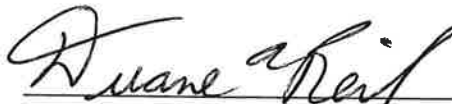
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Barb Esfeld, Chairman



Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner



Duane A Reif, Commissioner




Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner



Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler
County Clerk



PROCLAMATION 2024-11

HONORING THE WORK OF THE CENTRAL KANSAS DEBRIEFING AND PEER SUPPORT TEAM

WHEREAS, "Emergency Responders" are public safety, fire, law enforcement, emergency response, emergency medical (including hospital emergency facilities) and related personnel, agencies and authorities and includes police, correctional personnel, firefighters, search and rescue and emergency and paramedical teams; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 30 percent of first responders develop behavioral health conditions including, but not limited to, depression and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), as compared with 20 percent in the general population; and

WHEREAS, first responders face challenging, dangerous and draining situations. They are also the first to reach out to disaster survivors and provide emotional and physical support to them. These duties, although essential to the entire community, are strenuous to first responders and with time, put them at an increased risk of trauma; and

WHEREAS, understanding the need for support from men and women who have experienced similar situations, local emergency responders have joined forces with mental health professionals, chaplains and other emergency personnel, both active and retired, to utilize tools to support and care for this important segment of our population.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that the Central Kansas Debriefing and Peer Support Team is honored for their incredible endeavors; and

FURTHER, that the Commission encourages our citizens to help support, equip and strengthen the bond of first responders, their families and our community by recognizing the critical impact of their often-times heroic efforts and the stress caused by everyday vigilance as these men and women risk their safety in protecting ours.

Dated this 7th day of May, 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Barb Esfeld, Chairman



Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner


Duane A Reif, Commissioner


Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner


Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler
County Clerk



PROCLAMATION 2024-12

Mental Health Awareness Month, May, 2024

WHEREAS, mental health is an essential part of overall well-being, impacting individuals, families, and communities across the State of Kansas:

- One in five American adults experiences a mental health condition each year and everyone faces challenges in life that can impact their mental health;
- Despite its prevalence, mental health remains shrouded in stigma, preventing many from seeking help; and
- Early intervention and access to quality care are crucial for managing mental health conditions and improving quality of life; and

WHEREAS, May is recognized nationally as Mental Health Awareness Month, providing an opportunity to raise awareness, combat stigma and promote mental health resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, in collaboration with The Center for Counseling & Consultation, that the Barton County Commissioners recognize May 2024 as Mental Health Month in Barton County, Kansas; and

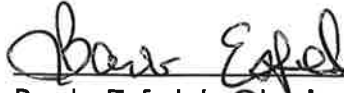
FURTHER, that the Commission encourages all residents of Barton County to:

- Educate themselves and others about mental health conditions, treatment options and available resources;
- Challenge stigma by speaking respectfully and inclusively about mental health;
- Seek help if they are struggling with their mental health and encourage others to do the same;
- Support organizations that provide mental health services and advocacy; and
- Create safe and supportive environments for open conversations about mental health; and

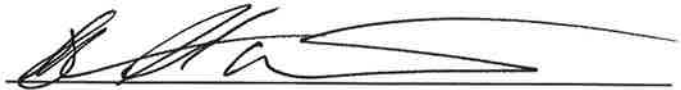
FURTHER, that together we can create a community where everyone feels empowered to prioritize their mental well-being and seek help when needed.

Dated this 7th day of May, 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Barb Esfeld, Chairman



Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner



Duane A Reif, Commissioner



Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner



Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner

ATTEST:



PROCLAMATION 2024-13

National Prevention Week

WHEREAS, according to the SAMHSA National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 70.3 million Americans aged 12 or older, used illicit drugs in the past year. Nearly six million young people (aged 12 to 20) reported drinking alcohol in the past month. Nearly twenty-three percent of Americans (64 million people) aged 12 and older used tobacco products or used an e-cigarette or other vaping device to vape nicotine in the past month. Additionally, in 2022, 8.5 million Americans misused prescription pain relievers; and

WHEREAS, these problems do not discriminate and can affect persons in all walks of life no matter age, race or status; and

WHEREAS, Kansas ranks last in the US in mental health due to high rates of mental illness and barriers to accessing care; and

WHEREAS, Kansas Health Matters reports that 16.9% of adults in Barton County binge drink, with 15.4% of residents in frequent mental distress and 22.2% of adults with disabilities living in poverty; and

WHEREAS, prevention programs and organizations are proving to be effective as prevention program data shows a decrease in mental health/substance abuse issues; and

WHEREAS, community programs, such Central Kansas Partnership, Rise Up Central Kansas, the Suicide Prevention Task Force and Glow For Life, along with the Barton County Health Department, Central Kansas Community Correction, the Twentieth Judicial District Juvenile Services and The Center of Counseling and Consultation, along with other area private and public providers, have the power and the responsibility to make community change.

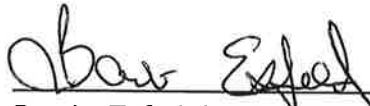
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that May 12 – 18, 2024, is declared as National Prevention Week; and

FURTHER, that citizens are urged to become more aware and be able to recognize the signs of mental health and substance use disorders. Equally important, citizens should help build community, strengthen resilience and create hope to keep those around them—and themselves—healthy and safe; and

FURTHER, in recognition of the seriousness of substance use and mental health issues in our communities, the power of prevention, and the tireless efforts of those working to make a difference, we recognize, support and appreciate the programs and events that increase awareness of, and action around, mental health and/or substance use disorders.

DATED 7th day of May, 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

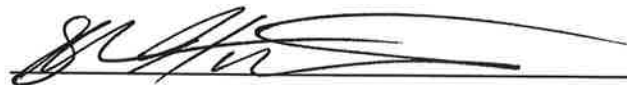


Barb Esfeld, Chairman

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
County Clerk



Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner



Duane A Reif, Commissioner



Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner



Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner