

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/3MS9fA5>

November 26, 2024

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 26th day of November, 2024, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1st District
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

Members absent:

Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District, Chairman

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2024, and the November 2024, Regular Meetings.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. KANSAS REHABILITATION TAX CREDITS: Request for Bids – Courthouse HVAC Project:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. On October 16, 2024, the County solicited bids from interested parties in purchasing Kansas Rehabilitation Tax Credits that were issued for the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) project at the Barton County Courthouse. Sealed bids were accepted for either the entire amount (\$1,463,440.00) of tax credits or an amount not less than \$50,000 per bidder.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said two bids were received for the entire amount. One was from Commerce Bank for \$1,339,047.60 and the other was from Clocktower for \$1,358,218.66. Patzner asked for approval of one of the bids. Patzner said Diana Watson, Administrative Assistant, County Administrator's Office, put together some numbers. With the original bid for the HVAC project including all of the change orders, we ended up spending just under \$5.2 million. When you use the tax credits to offset, that brought the total to under \$4 million. With the tax credits, the HVAC project came in under budget and on time.

Commissioner Zimmerman said it was a very happy day. She said she was proud of the courthouse, proud of what was accomplished and all the hard work. To come in under budget was amazing.

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Commissioner Reif said it was a happy day. He said when you see all the improvements and coming in under budget, it was all good.

Commissioner Schlessiger said Clocktower was a company that resells tax credits. Patzner said their bid was just under \$0.93 cents on the dollar.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to award the Kansas Rehabilitation Tax Credits bid to Clocktower Tax Credits for \$1,463,440.00 in tax credits at a bid price of \$1,358,218.66 and direct the County Counselor to prepare and submit to said successful bidder the State Tax Credit Certificate Sales Agreement.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. RISK MANAGEMENT AND INSURANCE PROVIDER:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. On November 19, 2024, the Commissioner interviewed personnel from KCAMP / KWORCC and Copeland Insurance. The firms were asked to provide details on liability and property coverage, as well as workers compensation, for Operational Year 2025.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said three bids were received. KCAMP bid \$336,122.00 which did not include workers compensation. KWORCC bid \$77,302.00. Copeland bid \$416,845.20 which did include workers compensation.

Commissioner Schlessiger said in study session, they had a discussion about comparable coverages and asked Patzner to explain the differences in what each offered.

Patzner said one of the big differences between the two proposals was the wind and hail deductible. For both bids, it was \$250,000. With Copeland the deductible was \$250,000 or 1%. The big difference was Copeland that was per location, and with KCAMP, it was per incident. Patzner continued that if another incident similar to the one in 2023 happened, the total out of pocket for the county would be \$255,000 with KCAMP one time.

Commissioner Reif asked if that would be the total with no other deductible. Patzner said that was correct.

Commissioner Schlessiger said that the premium dollars were comparable but when you consider the coverage, having the one deductible made it a difficult decision.

Commissioner Schlessiger asked Patzner how many of the 105 counties KCAMP covered. Patzner said KCAMP had 79 counties and KWORCC had 85 counties.

Commissioner Zimmerman said that during her time as County Clerk, she always heard positive feedback from the counties covered by KCAMP and KWORCC. She said also that she really appreciated all the work last year from Lucas Barta and Copeland when the county was in a bind, scrambling to find insurance.

Commissioner Schlessiger said she also appreciated everything that Copeland had done.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to accept the estimated proposals from:

KCAMP for Liability Insurance in the amount of \$336,122.00; and
KWORCC for Workers Compensation in the amount of \$77,302.00

Cost to be paid as follows – For Liability Coverage – General Fund, Insurance / Bonds Line, 001-18-5520
for Workers Compensation Coverage – Employee Benefit, Worker's Compensation Line, 007-00-

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5. It is anticipated that final numbers of coverage amounts will be determined when coverage is bound.

