

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/3XzFfhy>

January 28, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 28th day of January, 2025, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1st District, *(Chairman Pro-Tem)*
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District
Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4th District, Chairman
Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5th District
Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk
Matt Patzner, Director of Operations
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

Members absent:

Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District

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 January 21, 2025, Regular Meeting.
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

III. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS: 13th Month – 2nd Batch:

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

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

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve 13th month appropriations for the period ending December 31, 2024. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.
Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:

-Ms. Schmeidler will present details. An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of January 14, 2025, and ending January 28, 2025.

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

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve appropriations for the period of January 14, 2025, to January 28, 2025 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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NEW BUSINESS:

A. 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 #3	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil	(92,545)		(\$15,567.28)	\$14,577.34
Personal Property	(39,193)		(\$6,055.74)	\$4,300.80
Real Estate	(146,450)		(\$24,044.44)	\$9,022.70
16/20 M Trucks				
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	(278,188)	\$0.00	(\$45,667.46)	\$27,900.84
Total Taxes	(\$45,667.46)			
Total Records Selected	59			

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 and direct the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Local Emergency Planning Committee:

-Sean Kelly, Emergency Management Director, will provide details. The Barton County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is comprised of representatives from the following groups: state/local officials; law enforcement; firefighting; emergency management; health; hospital; broadcast media and/or communications media; transportation; local environmental group; community service/civic group; emergency medical services; and facilities/industries regulated by SARA Title III. Nominations have been sought for appointment according to LEPC bylaws.

Sean Kelly, Emergency Management Director, said he came before the commission each year to appoint members to the LEPC. Kelly said this year there were some new appointments, Josh Komarek, Ellinwood District Hospital; Chris Steiner, Claflin Fire and EMS and Dena Popp, Barton County 911/Communications. Reappointments were Steve Billinger, Kim Clarke, Dennis Neeland, Karen Winkelman and Roger McPherson. There were 22 members serving two-year terms with half of them expiring each year.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she was mailed an application and asked if he received it. Kelly said she was still in her term, it was sent in error.

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Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the January 2025, Membership List of the Barton County Local Emergency Planning Committee to the Commission on Emergency Planning and Response to include the following new appointments:

Josh Komarek, Ellinwood District Hospital

Chris Steiner, Claflin Fire Department

Dena Popp, Barton County 911/Communications

Direct Mr. Kelly to forward the complete membership list to the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and the Kansas Commission on Emergency Planning and Response.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES: 2025 Membership:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. The Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) has submitted a renewal notice for the 2025 membership. Based on a calculation that includes a base fee, population and valuation, the dues are \$6,562.40. The Association sponsors the annual KAC Conference, various educational meetings throughout the year and lobbies the State and Federal Legislature on behalf of Kansas Counties.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said the dues were up approximately \$180.00 for 2025 from last year.

Commissioner Hutchinson said it was the most valuable money spent. Commissioner Hutchinson said he had learned so much through KAC and they fought for the counties in legislation. Jay Hall, attorney for KAC, did a great job.

Patrick Hoffman said Hall was great and was always tracking legislation, testified frequently about county issues. Hoffman said Hall was often involved with putting bills together.

Commissioner Zimmerman said KAC provided a lot of training opportunities and opportunities to network with other counties. She thought it was very beneficial.

Commissioner Reif said it was important to have someone lobbying for counties.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the 2025 KAC Membership Dues of \$6,562.40. Payment to be made from the Courthouse General Account of the General Fund, Dues, Memberships, Subscriptions Line, 001-18-5455.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ITEM TABLED

D. 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.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to table this for one week.

Commissioner Reif 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.

VI. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

Sean Kelly – February 12th at 6:30 P.M., Storm Fury On The Plains, at the Crest Theater.

Commissioner Reif – attended the Conservation District Annual Meeting.

Commissioner Schlessiger – Department of Energy Meetings regarding the Grain Belt Express Transmission Project would be February 10th in Dodge City; February 11th in Concordia; February 12th in St. Joseph, Missouri and February 13th in Carrollton, Missouri. Dates and times on the Barton County Facebook page. There would be two virtual meetings also on February 19th and 20th.

VIII. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to adjourn at 9:14 A.M.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk


Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman