

# 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)

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January 21, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 21st day of January, 2025, at the Barton County Courthouse.

*Members present:*

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

*Members absent:*

Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2<sup>nd</sup> District *(listening in)*

## **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.

Motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2025, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0.

## **II. OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

## **III. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. HEALTH DEPARTMENT: Champ Software – KS Nightingale Notes Subscription:**

-Karen Winkelman, Health Director, will provide details. In December, 2017, the Commission approved the purchase of Nightingale Notes Electronic Health Records. The Health Department has received a billing of \$30,715.00 from Champ Software for the 2025 - 2026 subscription of 21 named licenses.

Karen Winkelman, Health Director, requested approval of the subscription renewal. Winkelman said they had used the service for seven years now and it was tailored for public health. They had 23 licenses previously in part due to the contracted staff during COVID. They had budgeted for more but were able to decrease the number of licenses needed to 21. The licenses would run from March 1, 2025, to February 28, 2026. Winkelman said this had worked really well and had saved staff time. They used it for documentation, data reports and billing. This last year, Barton County and Montgomery County were part of a pilot program for KDHE. It had worked really well, and they felt the bugs were worked out, so it was now being offered across the state. Winkelman said they had an increase in clients of 1,085 since this time last year.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Winkelman about the possibility of sharing with their other health partners. Winkelman said there was a platform, but they had not done anything with it as they did not have partners that shared information through that platform. They do a lot by fax and email.

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Commissioner Reif asked Winkelman about the increase in clients. Winkelman said the change in their office hours, they provided walk-in services and increased programs in the community such as car seat checks and Community Baby Shower. New college students each year also contributed.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the subscription charge of \$30,715.00 from Champ Software, Inc, for 21 named licenses for the KS Nightingale Notes subscription. Cost to be paid from the Health Fund, EMR Maintenance Line, 006-52-5661.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0.

## **B. RESOLUTION 2025-05: 2025 Tax Sale:**

-Jim Jordan, County Treasurer, will provide details. This Resolution authorizes certain tracts of real estate be sold for back taxes. This money is then distributed to the various taxing entities in the County. The Resolution also authorizes abstract work be performed in preparation for the tax sale.

Jim Jordan, County Treasurer, said there had not been a tax sale for the last two years but would have one this fall. Jordan said there were approximately 94 parcels at this time. That would be reduced from redemption and payment plans.

Commissioner Schlessiger asked if that was more than the last tax sale. Jordan said that was comparable and usually drops to around 60 or so at the sale.

Commissioner Reif moved to adopt Resolution 2025-05, 2025 Tax Sale.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0.

## **C. 2025 TAX SALE: First American Title Company:**

-Pam Curtis, First American Title Company, will provide details. Mr. Jordan contacted First American Title Company reference abstracting services for the 2025 Tax Sale. First American Title Company is willing to provide the needed services at \$80.00 per parcel.

Pam Curtis, First American Title Company, said they proposed \$80.00 per certificate, the same as last year. Each certificate would show ownership and any lienholders that would need to be served in the process to redeem the property if needed. Curtis said they had worked with the Treasurer's Office for several years and looked forward to continuing.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the \$80.00 per parcel price for abstracting work provided by First American Title Company for the 2025 Tax Sale.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0.

## **D. LEGISLATIVE DISCUSSION: Treasurer's Office – Motor Vehicle Fee Bill:**

-Mr. Jordan will provide details. For several years, the Kansas County Treasurers Association has sponsored a legislative bill that would increase fees dedicated to Counties for the provision of motor vehicle services on behalf of the State. Currently, monies collected do not cover operational costs.

Jim Jordan, County Treasurer, said motor vehicle ended up approximately \$50,000 in the hole. Jordan said he projected it to be about \$64,000.00 next year. The Kansas Treasurer Association was planning to go back to the legislature to try to get the fee increased. Jordan said this year they were going to try to do a \$5.00 title fee increase and a \$5.00 registration fee increase, which would help but not cover the gap.

There had not been an increase in the motor vehicle fee since 2008. The state mandated the printers

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...y have to use, and they run about \$1,300.00 each. Jordan told the commissioners that their help was needed with the legislature to get this approved.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Jordan to explain the fee he added on when someone gets a tag. Jordan said the state mandated a \$2.50 fee per facility. Since Barton County had one facility, the fee was \$2.50 to help offset the costs. Jordan said if the legislature would increase the funds for motor vehicle, the facility fee could go away. If they did not increase the funds, his office would need more in the budget and property taxes could go up to fund it.

Commissioner Hutchinson said the facility fee was only charged to the people using the service. Jordan said it was only charged to the people who came into the office. If they use the mail, they were not charged the fee. This ended up costing his office more because the fees went to Topeka.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked how much the \$2.50 facility fee was generating now. Jordan said approximately \$48,000.00 in 2024. His other option would be to reduce an employee which reduced services.

## ***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:**

There was no other business.

### **VI. ADJOURN:**

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adjourn at 9:18 A.M.  
Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.  
Motion passed 4-0.

ATTEST:

  
Bev Schmeidler  
Barton County Clerk

  
Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman

## RESOLUTION 2025-05

### 2025 TAX SALE

**WHEREAS**, Barton County holds certain tracts where taxes remain unpaid, which are eligible for Tax Sale and which the County Treasurer has determined should be subject to a Tax Sale; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interests of the taxpayers of Barton County that delinquent property taxes be collected on these parcels.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that the County Counselor is directed to institute an action in the District Court of Barton County, Kansas, in the name of the Commissioners, against the owners or supposed owners of the real estate and all persons having or claiming to have any interest therein or thereto; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the abstracting work associated with the sale be performed by First American Title Company; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, for the current Tax Sale, interest, penalties and the actual cost of the abstract fee shall be assessed to the identified parcel and must be remitted to the Treasurer prior to dismissal from the Tax Sale; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Sheriff of Barton County, a member of his staff or another person designated by the Sheriff may bid on property at the tax foreclosure sale in the name of Barton County, but that the bid of Barton County may not exceed the amount of the judgment lien and interest thereon, as provided by law, plus the costs, charges and expenses of the proceedings and sale as set forth in the execution or order of sale; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Barton County that the Sheriff of Barton County is authorized to retain the services of an auctioneer to assist in the sale of real estate at the forthcoming real estate tax foreclosure sale for compensation as the Sheriff of Barton County deems reasonable.

**Adopted** this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2025.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**



Chairman Tricia Schlessiger

ABSENT

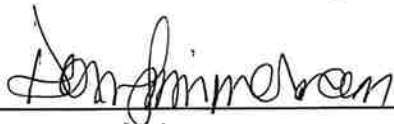
Commissioner Barb Esfeld



Commissioner Shawn Hutchinson



Commissioner Duane Reif



Commissioner Donna Zimmerman

**ATTEST:**



Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk



**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**



Patrick Hoffman, Counselor