

# 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)

Meetings Live Streamed through **Microsoft Teams**® at the following link: <https://bit.ly/4ev8oBb>

January 13, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 13th day of January, 2025, 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

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

Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5<sup>th</sup> District

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk

Matt Patzner, County Administrator

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

## **I. OPENING BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Esfeld 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 January 7, 2025, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **II. OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

## **III. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:**

-Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, will present details. An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of December 17, 2024, and ending December 31, 2024.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, presented details and asked the commission to ratify appropriations.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to ratify appropriations for the period of December 17, 2024, to December 31, 2024. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **IV. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS: 13th Month:**

-Ms. Schmeidler will present details. An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period ending December 31, 2024. This is considered the first "13th Month" for 2024 expenditures.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, presented details and asked for approval.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve 13th appropriations for the period ending December 31, 2024 and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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## **V. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:**

Ms. Schmeidler will present details. An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of January 1, 2025, and ending January 14, 2025.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, presented details and asked for approval.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve appropriations for the period of January 1, 2025, to January 14, 2025 and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **VI. RECOGNIZE OUTGOING OFFICIALS:**

-Chairman Barb Esfeld will provide details. Glenda French, Register of Deeds, and Levi Morris, County Attorney, will be recognized for their service to Barton County and its citizens.

Commissioner Esfeld said French and Morris were not present this morning, but both were appreciated for their service to Barton County. Commissioner Esfeld said French started with Barton County in 2020 and was appointed as Register of Deeds in 2023. She immediately began making positive operational changes to the department by creating new avenues for accessing information and improved the passport process by offering passport photos in house. Commissioner Esfeld read the inscription from the clock for French.

Commissioner Esfeld said Morris was appointed County Attorney in 2018. His dedication to Barton County and its citizens was exceptional. His ability to work openly with other officials throughout the county, judicial district and state was very much appreciated. Having a County Attorney who welcomed the opinions and input of law enforcement, probationary personnel and the judiciary fostered a safer environment. Commissioner Esfeld read the inscription on his clock.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to recognize Glenda French, Register of Deeds, and Levi Morris, County Attorney, for their service to Barton County and its citizens.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **VII. RECESS FOR SWEARING IN OF OFFICIALS:**

-The following officials will be sworn in: Commissioner Barb Esfeld and Commissioner Shawn Hutchinson; Sheriff Brian Bellendir; Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk; Colin Reynolds, County Attorney; and Susan Williams, Register of Deeds. The ceremony will be held at 10:15 a.m. in Courtroom A. Following the ceremony, the County will host a reception in the Courthouse rotunda.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to recess the agenda meeting for the Swearing In of Barton County Officials. The meeting will resume at 10:45 a.m. in this room and I would not be surprised if it did run a little late.

Commissioner Esfeld said it could, that was a lot of people. So when we finish, either 10:45 or when we finish, we will return to this room.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **VIII. SWEAR IN SHERIFF'S OFFICERS:**

-Ms. Schmeidler will swear in the Sheriff's Officers as Sheriff Brian Bellendir begins his new term of office.

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## **IX. RETURN – The Commission will return to Chambers at 10:45 A.M.:**

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to resume the agenda meeting.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **X. NEW BUSINESS - All new business to be considered by the Commission will be heard at this time.**

### **A. ELECTION FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:**

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. Nominations are in order for the 2025 Commission Chairman as is allowed under Kansas Statute 19-219. The Board of County Commissioners consists of Commissioners Barb Esfeld, Shawn Hutchinson, Duane Reif, Tricia Schlessiger and Donna Zimmerman.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and asked for appointment of a Chairman for 2025.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to appoint Tricia Schlessiger as Chairman of the Barton County Commission for 2025.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Esfeld said this group of commissioners was a very diverse group. They respected one another even when they had differences. She said they were able to move back into the courthouse after the renovation and kept it under budget. This group had dealt with NIETC and solar regulations among others. Commissioner Esfeld presented a gavel, handmade by Commissioner Reif, to Commissioner Schlessiger as the new Chairman.

