

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/3ZuWukT>

May 20, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 20th day of May, 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

Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5th District

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk

Matt Patzner, County Administrator

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

Members absent:

Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4th District, Chairman

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

Commissioner Reif 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 Esfeld moved to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2025, Regular Meeting as presented by the County Clerk.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

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 May 6, 2025, and ending May 20, 2025.

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

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve appropriations for the period of May 6, 2025, to May 20, 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 ATTORNEY: Departmental Update:

-J. Colin Reynolds, County Attorney, will provide details. Mr. Reynolds took office on January 13, 2025. At this time, he will provide an update to the Commission on departmental activities.

Colin Reynolds, County Attorney, said it had been a good transition in the County Attorney Office. Reynolds said two of the senior support staff had retired in the last few months. One of them had been with the county for about 30 years with 20 of those years being in the County Attorney Office. The other had been there about 15 years so there had been some big changes. Reynolds said they had some new staff members but were still down one position. He was not in a hurry to fill that position. Their

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/3ZuWukT>

ing numbers were slightly above last year. They were working through old charging backlogs that had been sitting for a long time. There had now been charging decisions made on all reports received from 2017 and 2018, with 7 left from 2019 and 4 left from 2020. Reynolds said he felt their work with law enforcement and other partner agencies had gone very well. They were making sure everyone was on the same page and addressing the issues everyone dealt with. Reynolds wanted to make sure they had any resources that he could provide. He said they were starting a regular law enforcement training schedule with his goal to have at least one a quarter. The first one was scheduled for next month. Reynolds said he understood that ICE had been in Barton County regularly and was efficiently taking care of any holds.

Commissioner Reif thanked Reynolds for the update.

Commissioner Zimmerman said when trying to stay revenue neutral, one of the things they had looked at was open positions that could possibly be eliminated. She asked if that was possible to eliminate a position. Reynolds said with one of the retirements, they did eliminate a position. That money was reallocated towards other salaries. Reynolds said a big issue they would face going forward was on the attorney side, there was a big shortage of all types of attorneys in this part of the state. Those funds were reallocated to better balance out attorney salaries. Reynolds said law schools were graduating fewer attorneys, less were staying in state and even fewer were coming to rural areas.

Commissioner Hutchinson said they had worked on adjusting the attorney's pay incrementally in the last few years. He said the previous County Attorney took the opportunity to invest in automation when displaced from the courthouse. Reynolds said they did move to a new software system in 2023 and were still in the phase of tweaking to best maximize the system. Reynolds said he was thinking about setting aside some funds for the possibility of bringing a law student here in an intern position.

Commissioner Esfeld said she appreciated the update and all he was doing working with law enforcement and legislature.

B. JUVENILE SERVICES: Request for Proposal – Mid-Sized Car:

-Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, will provide details. The 20th Judicial District Juvenile Services Department requested bids for a new or used mid-size program vehicle. While the RFP included a trade, the better option for the department at this time is to purchase the vehicle outright. The only bid received was from Marmie Ford for a 2024 Chevrolet Malibu LT with 16,852 miles at a bid of \$23,195.00.

Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, said she only received one bid. She initially planned to trade in an Impala to help offset the cost. The only bid was a local bid and considerably lower than anticipated. Woodmansee said if approved, she would like to purchase the vehicle outright. She had funds in her budget to cover the expenses and would rather utilize them to help the community instead of returning them later.

Commissioner Reif said it looked like it was a very economical car for the price. Woodmansee said she agreed. The state allowed them \$26,000 for a mid-size vehicle and she thought she would have to trade in the Impala to meet the price.

Commissioner Reif asked how many counties they traveled to. Woodmansee said they cover five counties but also had to go outside the area for safe placements for children sometimes.

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/3ZuWukT>

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to purchase the 2024 Chevrolet Malibu LT with 16,852 miles, or like vehicle, from Marmie Ford for \$23,195.00. Cost to be paid from the Juvenile Services Juvenile Intake and Assessment Fund, Equipment Line, 100-72-6325.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-Chairman Pro-tem Duane Reif 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 9:18 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 and the Sheriff. The Open Meeting will resume at 9:33 A.M. in this room.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

At 9:33 A.M., Commissioner Zimmerman moved to return to 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 Hutchinson – proud to say that his daughter, Elle, graduated with her bachelor's degree in business last weekend.

Commissioner Zimmerman – congratulated Bev Schmeidler's son, Dr. Marcus Schmeidler, who graduated last weekend also.

Commissioner Zimmerman – attended the Stepping Up meeting yesterday at Juvenile Services. She was impressed with the turnout and the buy in of the members that Marissa Woodmansee could count on.

Marissa Woodmansee – this project agreed to let Barton County to be a pilot site for the Juvenile Justice Stepping Up Initiative. Woodmansee said this was exciting as Barton County and the State of Kansas will be a part of setting the standard for the rest of the country going forward.

Commissioner Zimmerman – Barton County was one of only 8 counties chosen.

VII. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Esfeld moved to adjourn at 9:42 A.M.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk


Duane Reif, Chairman Pro-tem