

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

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June 24, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 24th day of June, 2025, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1st District, (Chairman Pro-Tem)

Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District

Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District

Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4th District, Chairman

Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5th District

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk

Matt Patzner, County Administrator

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2025, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

A. RESOLUTION 2025-10: Appointment of Wendy Prosser as County Appraiser:

-Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor, per Kansas statute, an Appraiser must be appointed for a four-year term every fourth year following July 1, 1997. Wendy Prosser, currently serving as County Appraiser, was first appointed to a term beginning December 1, 2020. At this time, the Commission will consider the appointment of Ms. Prosser as the Barton County Appraiser. After being tabled at the June 10, 2025, meeting, the Kansas Department of Revenue, Property Valuation Division, training issues have been resolved.

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor, said fortunately, Wendy Prosser was willing to stay in Barton County. For bookkeeping and following state law, we need to have an official reappointment of our County Appraiser, Wendy Prosser. Hoffman said a contract or employee agreement was also necessary because of the position having to follow state law in terms of how they do appraisals and following county procedures in conducting the office. Hoffman said he was asking the commissioners to adopt Resolution 2025-10 as well as approve the Employment Agreement with Prosser.

Commissioner Esfeld said Barton County was fortunate to have an appraiser as some counties were currently without one or were making changes. She said Prosser did a good job and worked well with taxpayers. Prosser said she looked forward to serving Barton County for another four years.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Prosser how many years' experience she had as an appraiser and time in the office. Prosser said she had been with Barton County for 17 years and was with Barber County for a year and a half before that.

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Commissioner Hutchinson asked Prosser if she was incentivized in any way to raise someone's property values. Prosser said absolutely not. If the market were to go down and sale prices go below county appraised values, she would be happy to lower values, it depended on the market.

Commissioner Hutchinson said you do not make any more money nor does the county make any more money if she raised values. Prosser said that was correct.

Commissioner Zimmerman said it would be nice to not have so many appeals. Prosser said it was great to have people ask questions. A lot of the people coming in had never come in before. They go through the data with them and explain how they come up with the values. They always want the taxpayers to know they can come in to discuss it.

Commissioner Reif thanked Prosser for asking taxpayers to come in and understand the process. He said the people felt comfortable talking to Prosser.

Commissioner Esfeld said she was glad Commissioner Hutchinson brought up the Appraiser not raising taxes to make money for the county. The Appraiser did not set taxes; they were setting values. Commissioner Esfeld said the mill levy came in during the budget process and that was what taxpayers should pay attention to, entities setting their budgets.

Commissioner Hutchinson said the appraiser had to stay within a range or their job was in jeopardy.

Commissioner Esfeld said that they had to be within 10% of what properties were selling.

Hoffman said he addressed that in the Employment Agreement because the quality of work and market values were checked by the state, not the county.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he took every opportunity to remind the public that the budgets were set by the taxing entities, the appraiser determines how much of that a taxpayers property was. If someone felt their taxes were too high, it was the taxing entities taxing too much and not the Appraiser's Office.

Commissioner Schlessiger thanked Prosser and said there was a shortage of Appraisers, Barton County was fortunate to have someone with her qualifications.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adopt Resolution 2025-10, Appointment of Wendy Prosser as County Appraiser.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. COUNTY APPRAISER: Updated Employment Agreement:

-Mr. Hoffman will provide details. With the adoption of a Resolution appointing Ms. Prosser as Appraiser, it is appropriate to consider an employment agreement covering that same term. This item was also tabled on June 10, 2025.

Hoffman had provided details.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the Employment Agreement between Barton County and Wendy Prosser for the position of County Appraiser for the period ending June 30, 2029.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. MEMORIAL PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Board Appointments:

-Chris Schartz, County Works Director, will present details. Persons on the Memorial Parks Advisory Committee advise and assist the Commission with the care and management of the Golden Belt and Hillcrest Memorial Parks. Public announcements were made via the newspaper and social media of open positions on the Committee. There are two full terms and one unexpired term open at this time.

Chris Schartz, County Works Director, presented details and said they received applications from Kathy McGinnis and Mick Lang. Both currently served and applied for another four years. Schartz said if they were approved it would leave one unexpired term open.

Commissioner Schlessiger said she was thankful the two of them wanted to continue to serve.

Commissioner Zimmerman said Mick Lang had a lot of experience with the cemeteries having worked for Road & Bridge. Schartz said Lang had been on the committee for 16 – 17 years.

Commissioner Zimmerman said Kathy McGinnis previously worked for Noxious Weed.

Commissioner Reif moved to re-appoint Kathy McGinnis and Mick Lang to the Memorial Parks Advisory Committee to uncompensated positions terming July 1, 2029.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Schlessiger wanted to give a shout out to Road & Bridge for mowing the ditches.

B. SOLID WASTE: Diesel Fuel Bids:

-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 June 30, 2026, or the 25,000 gallon mark is exceeded.

Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, said they received two bids, one from United Ag Service, Gorham, for \$2.485/gallon; and American Plains Coop, Great Bend, for \$2.75/gallon. Hamby said that there was a \$0.27/gallon difference for a difference of \$6,625 for the total. Hamby recommended accepting the bid from United Ag from Gorham.

Commissioner Reif said United Ag home office was in Gorham, but they had four locations in Barton County: Galatia, Olmitz, Hoisington and Stickney. Reif said the fuel came out of Galatia.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the \$2.485 price per gallon from United Ag Service for one year or up to 25,000 gallons of diesel fuel. Cost to be paid from the Solid Waste Fund, Heavy Equipment Line, 140-68-5415.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. CENTRAL KANSAS COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: RFP – CKCC Heating and Air Conditioning:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will present details. On June 18, 2025, the Facilities Management Department opened a Request for Proposal for a Heating and Air Mini-Split to be installed within a multi-use office space at 1806 – 12th, Great Bend, Kansas. Monies are available in the Central Kansas Community Corrections budget for this building improvement.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said there were two bids received, with each of those having two options. Patzner said in looking at the space for the mini split to be installed, it was determined that we

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really needed four units to cover the area. The recommendation was to go with Rubes, Inc Option 2 which would be 2 2-ton Mitsubishi heating and cooling mini splits providing what the space required.

Commissioner Schlessiger said the space was where the grocery carts were located when it was Boogardts and there was no heating or air in that area. This was where clients now waited for their appointments.

Commissioner Hutchinson said there was ice on the walls in the winter.

Commissioner Reif said maybe in the future insulation could be added and the windows closed off.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to award the RFP – CKCC Heating and Air Conditioning to Rubes, Inc for Option 2 for the mini split at the Boogardts building, someday will be called something else, I guess we could go by it's address. The \$15,300 cost to be paid from the CKCC Fund, Buildings and Fixed Equipment Line, 095-70-6325.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. CENTRAL KANSAS COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: Vehicle Purchase:

-Brooke Haulmark, CKCC Director, will present details. In late May, 2025, CKCC released an RFP to purchase a new, used or program mid-size or SUV vehicle. With no submissions, Mr. Patzner authorized the department to search locally for a vehicle. Only one vehicle met the criteria within the Kansas Department of Corrections budget parameters as well as the RFP requirements of a 2018 vehicle or newer with less than 50,000 miles.

Brooke Haulmark, CKCC Director, said the vehicle they found was \$240 under the maximum amount they could spend. Haulmark said they found a 2024 Ford Edge, giving them a 4-wheel drive vehicle to add to the fleet.

Commissioner Schlessiger commended Haulmark for finding a vehicle locally after receiving no bids.

Haulmark thanked her team for their assistance finding a vehicle.

Commissioner Zimmerman said the vehicle had less than 29,000 miles on it. Haulmark said that was correct.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Haulmark where the money came from. Haulmark said it came from the Kansas Department of Corrections Fiscal Grant from the state.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Haulmark if the vehicle was an addition or replacement to their fleet. Haulmark said it was an addition. They have a vehicle that they may sell in the future.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the purchase of the 2024 Ford Edge, or like vehicle, 2024 Ford Edge from Marmie Ford. The \$29,400.00 cost to be paid from the CKCC Fund, Vehicle Replacement Line, 095-70-6205.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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No Executive Session Held

E. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-Chairman 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.

IV. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

Michelle Beran, Cottonwood Extension – Barton County Fair kicks off tomorrow, invited everyone to come out.

Krystal Patton and Christina Delgadillo, Barton County Health Department – BCHD will be giving some free immunizations and have a Healthy Living Lab at the Barton County Fair on June 26th from 7:30 A.M.– 9:30 A.M. They will also have a car seat event in Pawnee Rock from 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. on Saturday.

VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Reif moved to adjourn at 9:27 A.M.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk

Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman