

# 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)

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November 12, 2024

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 12th day of November, 2024, at the Barton County Courthouse.

*Members present:*

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Chairman  
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk  
Matt Patzner, County Administrator  
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

*Members absent:*

Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4<sup>th</sup> District, (Chairman Pro-Tem)

## **I. OPENING BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Esfeld called the meeting to order at 9:37 A.M.

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

Minutes of the October 29, 2024, and the November 5, 2024, Regular Meetings were not available.

## **II. OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

## **III. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. SOLID WASTE: Annual Review of the Solid Waste Management Plan:**

-Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, will discuss details. Per KSA 65-3405, Barton County is required to form and maintain a Solid Waste Planning Committee to develop and perform an annual review of the Solid Waste Management Plan. This Plan is reviewed by the Commission, and if approved, submitted to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The committee has reviewed the Solid Waste Management Plan and recommends an update to the Major Employers List.

Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, presented details and asked for approval of the 2024 Solid Waste Management Plan with the update to the Major Employers List.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Hamby if that was the only update to the plan. Hamby said it was the only change.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the Solid Waste Management Plan with an update to the Major Employer List. Direct Ms. Hamby to submit said updated plan to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

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

### **B. ADOPTION OF THE 2024 / 2025 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS LISTING:**

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. The Authorized Positions listing was last updated with the adoption of the 2025 Operating Budget. At this time, it is suggested that a one-half full-time position be added to both Road and Bridge and Noxious Weed for both 2024 and 2025. This brings total number of full-time positions to 191 and allows for more efficiency in County Works operations.

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Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said this was a housekeeping, clerical item. There was an employee who split time between the two departments and was not counted in either of them. This would correct that oversight.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Patzner how many authorized positions there were a couple of years ago for the whole county. Patzner said he did not have the exact number right now, but it was down over the last few years. Patzner said he remembered it being 195 previously.

Commissioner Hutchinson said that when we have allowed positions to expire through attrition, asked remaining employees to do more, it allowed us to lower the amount of tax dollars levied the last four years. Commissioner Hutchinson asked where that showed, were we not formally removing those positions. Patzner said essentially, there may be a department who had not filled a position for some time and the Authorized Positions Listing would still reflect it. Patzner said it was not only done at budget time and revisit it when needed.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Patzner what the biggest expense for the county was. Patzner said it was payroll.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he thought nine or ten positions had been eliminated over the last several years.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she thought there had been 202 positions at one point.

Commissioner Esfeld thought there had been 205. She said when you had good employees, they could do more with less.

Commissioner Hutchinson said we asked them to do more with less and were rewarding those employees.

Commissioner Zimmerman said that in the areas with reduced staff, the employees were consulted.

Commissioner Reif said we had better qualified employees by doing that. We are all working for the same goal.

Patzner said credit went to the employees. We have quality people and that allowed us to eliminate some positions.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the 2024 / 2025 Authorized Positions Listing.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **C. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: Trash Hauling Service:**

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. The County requested proposals for trash hauling services for County office buildings. There are generally three pick up dates per week for service year 2025. Chism's Trash Service submitted the only bid at a cost of about twice the current amount. It is suggested that the bid be rejected and Darren Williams, Facilities Management Director, be authorized to begin negotiations with area vendors for a cost closer to what the County is currently paying.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, asked that the one bid be rejected.

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Commissioner Reif asked if the current contract was until the end of the year. Patzner said that was correct.

Commissioner Reif moved to reject the only bid for 2025 Trash Hauling Services. Authorize Mr. Williams to begin negotiations with area vendors for a cost closer to what the County is currently paying. Commissioner Zimmerman 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.

### **IV. ENDING BUSINESS:**

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

### **V. OTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Esfeld – Bruce Chladny from KAC notified the commissioners of an unexpired term for a position that represents rural Kansas counties. Commissioner Esfeld submitted her letter of interest in serving.

### **VI. ADJOURN:**

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to adjourn at 9:58 A.M.  
Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

  
Bev Schmeidler  
Barton County Clerk

  
Barb Esfeld, Chairman