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

C. OCCUPANCY AGREEMENT: 12th and Kansas, Great Bend:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. As a means of community support, the State of Kansas Parole office is housed in the County office building at 1208 Kansas, Great Bend. This agency reimburses Barton County for a portion of the building's utility costs. The proposed agreement is set to expire December 31, 2025.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said the Parole Office was housed rent free but would reimburse the county for phone services including long distance and a portion of the utilities used based on assigned office footage. This was the same agreement as last year, but they were taking more space now. After discussions with Brooke Haulmark, CKCC Director, she felt it was a benefit having them in the building. There were only 17 Parole Offices currently and taking one away would hinder them. Being able to meet in person was a benefit to the community. The amount of office space being used could be looked at and re-evaluated as well as the amount of utilities that they pay and adjusted as necessary.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the Occupancy Agreement for the State of Kansas Parole Office with the Agreement set to expire December 31, 2025. Direct staff to submit the approved Agreement to the Kansas Department of Corrections.

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

D. COUNTY ENGINEER AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Copier Replacement:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. The copier currently used in the County Engineer and Emergency Management Offices was purchased in August, 2014, and is considered obsolete. It is suggested that a Canon imageRUNNER ADVANCE DX C5840i be purchased from OPI at a cost of \$10,780.00. The monthly maintenance agreement for said copier is \$42.00 per month. Monies are available in the County Engineer's account for the proposed purchase.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said with Sean Kelly moving from the Engineering Department to the Emergency Management Department, there were funds left over in Engineering, so it was decided to take the entire amount from there. Patzner said that Barry McManaman, County Engineer, looked at the differences between purchasing or leasing a copier. He found that purchasing it over the next five years would save approximately \$2,600.00. The maintenance agreement included toner.

Commissioner Zimmerman said her experiences working with Joey Bahr and OPI, their services were top notch.

Commissioner Reif said it was also a local company.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to purchase a Canon imageRUNNER ADVANCE DX C5840i from OPI at a cost of \$10,780.00. Cost to be paid from the County Engineer's Account, General Fund Budget, Office Furniture and Equipment over \$50 Line, 001-32-6175.

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

F BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Health Department Advisory Committee:

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ren Winkelman, Public Health Director, 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, Public Health Director, said the committee was to have a minimum of five members and a maximum of nine members. They were a non-voting authority that meet monthly and cover policies and programs. The Health Department Advisory Committee was originally created due to the Family Planning Grant. Winkelman said there were four positions expiring at the end of December and she received four applications. Winkelman said all four were currently serving on the committee and asked for them to be reappointed.

Commissioner Hutchinson said it was a great group of people.

Commissioner Reif said they were qualified individuals.

Commissioner Zimmerman said they were very active and involved.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to appoint Cathy Anderson, Jennifer Schartz, Krista Smith and Emily Young to the Health Department Advisory Committee. The uncompensated positions term December 31, 2026.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

F. CENTRAL KANSAS COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: Extension of the Subaward Agreement with Learning Tree Institute at Greenbush:

-Brooke Haulmark, CKCC Director, will provide details. In 2021, Barton County sought grant data analysis, evaluation and reporting services for the Improving Reentry for Adults with Substance Use Disorders Program grant award from the Office of Justice Programs (O.J.P.), U.S. Department of Justice. The Learning Tree Institute at Greenbush was contracted at that time to perform needed services. It is suggested that the subaward agreement be extended to September, 2025. Monies are available in the grant for the \$38,601.00 fee, which is set as a not to exceed limit for services provided.

Brooke Haulmark, CKCC Director, presented details and asked for approval.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the Subaward Agreement with Learning Tree Institute at Greenbush for a period ending September, 2025. Cost of service, set at a not to exceed limit of \$38,601.00, to be paid from the DOJ grant.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

G. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-Chairman-Pro Tem Tricia Schlessiger 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.

At 9:22 A.M., Commissioner Zimmerman moved that the Commission enter into Executive Session for a period of 30 minutes. The subject to be discussed will be non-elected personnel. The reason this needs to be discussed in Executive Session is to discuss non-elected personnel and the County's position on that matter. Governing body, the County Counselor, the County Administrator and the Human Resources Director will be included in said meeting. The Open Meeting will resume at 9:53 A.M. in this room.

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Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

At 9:53 A.M., Commissioner Zimmerman moved to return to regular session with no action taken.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Reif – Barton County Commissioners were invited to a multi county meeting in Ness County which he attended. There was discussion about employee retention, ambulance service, Sheriff's Departments, wind towers, salaries, elections, health insurance and budgets among others.

VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Reif moved to adjourn at 9:58 A.M.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman Pro-Tem