

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/4iy9HSC>

March 18, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 18th day of March, 2025, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1st District, (Chairman Pro-Tem)

Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District

Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4th District, Chairman

Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5th District

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk

Matt Patzner, County Administrator

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

Members absent:

Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

Commissioner Schlessiger called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Minutes of the March 11, 2025, Regular Meeting were not available.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE: Employee Recognition Award:

-Judith Castro, Employee Engagement Committee (EEC) President, will provide details. The EEC accepts nominations from employees for the Employee Recognition Award. Det. Sgt. Adam Hales was nominated for his continued efforts on moving cases forward for prosecution. Det. Sgt. Hales supervises two detectives in addition to regularly accessing cases.

Judith Castro, Employee Engagement Committee (EEC) President, said Det. Sgt. Adam Hales was nominated by Lieutenant David Paden. Castro read the nomination letter and said Det. Sgt. Adam Hales was not able to be present today. Castro asked the commission to consider honoring Hales.

Commissioner Zimmerman said Hales did a very good job for the Sheriff's Office and said the award was long overdue.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to honor Det. Sgt. Adam Hales with the Employee Recognition Award, First Quarter, 2025.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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

-Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, 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 #5	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil				
Personal Property	(14,829)		(\$2,063.08)	\$852.94
Real Estate	(379,780)		(\$62,623.90)	\$11,479.95
16/20 M Trucks				
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	(394,609)	\$0.00	(\$64,686.98)	\$12,332.89
Total Taxes	(\$64,686.98)			
Total Records Selected	18			

Commissioner Esfeld 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.

C. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Request for Proposals – CrowdStrike Endpoint Protection:

-Dereck Hollingshead, Information Technology Director, will provide details. Beginning February 28, 2025, the Information Technology Department began accepting proposals for CrowdStrike Endpoint Protection software for all County owned computers and servers. This included 280 computers and servers needing active endpoint protection through the Enterprise bundle, to include the following modules: Falcon Prevent, Falcon Insight, Overwatch, Firewall Management, Threat Graph and Express Support.

Dereck Hollingshead, Information Technology Director, said the county had antivirus protection on computers for many years. In 2024, we switched to CrowdStrike. This would be a renewal, the first year went well with no issues. Hollingshead said it deployed well and kept us protected. Three bids were received with SHI being the low bid. SHI was who we were with this year.

Commissioner Reif said if he was satisfied with it and had good luck, we should stay with it.

Commissioner Reif moved to award the Request for Proposals – CrowdStrike Endpoint Protection to SHI. Total cost, \$21,844.95, to be paid from the General Fund, Information Technology Account, Licensing Line, 001-24-5423.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Request for Proposals – Wasabi Cloud Storage:

-Mr. Hollingshead will provide details. Beginning February 28, 2025, the Information Technology Department began accepting proposals for Wasabi Cloud Storage. The Request for Proposals detailed a minimum storage capacity of 75TB with scalable options for future expansion, security features, disaster recovery policies and competitive pricing with no hidden costs.

Dereck Hollingshead, Information Technology Director, said this was another renewal. The county used Wasabi Cloud Storage for backups and various information since 2022. Hollingshead said he was before the commission because the item was over \$5,000.00. This was the first year it was over that threshold due to storing more data and information. He recommended going with SHI, the current vendor.

Commissioner Schlessiger said it was not the lowest bid but there had been no problems with the vendor.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to award the Request for Proposals – Wasabi Cloud Storage to SHI. Total cost, \$6,113.07, to be paid from the General Fund, Information Technology Account, Licensing Line, 001-24-5423.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Esfeld thanked Hollingshead for

E. KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: Central Kansas Community Corrections Fiscal Year 2026 Funding:

-Brooke Haulmark, CKCC Director, will provide details. Funding for CKCC is provided through a Kansas Department of Corrections grant. For Fiscal Year 2026, Ms. Haulmark requests \$807,892.86 in funding support six positions and operational and programming costs. It is noted that the funding serves the entirety of the 20th Judicial District, a five-County area covering 4,015 square miles with staff supervising an average of 237 active clients. CKCC currently has the seventh highest caseload in Kansas and receives the 28th lowest amount of funding per client. The Commission has requested additional KDOC funding.

Brooke Haulmark, CKCC Director, said the funding was the exact same as last year. Of the \$807,892.86, \$27,720.50 must be spent towards behavioral health funding. Those include things such as transportation to treatment, cost of substance abuse, mental health or sex treatment assessments and peer support services. \$715,808.51 was for personnel cost to cover the director, two administrative assistants and four ISO's. The remaining \$64,363.85 was to cover operating expenses.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Haulmark if she had heard anything regarding the letter the commissioners sent last week. Haulmark said she heard from the Deputy Secretary who was going to speak with the Secretary today. They were working on the funding allocation methodology. Haulmark said with their data they were able to prove the shortage and how it impacted the communities.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she was glad they acknowledged the letter.

Commissioner Schlessiger asked Haulmark if she thought they were surprised or were going to review the numbers. Haulmark said she believed they were going to review the numbers more. She felt they were looking at how to address the disparity across the state.

Commissioner Reif said at least it was positive feedback.

Haulmark thanked the commissioners for writing the letter and said the staff were very appreciative.

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Commissioner Schlessiger said the staff was passionate about their jobs. Haulmark said they had a fourth officer starting next Monday and were excited to add that individual to the team.

Commissioner Zimmerman said hopefully that person could help with training in the future. Haulmark said they had a background with training experience and law enforcement as well as having worked in the correctional system.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the Kansas Department of Corrections Funding for Fiscal Year 2026 for \$807,892.86. Direct Ms. Haulmark to submit the required forms to the Kansas Department of Corrections.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

F. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Vehicle Purchase:

-Sean Kelly, Emergency Risk Manager, will provide details. Mr. Kelly initiated a search for a full-size SUV in an effort to bolster the department's preparedness and response efforts. It was learned that the Great Bend Police Department was selling a 2017 Tahoe PPV, that would come fully equipped with all need equipment other than radio services, that was appropriate for use as a mobile Emergency Operations Center and Incident Command support during a major incident or emergency. The vehicle is priced, as is, at \$20,000.00 and monies are available in the Equipment Replacement Fund for the purchase.

Sean Kelly, Emergency Risk Manager, said this vehicle was a supervisor vehicle and was already upfitted with the needs for his use. It was a low-cost investment compared to buying a new vehicle and having to upfit it. Kelly requested approval to purchase the 2017 Tahoe.

Commissioner Reif asked Kelly how many miles were on the vehicle. Kelly said about 79,000 miles.

Commissioner Reif asked Kelly what the estimated cost would be to upfit for his needs if it were not already done. Kelly said the vehicle had a lot more capability due to the police department having had it and probably had \$8,000 to \$10,000 worth of equipment in it.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked if the equipment could be transferred to a future vehicle. Kelly said it was doubtful as vehicles changed so much.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she appreciated him looking for a used vehicle. Kelly said it was a great opportunity.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the purchase of a 2017 Tahoe PPV from the Great Bend Police Department for a total cost of \$20,000.00. Cost to be paid from Equipment Replacement Fund, Equipment Replacement General Line, 072-00-6380.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Zimmerman told Kelly she appreciated his presence on social media and getting information out.

G. BOARD APPOINTMENT: The Center for Counseling and Consultation:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. The County solicited applicants for The Center for Counseling and Consultation Governing Board. This Board reviews and makes recommendations on mental health services in Barton County and the surrounding area. Kathleen McGinnis has applied for re-appointment.

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Scott Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and asked the commission to consider reappointing Kathleen McGinnis for a term ending December 31, 2027.

Commissioner Esfeld said McGinnis liked serving on the board, it was important to her.

Commissioner Zimmerman said McGinnis was a former county employee, working at the Noxious Weed Department for Dale Phillips as well as working on election boards.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to re-appoint Kathleen McGinnis to The Center for Counseling and Consultation Governing Board. The unexpired position, terming December 31, 2027, is uncompensated. Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

No Executive Session Held

H. 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

OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Schlessiger – Barton County Health Department would be doing a car seat safety check in Ellinwood on Friday.

VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Reif moved to adjourn at 9:25 A.M.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman