

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/49zGHWz>

February 25, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 25th day of February, 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

Chris Saenz, Deputy 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 Hutchinson moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2025, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

III. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:

-Ms. Schmeidler will present details. An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of February 11, 2025, and ending February 25, 2025.

Chris Saenz, Deputy County Clerk, presented details and asked for approval.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve appropriations for the period of February 11, 2025, to February 25, 2025. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. NOXIOUS WEED: Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report and Management Plan:

-Chris Schartz, County Works Director, will provide details. The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) is responsible for laws aiding in the control and management of noxious and invasive weeds in Kansas. The KDA requires Kansas counties to submit an annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report as well as a Management Plan.

Chris Schartz, County Works Director, said the eradication report was for the chemicals used, money spent and everything they sent to the State for 2024. The management plan was for 2025, what they planned to do in the upcoming year. Schartz asked for commission approval.

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Commissioner Reif moved to approve the 2024 Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report as well as the 2025 Management Plan. Direct Mr. Schartz to submit both to the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. ROAD AND BRIDGE: Equipment Trade – RCT350 Broce Broom:

-Mr. Schartz will provide details. Road and Bridge currently uses a 2002 CR350 Broce Broom with 3,567 hours to help remove hazards such as loose gravel, broken glass and trash from roadways. The equipment has been used beyond its useful life. It is suggested that it be replaced with a 2025 RCT350 Broce Broom. The 2025 RCT350 is priced at \$74,300.00, and, with a trade of the 2002 CR350 Broce Broom for \$10,000.00, can be purchased for a total of \$64,300.00 from The G.W. Van Keppel Company.

Chris Schartz, County Works Director, said it was starting to cost in maintenance and repairs and asked for approval to purchase a new broom.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Schartz how many brooms they currently had. Schartz said they had four. During asphalt season, they would be using all four. If this were approved, they would have two new ones and two older ones.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked what the warranty would be on this new one. Schartz said one year warranty.

Commissioner Reif said the one to be replaced had over 3,500 hours on it and was over 20 years old. Commissioner Reif asked Schartz to put that in perspective to a vehicle. Schartz said because of the conditions they were running in and they seal around 100 miles of road a year, he would guess around 500,000 miles.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the purchase of a 2025 RCT350 Broce Broom, with trade of 2002 CR350 Broce Broom, for \$64,300.00 from The G.W. Van Keppel Company. Total cost to be paid from the Road and Bridge Fund, Equipment, Operate and Construction Line, 002-92-6190.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. PROCLAMATION 2025-01: Severe Weather Preparedness Week, March 3 – 7, 2025:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will present details. Severe Weather Preparedness Week, March 3 – 7, 2025, is a cooperative effort of the National Weather Service, the Kansas Emergency Management Association and local county emergency management agencies. Barton County Emergency Management reminds everyone to be prepared for the spring severe weather season. The proposed Proclamation encourages individuals, businesses and communities to plan and prepare for an emergency.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said Severe Weather Preparedness Week was an effort to inform and encourage self-preparedness for severe weather events in Kansas. In 2024, 89 tornadoes occurred in the state, almost double 2023. Spring severe weather threats included not only tornadoes and flooding, but also drought, wildfires, hail, high winds, lightning and extreme heat. The 2025 Kansas Statewide Tornado Safety Drill was scheduled for 10:00 A.M. on March 5th. The Storm Fury on the Plains will be March 6th at 6:30 P.M., at the Crest Theater.

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Commissioner Esfeld moved to adopt Proclamation 2025-01, Severe Weather Preparedness Week, March 3 – 7, 2025.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. RESOLUTION 2025-06: A Resolution Transferring Tax Credit Proceeds to Capital Improvement:

-Mr. Patzner will present details. In late 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. On November 26, 2024, the Commission awarded 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. The tax credit proceeds have now been received by the County. The Commission will now consider transfer of the funds to Capital Improvement.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Patzner what balance that would take the reserve accounts to. Patzner said he did not have an exact amount, but it would be in the neighborhood of 7.3 million.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to adopt Resolution 2025-06, A Resolution Transferring Tax Credit Proceeds to Capital Improvement.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. BOARD APPOINTMENT: The Center for Counseling and Consultation:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. The County solicited applicants for The Center for Counseling and Consultation Governing Board. This Board reviews and makes recommendations on mental health services in Barton County and the surrounding area. Jennifer Scharz has applied for reappointment and Chrystal Trout has applied for appointment. One unexpired term remains open.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said announcements were made in the newspaper and on social media about the opening on the board. Patzner asked for consideration of appointment of Jennifer Scharz and Chrystal Trout.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to appoint Jennifer Scharz and Crystal Trout to The Center for Counseling and Consultation Governing Board. The unexpired positions, terming December 31, 2027, are uncompensated.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Grant Writing Services:

-Mr. Patzner will present details. On February 11, 2025, the Commission took official action and moved to transition to project-base economic development funding effective January 1, 2025, using a prioritized funding based on project section which benefits the entirety of the County. As a part of that decision, the Commission has discussed hiring a grant writing firm to assist with certain projects throughout the year. NQSM Corp., d/b/a Hometown Grants, has submitted an agreement for up to four (4) grant applications during a 12-month period for \$50,004.00.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and asked for approval of the agreement.

Commissioner Schlessiger said they interviewed two different companies. Hometown Grants was very versed in infrastructure grants and brought a passion to her grant writing.

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Commissioner Hutchinson moved to hire NQSM Corp., d/b/a Hometown Grants to provide certain grant writing services to Barton County for a total of \$50,004.00. Cost to be paid from the Finance General account of the General Fund, Economic Development Line, 001-26-6880.
Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

G. SPECIAL ALCOHOL FUNDING: Transfer to Central Kansas Community Corrections:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. The Commission will be asked to transfer \$15,208.19 from the Special Alcohol Fund to Central Kansas Community Corrections. Per Kansas Statute, Special Alcohol Funding shall only be expended for the purchase, establishment, maintenance or expansion of services or programs, whose principal purpose is alcoholism and drug abuse prevention and education, alcohol and drug abuse detoxification, intervention in alcohol and drug abuse, or treatment of persons who are alcoholics or drug abusers, or are in danger of becoming alcoholics and drug abusers.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said today the commission would be asked to transfer the entire balance to Central Kansas Community Corrections.

Brooke Haulmark, Central Kansas Community Corrections Director, said some of the challenges they had were not having a male staff member and wanting to have the ability to continually test individuals. Haulmark said they had a lot of individuals who worked in the field or out of state. With these funds, they wanted to purchase additional testing that would track usage for a two-week period. These high-risk individuals were about 25% of the case load.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the transfer of \$15,208.19 from the Special Alcohol Fund, Transfer Out Line, 015-00-9000 to CKCC, CKCC Reimbursements Fund, 096-00-8000.

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

H. 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.

At 9:19 A.M., Commissioner Zimmerman moved that the Commission enter into Executive Session for a period of 15 minutes. The subject to be discussed will be consultation with the County Counselor to discuss matters related to attorney client privilege. The reason this needs to be discussed in Executive Session is to discuss the County's position on the matter on which legal advice is being sought. The Governing body, the County Administrator and the County Counselor are to be included in said meeting. The Open Meeting will resume in this room at 9:35 A.M.
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

At 9:35 A.M., Commissioner Zimmerman moved to return to Regular Session with no action taken.
Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

V. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

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VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Esfeld – attended luncheon with Soil Conservation District last week. Veronica Coons said they had lost a few employees with layoffs.

Commissioner Esfeld – would attend the Humane Society meeting next week.

Commissioner Reif – thanked Road & Bridge and Noxious Weed Departments for cleaning off the parking lots and around County Offices.

Commissioner Reif – had the opportunity to ride with someone plowing snow. He enjoyed the experience. He said it was a 2016 truck with around 250,000 miles. He said it was nice and clean inside. He thanked them for taking care of the equipment.

Commissioner Schlessiger – sat in on a ZOOM meeting regarding Community Corrections funding. It was very interesting.

VII. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to adjourn at 9:43 A.M.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Chris Saenz
Barton County Deputy Clerk


Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman

PROCLAMATION 2025-01

SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS WEEK, MARCH 3-7, 2025

WHEREAS, severe weather and hazardous conditions can escalate quickly, individuals are encouraged to have several ways to receive weather warnings; and

WHEREAS, tornadoes, lightning, hail, strong winds, flooding, and wildfires are all hazards that can cause damages to individuals, homes, businesses, public infrastructure, pets, and livestock; and

WHEREAS, individuals are urged to know your risk and take action;

WHEREAS, all residents are encouraged to prepare themselves and their families by:

1. Reviewing Your Weather Safety Plans and Procedures
2. Knowing the Safest Place to Seek Shelter before the Storm
3. Have Multiple Ways to Receive a Warning
4. Consider Canceling or Postponing Outside Activities
5. Inform Others of the Heightened Risk or Warning; and

WHEREAS, all schools, businesses and residents are encouraged to prepare and practice personal safety plans, and to participate in the statewide Tornado Drill scheduled for Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that the week of March 3 through 7, 2025, is Severe Weather Preparedness Week and all residents are encouraged to prepare for severe spring weather.

ADOPTED this 25th day of February, 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman


Barb Esfeld, Commissioner


Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner


Duane Reif, Commissioner


Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk



RESOLUTION 2025-06

A RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING TAX CREDIT PROCEEDS TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

WHEREAS, on February 8, 2023, the Commission awarded the HVAC project to Kruse Construction for a total of \$4,182,000.00. By the completion of the project, Kruse had billed the County a total of \$5,069,500.10 and Brentwood Construction provided another in \$112,651.52 construction services, for a total project cost of \$5,182,151.62. Additional project costs included moving the Treasurer's Office to the first floor of the Courthouse, a complete rework of the first floor restrooms and other items; and

WHEREAS, on November 26, 2024, the Commission awarded 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

WHEREAS, on Friday, February 7, 2025, Barton County received the tax credit payment from Clocktower in the amount of \$1,358,218.66; and

WHEREAS, factoring in the project cost less tax sale proceeds, the HVAC project cost was under budget by \$358,067.04.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that the following tax sale proceeds shall be transferred to Capital Improvement as of this date:

Transfer \$1,358,218.66 from Transfer Out – Capital Improvement Line, 001-18-9130, to Capital Improvement, Commission Resolution Transfer – From County General Line, 071-00-8020.

Dated this 25th day of February, 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman


Barb Esfeld, Commissioner


Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner


Duane Reif, Commissioner


Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler,
County Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Patrick Hoffman,
County Counselor