

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/3VyswLO>

May 27, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 27th 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

Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4th District, Chairman

Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5th District

Chris Saenz, Deputy 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.

Minutes of the May 20, 2025, Regular Meeting were not available.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. ROAD AND BRIDGE: Venture and Cold Mix Preparation:

-Chris Scharzt, County Works Director, will provide details. Earlier this year, County administrative staff met with Venture to determine a cost-effective method for enhancing cold mix operations. After that discussion, 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. Mr. Scharzt will give an update on the process.

Chris Scharzt, County Works Director, said he wanted to give an update about the cold mix since they switched to Venture's plant. Scharzt said it was going really well and to this point, they had hauled 3,345 tons for a 4 mile stretch south of Albert. They were currently working south of Heizer to West Barton County Road and will continue south to Highway 56. Scharzt said the operation could not be working better than it was right now. They contact Venture each morning with their plan for the day. Scharzt said they haul in a couple miles of asphalt at a time and lay it, repeating the process. Venture made the second batch last week. Scharzt said they drive the Road & Bridge trucks in on their scale and Venture has a loader operator on site. Scharzt said that helps out the county by allowing them to utilize that employee in other roles instead of being tied up at the site. Scharzt said communication between them and Venture had been great and there had been no issues. At the end of the day, they get the printed load tickets.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Scharzt about the schedule this year in comparison to prior years. Scharzt said in 2020, they started their first overlay on May 5th; in 2021, it was May 26th; 2022 was June 6th; 2023 was on June 8th; 2024 was June 13th and this year, they started on May 1st.

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Commissioner Hutchinson said you are roughly 15% completed. Scharzt said they were pretty close. They were hauling another 2 miles today south of Heizer. Scharzt said it would get quicker the closer they get to Great Bend. Scharzt said some of the summer help employees started today and that would free up some of the full-time staff to haul more. Scharzt said the weather was unpredictable and it had been cooler so that was something they had to watch. He said with the mix being fresher and hot, they could lay it in cooler temperatures.

Commissioner Hutchinson noted that had the entire batch been mixed at the County's location, it would have been rained on. Scharzt said it was better making it in smaller batches.

Commissioner Zimmerman said it sounded like good communication. Scharzt said being able to start earlier helped them because they would be able to seal earlier in the year when it is still hotter. Scharzt said he updates the website for road closures so the public can be aware of the locations they were working on, avoiding problems.

Commissioner Reif said he was impressed and glad to hear it was going so well. Scharzt said it was much easier and was glad they made the change.

Commissioner Reif said he was glad to see Road & Bridge at Claflin last weekend at the Touch a Truck event. Scharzt said they had a dump truck and skid steer available. They were asked to drive in the parade and threw out candy until they ran out.

No Executive Session Held

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-Chairman Tricia Schlessiger will present. Any Commissioner may make a motion for the board to recess 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

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Esfeld – Legislative updates would be held at Miller Time in Beaver on Friday, May 30th at 3:00 P.M. and at Long's Pumpkin Patch on Saturday, May 31st at 10:00 A.M.

Commissioner Schlessiger – attended the KNRC meeting about the Quivira water issue. They were still trying to schedule a meeting.

Commissioner Zimmerman – attended the LEPC meeting last week, there was a lot of discussion about the tabletop exercise they were planning. The President signed the Governor's Disaster Declaration which included Barton County for the storms in March.

Commissioner Hutchinson – reminded everyone of the filing deadline June 2nd at noon in the County Clerk's Office.

VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Reif moved to adjourn at 9:17 A.M.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk


Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman