

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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August 18, 2026

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 18th day of August, 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.

Minutes of the August 11, 2026, Regular Meeting were not available.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT 2026: Deadline Extension:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. Barton County is excited to announce the extension of the FIG 26 deadline to Monday, September 14, 2026, for the Cities of Ellinwood and Hoisington. This program provides financial assistance to businesses and property owners for façade improvements to defined areas to create a visual impact and increase economic prosperity, accessibility and quality. FIG 26 details, to include applications, are found at www.bartoncounty.org under the Living in Barton County tab.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and asked the commission to consider extending the deadline.

Commissioner Schlessiger agreed with the extension. An Ellinwood business owner had reached out to her because they did not have time to get their application submitted.

Commissioner Zimmerman said sometimes it took a while to get bids back from contractors.

Commissioner Reif agreed as well, it took longer than a person thinks to get the bids.

Patzner said the deadline would be September 14th at 5:00 P.M.

Commissioner Hutchinson said it was important to note that there were enough applications in the other two cities to meet or exceed the funding available. He believed that commercial properties in the county were trending upward in appearance and value. Hutchinson said when the commission did the Travel 389 and visited 50 local businesses, the resounding theme was Barton County needs light manufacturing

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... jobs. He felt businesses looking to come to our communities looked for communities that invest in themselves. The Façade Improvement Grant projects helped.

B. 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.

At 9:09 A.M., Commissioner Zimmerman moved the Commission enter into Executive Session for a period of 20 minutes. The subject to be discussed will be consultation with the County Counselor to discuss matters related to attorney client privilege. The reason this needs to be discussed in Executive Session is to discuss the County's position on the matter on which legal advice is being sought. The Governing body, the County Administrator, the Assistant County Administrator and the County Counselor are to be included in said meeting. The Open Meeting will resume at 9:29 A.M. in this room.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

At 9:30 A.M., Commissioner Esfeld moved to come out of Executive Session and return to regular.

Commissioner Hutchinson said with no action taken.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

At 9:31 A.M., Commissioner Zimmerman moved the Commission enter into Executive Session for a period of 30 minutes. The subject to be discussed will be consultation with the County Counselor to discuss matters related to attorney client privilege. The reason this needs to be discussed in Executive Session is to discuss the County's position on the matter on which legal advice is being sought. The Governing body, the County Administrator, the Assistant County Administrator the County Counselor and the Sheriff are to be included in said meeting. The Open Meeting will resume at 10:01 A.M. in this room.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

At 10:02 A.M., Commissioner Hutchinson moved to come out of Executive Session with no action taken.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements

2. Appointments

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Esfeld – Golden Belt Humane Society Meeting at 7:30 tonight.

Commissioner Esfeld – Farm Bureau Meeting last Sunday, Brett Fairchild and Sherri Brantley spoke about property tax relief.

VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adjourn at 10:07 A.M.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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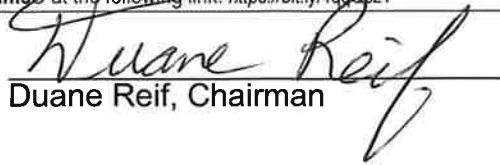
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TEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Duane Reif, Chairman

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

At 2:38 P.M., Commissioner Zimmerman moved that the Commission enter into Executive Session for a period of 22 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 and the Assistant County Administrator are to be included in said meeting. The open meeting will resume at 3:00 P.M. in this room.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

At 3:00 P.M., Commissioner Hutchinson moved to come out of Executive Session with no action taken.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.