Commissioner Schlessiger thanked the commissioners.

Commissioner Hutchinson and the other commissioners presented Commissioner Esfeld a plaque in honor of her year as Chairman.

#### *Members present:*

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1<sup>st</sup> District, *(Chairman Pro-Tem)*

Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4<sup>th</sup> District, Chairman

Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5<sup>th</sup> District

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

### **B. ELECTION FOR CHAIRMAN PRO TEM OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:**

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. Nominations are in order for the 2025 Commission Chairman Pro Tem as is allowed under Kansas Statute 19-219.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and asked the commission to appoint a Chairman Pro Tem.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to appoint Commissioner Reif as Chairman Pro Tem of the Barton County Commission for 2025.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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## **C. RESOLUTION 2025-03: Designation of the Official County Newspaper:**

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. This Resolution calls for the designation of the official County newspaper. The newspaper selected must meet the qualifications as prescribed by K.S.A. 64-101. To meet this statute, and to best reach the citizens of Barton County, the Commission shall consider the designation of The Tribune.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and asked the commission to consider designation of The Tribune.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he wanted to thank the media representatives, Mike Courson from Eagle Radio, and Keith Lippoldt from The Tribune, for doing an excellent job. He said they were accurate, fair and truthful.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to adopt the Resolution 2025-03, Designation of the Official County Newspaper.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **D. RESOLUTION 2025-04: Requesting a Waiver Under K.S.A. 75-1120a:**

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. It is standard procedure to request a waiver of the requirements of K.S.A. 75-1120a relating to the preparation of financial statements and reports each year. The basis is that statements prepared in conformity with this statute are of no significant value to Barton County nor to the general public.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said this would basically allow the county to operate on a cash basis as we had done for several years.

Commissioner Reif moved to adopt Resolution 2025-04, Requesting a Waiver under KSA 75-1120a.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **E. APPRAISER'S OFFICE: Bulk Mailing – Valuation Notices:**

-Wendy Prosser, County Appraiser, will provide details on this item. The Appraiser's Office invited Request for Proposals for the 2025 real estate valuation notices. Work involves the creation of valuation notices, mailing labels and envelopes.

Wendy Prosser, County Appraiser, said by statute, valuations must be sent out by March 1<sup>st</sup>. She said the values represented the market value as of January 1, 2025. Prosser said because of the volume of mail her office must send, it was more cost effective to go with a vendor because they could get supplies and postage at reduced rates. Prosser received two bids:

The Masters Touch	\$ 8,457.03
Lineage Connect	\$10,292.39

Prosser requested to use The Masters Touch.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Prosser how many years the county had used The Masters Touch for mailings. Prosser said for at least five years if not more. They were always easy to work with and things went smoothly.

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Commissioner Zimmerman moved to award the bid for bulk mailing valuation notices to The Masters Touch for \$8,457.03. Said amount to be paid from the General Fund, Appraiser's Account, Professional Service Fees Line – 001-14-5475. Authorize the Commission Chair to sign the Vendor Agreement on behalf of the County.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **F. COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE: Request for Approval – Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes:**

-Ms. Schmeidler will present a listing of Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes. Orders for these actions are kept on file in the County Clerk's Office. These are used to correct assessments and are requested by the County Appraiser's Office or the County Clerk's Office.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, presented details and asked for approval.

BATCH #2	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil				
Personal Property	(53,983)		(\$11,395.84)	\$1,810.53
Real Estate	(26,216)		(\$4,307.80)	\$86.42
16/20 M Trucks	6,760		\$964.20	
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>(73,439)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>(\$14,739.44)</b>	<b>\$1,896.95</b>
Total Taxes	(\$14,739.44)			
Total Records Selected	26			

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the Listing of Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes as reviewed by the County Appraiser and presented by the County Clerk's Office. Direct the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

### ***No Executive Session Held***

## **G. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

-The Commission Chair 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.

## **XI. ENDING BUSINESS:**

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

## **XII. OTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Esfeld – would be serving on a panel for new County Commissioners orientation in Topeka Friday.

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Commissioner Esfeld – would be in Topeka next Tuesday for Kansas League of Policy Group makers and Government Day. She may have a chance to testify on a few bills.

Commissioner Schlessiger – spoke at the Kansas Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Convention last weekend in Manhattan.

Commissioner Hutchinson – noted that as of today, Commissioner Esfeld and himself had now worked with this commission longer than they worked with the past commission.

Commissioner Hutchinson – recognized his family who were present today. His wife Jamie, daughter Elle, son Eli and son Blayne.

## **XII. ADJOURN:**

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adjourn at 11:08 A.M.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler  
Barton County Clerk

  
Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman

**RESOLUTION 2025-03**

**Designation of the Official County Newspaper**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, shall designate by resolution a newspaper to be the official County newspaper per K.S.A. 64-101(b); and

**WHEREAS**, the newspaper selected must meet the requirements of K.S.A. 64-101(b)(1) through (4), et. seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission believes that the citizens of Barton County will best be served by designating the newspaper with the largest circulation in the County.

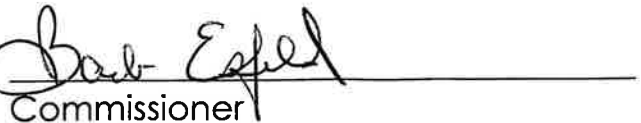
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that The Tribune, circulating from Great Bend, Kansas, is designated as the official County newspaper.

**MOTION MADE, SECONDED** and unanimously approved on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025.

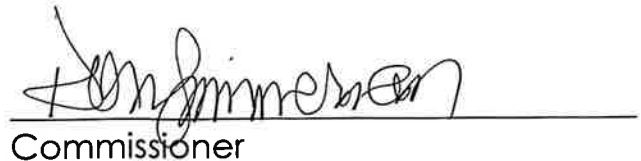
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Chair

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner

ATTEST:



  
Bev Schmeidler  
County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Patrick Hoffman  
County Counselor

**RESOLUTION 2025-04**

**REQUESTING A WAIVER UNDER K.S.A. 75-1120a**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, has determined that the financial statements and financial reports for the year ended December 31, 2025, to be prepared in conformity with the requirements of K.S.A. 75-1120a(a) are not relevant to the requirements of the cash basis and budget laws of this State and are of no significant value to the Commission or the members of the general public of Barton County; and

**WHEREAS**, there are no revenue bond ordinances or resolutions or other ordinances or resolutions of the County which require financial statements and financial reports to be prepared in conformity with K.S.A. 75-1120a(a) for the year ended December 31, 2025.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, in regular meeting, that the Commission waived the requirements of K.S.A. 75-1120a(a) as they apply to Barton County for the year ended December 31, 2025.

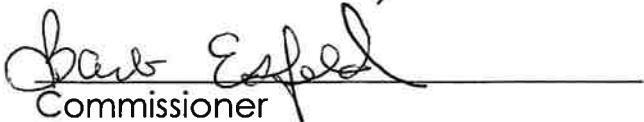
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission shall cause the financial statements and financial reports of Barton County to be prepared on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements as adjusted to show compliance with the cash basis and budget laws of this State.

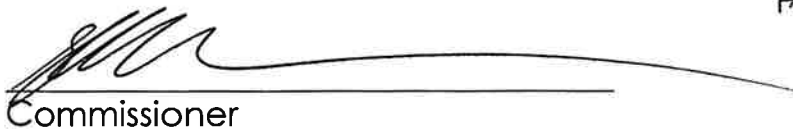
**MOTION MADE, SECONDED** and unanimously approved on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
Chairman

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner

**ATTEST:**

  
Bev Schmeidler,  
County Clerk



**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
Patrick Hoffman, Counselor