

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/3Zu3L4I>

February 4, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 4th 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
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 Esfeld moved to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2025, Regular Meeting.
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.
Voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

A. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Kansas Association of Counties and the League of Kansas

Municipalities:

-Commissioner Barb Esfeld will provide details. The Kansas Association of Counties and the League of Kansas Municipalities co-hosted Local Government Day last week. An overview will be provided. This item was tabled on January 28, 2025, due to illness.

Commissioner Esfeld said Adam Smith, State Representative, 120th District, chairs the House Taxation Committee. Smith said in regard to property taxes, the three-legged stool was no longer out of balance. 30% of our taxes came from property tax, 29% from sales tax and 29% income. Commissioner Esfeld said that Smith was working on a bill that would change a lot. He was looking at different pockets of money other than the Local Ad Valorem Tax Relief. He would like to distribute just to those who paid property tax, and it would come off of the taxes. The Kansas Legislative Policy Group had a Zoom meeting every Friday morning and they were inviting Smith this week. Commissioner Esfeld said she would join the meeting to learn more. Commissioner Esfeld said Dr. Featherstone from Kansas State University provided an overview about ag values and land use. Dr. Featherstone used Barton County in his presentation. It is believed that nothing will change this year. Commissioner Esfeld said the KLPG was going to work with the Treasurers Association about the \$5.00 title fee. She said there was discussion about lowering the school general from 20 mills to 18.5 mills but probably would not provide much relief. Commissioner Esfeld said they had a good discussion with Troy Waymaster about the appeals process. If a taxpayer appeals at the local level and were not satisfied with their valuation there, they can take it to the Board of Tax Appeals. However, the process is extremely behind in processing those appeals. Commissioner Esfeld said they were also looking at a 3% valuation cap on mobile homes. She let them know she did not think that was a good idea, there were variances in mobile homes, some were very

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3. The state was talking about reimbursing counties for RNR notices for another five years but people would like to see it go away.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE: Lease of Postage Machine Equipment:

-Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, will provide details. The lease for the current postage machine ends in March, 2025. The County Clerk's Office contacted Midwest Single Source and Pitney Bowes for quotes. After a review, it is suggested that the County continue the lease with Midwest Single Source. That lease price is \$435.07 per month and monies are included in the Courthouse General account of the General Fund for this anticipated purchase.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, said the present lease was with Midwest Single Source and the quote received would keep the price for the next five years the same as it was currently. The Pitney Bowes quote was approximately \$250.00 a month more than Midwest Single Source.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the lease with Midwest Single Source for postage machine equipment. Cost of the lease, \$435.07 per month for five years, to be paid from the Courthouse General account of the General Fund, Rentals Line, 001-18-5535.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. INVENTORY OF COUNTY PROPERTY:

-Ms. Schmeidler; Chris Saenz, Equipment Technician; and Dereck Hollingshead, Information Technology Director, will provide details. Per KSA 19-2687, each County officer and head of a department shall make an inventory of the personal property owned by the County and located in such office or department. The inventory, which shall be taken during the month of December of each year, shall be filed with the County Clerk on or before December 31 of each year. The inventory shall not include books, records, files, stationery, writing materials and blank legal papers. The information will be presented to the Commission during February of each year. Per Resolution 2005-22, the mandated duties have been assigned to the Information Technology Department.

Chris Saenz, Deputy County Clerk, said every year in October, he sends each department a list of what they have in inventory. The departments submit any changes to him. IT Department enters all computer related information.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked who entered the vehicle information. Saenz said the departments enter their own.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to accept the 2024 Inventory Listing.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

No Executive Session Held

C. 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.

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IV. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Schlessiger – attended a Zoom meeting regarding Quivira water issues.
Commissioner Hutchinson – wished Commissioner Reif a Happy Birthday.

VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adjourn at 9:21 A.M.
Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman