

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

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June 17, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 17th day of June, 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 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 June 10, 2025, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

A. COMMISSION APPRECIATION: Chad Ehrlich:

-Commissioner Barb Esfeld will provide details. During the Courthouse remodel, Chad Ehrlich produced several Facebook posts that detailed work progression. Mr. Ehrlich will be recognized for assisting Commissioner Esfeld and the County in preserving history and creating media content during the Courthouse renovation. This item was tabled on June 20, 2025.

Commissioner Barb Esfeld said Chad Ehrlich was instrumental in documenting the renovations at the courthouse. A video was shown to demonstrate the work Ehrlich did in keeping the information for the future. Commissioner Esfeld said there was about an hour of content available to watch. Ehrlich did this on his own time and kept pushing them along to get the progress documented. Commissioner Esfeld said they wanted to preserve history and be transparent for the taxpayers. They presented a plaque to Ehrlich.

Chad Ehrlich said the purpose was to document history before it was lost. He recently worked with Pioneer Village in Minden, Nebraska documenting their renovation project. Ehrlich said the content was on YouTube, so it was easily accessible.

Commissioner Esfeld said she was glad the work was captured so it could be seen in the future.

Commissioner Zimmerman thanked Ehrlich for his foresight. Ehrlich said transparency in documentation, so constituents understood where the money went was important. Ehrlich said he worked with Mike Gowans in the past who taught him the basics.

Commissioner Esfeld said it took a lot of Ehrlich's time to document everything.

Ehrlich said it was on YouTube, on the Barb Esfeld for Barton County channel.

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Commissioner Hutchinson said some of that slips from you when you were in the middle of it and not thinking about documenting the progress.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to present Mr. Ehrlich with a plaque in appreciation for his support of Commissioner Esfeld and preservation of the County's history.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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 June 3, 2025, and ending June 17, 2025.

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

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve appropriations for the period of June 3, 2025, to June 17, 2025.

Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. 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 #8	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil	(572,826)		(\$91,343.28)	\$74,575.01
Personal Property	(4,854)		(\$727.60)	\$727.60
Real Estate	(18,453)		(\$2,836.76)	\$2,729.96
16/20 M Trucks	(1,571)		(\$224.08)	
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	(597,704)	\$0.00	(\$95,131.72)	\$78,032.57
Total Taxes	(\$95,131.72)			
Total Records Selected	30			

Commissioner Esfeld said part of it was due to the board being so far behind.

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 Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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PUBLIC HEALTH: RFP – Automated External Defibrillators:

-Karen Winkelman, Public Health Director, will provide details. As a part of a federal grant process, the Barton County Health Department was required to seek competitive bids for the purchase of 15 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). It is suggested that the bid be awarded to McKesson.

Karen Winkelman, Public Health Director, said over the years, they had been able to use grant funding to purchase an AED here and there and place them in the community. There was one in the courthouse on the second floor and each Sheriff's Office Sargeant has one in their cars. An opportunity came for use of the Public Health Infrastructure Grant, with a larger sum of money. Winkelman said Misty Trudeau, Financial Officer at the Health Department, and herself explored options to reach more people in the community. The grant approved AED purchases and they were able to get some solid quotes and were going to be able to purchase 15 units. Winkelman had talked to the Police Chiefs in Claflin, Hoisington, Ellinwood and Great Bend and each of them were excited to be able to put those in the law enforcement vehicles. Winkelman said that in Great Bend, EMS response was quick but sometimes officers arrived first, and the smaller communities were volunteer services. Winkelman said that she would also like to place additional units in the courthouse on the first and third floors and a unit in the Central Kansas Community Corrections building.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Winkelman about training and wondered if the ones already in place had been used often. Winkelman said she knew of an instance that a Sheriff's Officer came close to using one. The combination of the AED and CPR were vital. Winkelman said the AED's have visual aids and voice prompts, designed for anyone to use.

Commissioner Schlessiger said Winkelman had told them in the study session that these were the same as the EMT's used. Winkelman said she checked with the EMS departments in the county and with this and, the leads were interchangeable. Winkelman said she also checked with each of the police chiefs, and local EMS staff trained them and kept them current.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to award the RFP - Automated External Defibrillators to McKesson. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. SHERIFF'S OFFICE: Contract for Secure Detention Services for Juveniles:

-Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor, will provide details. Reno County has submitted a holding agreement to Barton County for the secure detention of juveniles. Under the agreement, Reno County will hold juveniles at a cost of \$165.00 per day. Monies are regularly scheduled under the Juvenile Detention account of the General Fund for this purpose.

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor, said this was a housekeeping item. It was an agreement between Barton County and Bob Johnson's Youth Center in Reno County. Occasionally, there were juveniles that could not be held in foster care and were awaiting court proceedings, that needed to be held somewhere. Hoffman said they had requested the formal agreement be signed to keep the current funding rate. It was a safe and secure place for the occasional instances each year to hold the juveniles.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked the Sheriff if he had any issues with it. Sheriff Bellendir said he did not have any issues and did not think we had had a formal agreement in the past.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the Contract for Secure Detention Services for Juveniles with Reno County, Kansas.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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Shriff Bellendir said Pawnee Rock had heavy damage from last night's storm. There were trees down, three or four buildings down, trees through houses. Deputies were assessing the situation currently. It appeared to be straight line winds. He did not think there would be anything needed from the county at this point but they may need help with tree removal later.

D. 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 9:25 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 non-elected personnel. The reason this needs to be discussed in Executive Session is to discuss the performance of a county non-elected employee. The Governing Body, the County Counselor and the County Administrator are to be included in said meeting. The Open Meeting will resume at 9:40 in this room.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

At 9:40 A.M., Commissioner Zimmerman moved that we come back into Regular Session with no action taken.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

V. ENDING BUSINESS:

Announcements

2. Appointments

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Reif – Hoisington Police Chief Kenton Doze was retiring the end of the week. He started with the Hoisington Police Department in 1995, becoming Chief in 2000. Captain Bachar will assume the position of Police Chief. Reception Friday at the City Auditorium.

Commissioner Hutchinson – wanted to give a huge shout out to Diana Watson. When we talk about documenting the courthouse renovation, it would not have happened without her.

Phillip Martin – rain runs from the rendering plant and down the hill by the Mullergren Plant and washed out the township road. He had concerns about the road as the ruts were deep, and the sand was in the ditch. It was suggested he see the County Engineer.

VII. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Reif moved to adjourn at 9:46 A.M.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk


Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman