

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/4clUZge>

September 1, 2026

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 1st day of September, 2026, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1st District, Chairman

Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District

Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District

Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4th District

Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5th District, *(Chairman Pro-Tem)*

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk

Matt Patzner, County Administrator

Casey Hubbard, Assistant County Administrator

Todd Powell, County Counselor

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 Schlessiger moved to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2026, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. PROCLAMATION 2026-11: Honoring the Work of the Kans for Kids Fighting Cancer Foundation:

-Chairman Duane Reif will provide details. Since 1994, aluminum cans have been collected as a way to raise money to assist families dealing with childhood cancer through the efforts of Kans for Kids. Now expanding into Barton, Ellsworth, Pawnee, Rice, Rush, Russell and Stafford Counties, the Kans for Kids Fighting Cancer Foundation has assisted 48 children since inception. The Commission is asked to consider a Proclamation honoring the Foundation and its work during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Commissioner Reif introduced Mary Dutton, Director. He said Dutton was a former board member and took on the Director position after she retired from her full-time job.

Dutton read the proclamation.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked how many board members were currently on the board. Dutton said they had nine but would like to have twelve. Dutton also thanked Barton County and the commissioners for the Solid Waste Management Grant they were awarded. They used those funds for new signs for twelve trailers.

Commissioner Reif said they just had a fundraiser. Dutton said she started in March and they had three major fundraisers since then, Grove Park Golf Tournament, LaSada Clay Shoot and Club 1 Fitness

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hosted a Kans for Kids Car Show. She said the Fall Fun Festival would be the end of September at Kasselman's farm.

Commissioner Reif wanted to recognize Karen Winkelman. He said she was one of the first board members.

Dutton said they were currently serving four children, one in Rice County, who had been with Kans for Kids for nine years. Serving two in Barton County, one in Great Bend and one in Ellinwood as well as one in Pawnee County.

Commissioner Schlessiger thanked Dutton for coming out of retirement to lead the organization. She said it was a wonderful organization and touched a lot of families.

Commissioner Esfeld said some people may not know that it was Commissioner Reif's children who started Kans for Kids. She asked him how old they were when they started collecting cans.

He said they were 8 and 11 and started to help their cousin who was fighting cancer. Just as she was finishing her treatment, someone in Hoisington was diagnosed and they wanted to help them as well. It went from there as other children were diagnosed.

Dutton presented the commissioners with butterflies made from different aluminum cans. She said a gentleman from Larned made them for Kans for Kids to sell.

Karen Winkelman wanted to recognize Commissioner Reif and his wife, Debbie, for starting the organization. She wanted to recognize them for the work they had done. She said she had never heard a complaint from them and they were always supporting the kids and their families.

Commissioner Reif said the only way it got where it did was from the support and generosity of everyone in Barton County.

Commissioner Zimmerman said all because of two kids with big hearts, 48 children had been helped.

Commissioner Reif moved to adopt Proclamation 2026-11, Honoring the Work of the Kans for Kids Fighting Cancer Foundation.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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.

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BATCH #10	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil	(80,759)			
Personal Property	26,090			
Real Estate	(5,949)		(\$950.48)	\$707.30
16/20 M Trucks	3,775			
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	(56,843)	\$0.00	(\$950.48)	\$707.30
Total Taxes	(\$950.48)			
Total Records Selected	43			

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 Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. RESOLUTION 2026-16: A Resolution Providing for the Transfer of Barton County's Responsibility for the Provision of 911 Services to the Barton County Sheriff's Office:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. Should the proposed Resolution be adopted, the Commission will transfer the provision of 24-hour 911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) services to the Barton County Sheriff's Office, and in doing so, Communications shall become a division of the Sheriff's Office. It is the intent of the Commission to not change any practices that exist as of the date of this Resolution, although the Commission shall implement a charge to emergency service providers for 911 services beginning in Fiscal Year 2028. It is anticipated that the monies collected may be through an apportionment and collected funds shall be dedicated to infrastructure, equipment and personnel costs relative to 911 and 911 operations.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and asked for consideration to adopt the resolution.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adopt Resolution 2026-16, A Resolution Providing for the Transfer of Barton County's Responsibility for the Provision of 911 Services to the Barton County Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT: City of Great Bend Projects:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. It is anticipated that the City of Great Bend will review and award Façade Improvement Funding for up to six businesses at a total not to exceed \$60,000.00 on August 31, 2026. It is the intent of the County to consider like action. Included for consideration are:

- Vet 2 Properties, representing Animal Care Hospital at 3400 – 10th, with a \$71,850.00 project. The \$20,000.00 request includes a 72% match.
- J Six LLC, representing Charlie's Place, J Six LLC, Golden Belt Downtown Venue at 1109 and 1111 Main, with a \$89,785.42 project. The \$20,000.00 request includes a 78% match.
- Evans, Bierly, Hutchinson & Associates PA at 1105 Williams with a \$25,625.00 project. The \$19,218.75 request includes a 25% match.

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- Shane Smith, EJG LLC, representing Kansas Sportsman Sales and Rentals and Red Cedar Land Office at 3810 – 10th, with a \$48,639.12 project. The \$20,000.00 request includes a 59% match.
- Matt and Mayra Kurtz, representing Identifications Company at 1413 Main, with a \$36,000.00 project. The \$20,000.00 request includes a 44% match.
- Terry Vink and Kenny Vink, representing TKM Leasing (The Golf Shack, Golden Belt Leasing, new business) at 1125 US Highway 281 Bypass, with an \$89,000.00 project. The \$20,000.00 request includes a 78% match.

If approved, the County will be responsible for the full disbursement of funds at the completion of each project. At that time, the City of Great Bend will be asked to reimburse the County for one-half that cost.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve a Façade Improvement Grant for the following businesses in cooperation with the City of Great Bend:

- Vet 2 Properties, representing Animal Care Hospital at 3400 – 10th, with a \$71,850.00 project. The \$20,000.00 request includes a 72% match.
- J Six LLC, representing Charlie's Place, J Six LLC, Golden Belt Downtown Venue at 1109 and 1111 Main, with a \$89,785.42 project. The \$20,000.00 request includes a 78% match.
- Evans, Bierly, Hutchinson & Associates PA at 1105 Williams with a \$25,625.00 project. The \$19,218.75 request includes a 25% match.
- Shane Smith, EJG LLC, representing Kansas Sportsman Sales and Rentals and Red Cedar Land Office at 3810 – 10th, with a \$48,639.12 project. The \$20,000.00 request includes a 59% match.
- Matt and Mayra Kurtz, representing Identifications Company at 1413 Main, with a \$36,000.00 project. The \$20,000.00 request includes a 44% match.
- Terry Vink and Kenny Vink, representing TKM Leasing (The Golf Shack, Golden Belt Leasing, new business) at 1125 US Highway 281 Bypass, with an \$89,000.00 project. The \$20,000.00 request includes a 78% match.

Direct the County Administrator to encumber the full award for each business from the Finance General account of the General Fund, Façade Improvement Grant line, 001-26-6925. Further, direct the Administrator to prepare FIG 26 Agreements for each business and the City for consideration. Barton County will be responsible for the full disbursement of funds at the completion of each project. At that time, the City of Great Bend will be asked to reimburse the County for one-half that cost.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. ROAD AND BRIDGE: Purchase of Two Skid Steer Tracks:

-Chris Schartz, County Works Director, will provide details. In early August, the Road and Bridge Department requested quotes for two skid steer tracks with the trade in of two used units. Foley Equipment quoted \$53,039.71 for two 2026 Caterpillar 26505SC Compact Track Loaders with the trade of a 2024 and a 2026 Bobcat.

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Chris Schartz, County Works Director, said Foley had begun doing the municipal buyback program every two years, so it made sense to check with them since they were local. Schartz said it was easy to get parts and any work needed done in town instead of having to haul equipment out of town.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the purchase of two 2026 Caterpillar 26505SC Compact Track Loaders with the trade of a 2024 and a 2026 Bobcat from Foley Equipment. Total cost, \$53,039.71, to be paid from the Road and Bridge Fund, Equipment-Operate and Construction Line, 002-92-6190.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

No Executive Session Held

F. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-Chairman 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.

IV. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Schlessiger – Little Oiler Daycare and Preschool was close to opening and would be having an open house soon.

Commissioner Reif – Hoisington Labor Day celebration this next weekend with lots of activities.

Sheriff Bellendir – would be going to New Jersey this month to pick up the pistol of George Moses, first Sheriff of Barton County.

VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adjourn at 9:37 A.M.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk

Duane Reif, Chairman

Notes from Executive Session in Study Session, County Clerk not present:

At 11:48 A.M. Commissioner Zimmerman moved that the Commission enter into Executive Session for a period of twenty (20) 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 Administrator, the Assistant County Administrator, and the Central Kansas Community Corrections Director are to be included in said meeting. The Open Meeting will resume at 12:08 P.M. in this room.

Commissioner Schlessinger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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At 12:08 P.M. Commissioner Zimmerman moved the Commission come out of Executive Session and return to study session with no action taken.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.