

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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March 25, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 25th day of March, 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 Zimmerman moved to approve the agenda with the addition of Item B-2, Environmental Management: Hidden Hills Subdivision.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2025, and the March 18, 2025, Regular Meetings.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:

-Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, will present details. An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of March 11, 2025, and ending March 25, 2025.

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

Commissioner Reif moved to approve appropriations for the period of March 11, 2025, to March 25, 2025. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

A. COUNTY WORKS: Cold Mix Options:

-Chris Schartz, County Works Director, will provide details. Earlier this year, the County accepted bids for cold mix for 2025 projects. Rather than award the bid, County administrative staff met with Venture to determine if there was a more cost-effective method that would enhance operational programming. It was determined that the County would move asphalt preparation to Venture. With Venture mixing the asphalt and providing all aggregates and sand, the County can receive fresh asphalt prepared with purer ingredients. In addition, the County will avoid costs associated with on-site production, storage and material aging. It is anticipated that the County will receive 25,000 tons of asphalt at a cost of \$32.00 per ton. This item was tabled on March 4, 2025.

Chris Schartz, County Works Director, presented details and said Venture could mix the asphalt in smaller batches with more pure ingredients so it was fresh for Road & Bridge to use. Schartz said this

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uld avoid Venture having to break down their plant to move to the county pit, planning around their jobs. Road & Bridge would be able to get the asphalt in a more timely from Venture's plant. With Venture supplying the aggregates, they did not have to have them trucked in and it would be more accurate weight. Schartz said the county has a sand pit for various other jobs such as sealing the roads. Venture would charge \$6.00/ton for sand and it would cost on the low end, approximately \$7.00/ton to haul it from the county sandpit. Schartz said they estimated it saving the county around \$45,000/year. A loader operator would be freed up for other projects because Venture would provide a loader operator to load our trucks. Schartz said if the county continued this practice in future years, Venture would allow the county to haul any unused material from the county sandpit to their plant for use next year at a one-on-one buyback. Venture would produce the asphalt in smaller increments as needed so it would not be sitting out in the elements. Over time, this would lessen wear and tear on Road & Bridge loaders and trucks as well as the screening plant. Schartz said they would be working in the southwest part of the county this year, close to the Venture plant.

Commissioner Esfeld thanked Schartz and said she appreciated going the extra mile to check into this process.

Commissioner Reif thanked Schartz for explaining it so well. He said as commissioners, they could take the easy way out and do it the same as they always had, but it was a good idea to explore different options. They spent a lot of time researching the pros and cons.

Commissioner Zimmerman noted staff was reduced by two people so it would help freeing up an operator. Schartz said it was amazing the difference one truck made in operations.

Commissioner Hutchinson thanked Schartz for the thorough explanation. He said it boded well for the sparency and let everyone know what they went through looking into it. Commissioner Hutchinson said we had 389 miles of paved roads and asked Schartz where Barton County ranked in the state. Schartz said he knew at one time, Barton County was third, but Johnson County and Sedgwick County had been adding as they develop more.

Commissioner Hutchinson said the overlays were done in quadrants and this year was the southwest quadrant, close to Venture..

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve purchasing up to 25,000 tons of asphalt, mixed at the Venture plant and using Venture aggregates and sand, for a cost of \$32.00 per ton. Cost to be paid from the Road and Bridge Fund, Contract Construction Line, 002-92-6250. Authorize the Commission to sign the agreement for described services.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. COMANCHE TOWNSHIP: Board Appointment:

-Ms. Schmeidler will provide details. The Comanche Township Board notified the County that Craig Fischer, Trustee, passed away. It is recommended that his son, Andrew Fischer, fulfill the term. It is the Commissioners' responsibility to make the appointment per KSA 25-1606.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, presented details and asked for appointment of Andrew Fischer.

Barry Borrer, Comanche Township Treasurer, said Andrew Fischer was very qualified and interested in improving the sand roads in the township.

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Commissioner Zimmerman moved to appoint Andrew Fischer to fulfill the term of Comanche Township Trustee, effective March 25, 2025, with the position terming on January 8, 2029. Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. BOARD APPOINTMENT: Barton County Planning Commission:

-Judy Goreham, Environmental Manager, will provide details. The County has sought applicants for the Barton County Planning Commission. The focus of the Planning Commission is to plan for the proper growth and development of Barton County through the enactment of planning and zoning laws for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare. Although all applicants must reside in Barton County, the majority of members must be from the unincorporated area.

Judy Goreham, Environmental Manager, said each year at this time, she comes before the commissioners to ask that they appoint new members or reappoint current members. Mary Anne Stoskopf and James Welch had been on the Planning Commission for over 25 years, Billie Bonomo had served for over 12 years. All three were willing to continue serving and they rarely missed a meeting. Goreham said right now they had five members in the unincorporated areas and four in the incorporated areas which met statutory requirement. No other applications were received.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Goreham if Stoskopf and Welch had been on the commission since its inception. Goreham said those two and Rusty Carson.

Commissioner Schlessiger thanked all three and said it was not an easy board to be on. Goreham said it was not as easy position. The Planning Commission was about halfway or a little further rewriting the comprehensive review of wind energy conversion system regulations.

Commissioner Esfeld said last year was not easy and she was thankful for their work. Goreham noted that these were uncompensated positions.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to re-appoint Mary Anne Stoskopf, James Welch and Billie Bonomo to the Barton County Planning Commission for uncompensated positions terming March 31, 2028.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ADDED ITEM

B-2. Environmental Management: Hidden Hills Subdivision:

-Judy Goreham, Environmental Manager, will present details. The Hidden Hills Subdivision, just outside the northwest Claflin, Kansas, city limits, is a 14-lot housing development project. At this time, the County Commission will be asked to consider approval of the Hidden Hills Subdivision plat as well as the Hold Harmless Agreement. It is noted that signature will be contingent upon staff approval of said documents.

Judy Goreham, Environmental Manager, said the Hidden Hills Subdivision was a planned development that touched the northwest corner of Claflin. Goreham said it was either 70 or 90 acres, they contacted her a couple of years ago about putting in water wells and septic systems. Even though it fell in the city's jurisdiction for zoning, the Environmental Code would come into play and required a three-acre minimum when breaking out properties. Goreham also told them they could pursue annexation of the area into the city of Claflin and they could supply the water, sewer or both. If that happened, she could still work with people on water wells for lawn and garden. Goreham said in January, she was notified by one of the developers that the city was not interested in annexing the property but would provide public water. This would require each parcel to be at least 3 acres for septic systems. A special planning commission meeting was called to have a discussion about the project, a public hearing was held March 6th. Goreham

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She was present at the public hearing and there was no opposition. There was the 14 day protest period and on the 15th day, a special city council meeting was held where they approved the recommendation of the planning commission to accept the subdivision. Later today, all parties involved will be here for a presentation of the official plat. After review, county officials will sign off and it will go to the Register of Deeds. Goreham said it will be 14 new homes freeing up other homes in Claflin.

Commissioner Schlessiger said it was exciting.

Commissioner Reif said 14 new homes would help grocery stores, schools and everything in Claflin.

Goreham said they would all apply for Neighborhood Revitalization Program but would come on to the tax roll at some point. It would help everyone in Barton County

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the Hidden Hills Subdivision plat as well as the Hold Harmless Agreement contingent upon staff approval of said documents.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. SOLID WASTE: Purchase of Portable Litter Fencing:

Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, will provide details. The Barton County Landfill uses portable litter fences to help control litter from blowing outside the dumping area. Several of the current litter fences are in disrepair and need to be replaced. After accepting bids, it is recommended that the Landfill be authorized to purchase 10 new litter fences from Metta Technologies for a total cost of \$83,780.00, including freight.

Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, said two bids were received. Metta Technologies bid \$83,780.00 and tarpARMOR bid \$73,832.00. Hamby said Metta Technologies offered a 5-year warranty and tarpARMOR had a 3-year warranty. Hamby provided several comparisons between the two companies products. Hamby said that Saline County had used both companies in the past and said the tarpARMOR fence did not adjust wide enough for their compactor which is the same model as Barton County. Saline County said the tarpARMOR fences were cheaply made and did not even last the three years to the warranty while the Metta Technologies product had lasted them more than 20 years. Hamby asked for approval to purchase wind screens from Metta Technologies.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she was surprised the price difference was not larger with the differences in the products. Hamby said they would set them up in a horseshoe to help with the winds shifting.

Commissioner Zimmerman noted that this was being paid from a proprietary fund, fee based and not as valorum tax dollars.

Commissioner Esfeld said she knew it was important to the neighbors of the landfill.

Commissioner Reif thanked Hamby for investigating the differences and finding out from those who had purchased prior.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the purchase of portable litter fencing from Metta Technologies at a total price of \$83,780.00. Cost to be paid from the Solid Waste Fund, Equipment-Operate & Construction Line, 140-68-6190.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2: Appointment of a Board of Trustees:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. Per Resolution 2018-10, which created Fire District No. 2, the members of the Fire District Board of Trustees shall consist of not more than one (1) appointee from each participating township and not more than one (1) from each participating city. Positions for the City of Susank and North Homestead, South Homestead and Union Townships are vacant. The positions expire December 31, 2026.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and asked for consideration of appointing Jackie DeBusk, City of Susank and Brian Bitter, Union Township.

Commissioner Reif thanked the individuals for stepping up. He said Mrs. DeBusk was a longtime resident of Susank and Mr. Bitter was a lifelong farmer in Union Township.

Commissioner Reif moved to appoint Jackie DeBusk, representing the City of Susank, and Brian Bitter, representing Union Township, to the Board of Trustees for Fire District No. 2, Barton County, Kansas. The uncompensated terms ending December 31, 2026.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. COURTHOUSE: Water Treatment Quote:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. During the HVAC Renovation, the County converted the Courthouse to a cooling water tower system. To date, Kruse Contractors has provided for that service. Beginning in March, 2025, that cost reverts to the County. A quote was provided by Kan-Tech, Inc. for testing, monitoring and adjustments; chemical treatment and on-site reporting for an annual cost of \$6,000.00. Monies were included in the 2025 Operating Budget for this anticipated expense.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said basically the water treatment was in the contract for the first year. Beginning in March of this year, the cost went to the county. Patzner asked for approval of the contract with Kan-Tech, Inc.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked about the history of Kan-Tech, Inc. and where they were based. Patzner said they do the water treatment for the high rise. There were not a lot of providers for the service. The company had been very responsive when the water softener was installed. Patzner said Chase Bieberle works for them and was from Great Bend.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the \$6,000.00 quote from Kan-Tech, Inc. for cooling tower services. Cost to be paid from the Facilities Management account of the General Fund, Professional Service Fees Line, 001-20-5475.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

F. COMMISSION: Kansas County Commissioners Association – 2025 Dues:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. Historically, the Barton County Commission has partnered, through annual fees, with the Kansas County Commissioners Association (KCCA). Working in conjunction with the Kansas Association of Counties, the KCCA provides a direct line of communication for locally elected County Commissioners and provides training and other resources.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, provided details and asked for consideration of approval.

Commissioner Esfeld said this was well worth the money as they provided a lot of education and support.

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Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the 2025 dues of \$785.40 with the Kansas County Commissioners Association. Dues to be paid from the Commissioners account of General Fund, Dues, Memberships and Subscriptions Line, 001-02-5455.
Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

No Executive Session Held

G. 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.

V. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business.

VII. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Reif moved to adjourn at 9:40 A.M.
Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk


Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman