

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/4aV72kf>

February 17, 2026

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 17th day of February, 2026, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1st District, Chairman

Barb Efeld, 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

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 Efeld moved to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2026, Regular Meeting; the February 9, 2026, Special Meeting; and the February 10, 2026, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. INVENTORY OF COUNTY PROPERTY:

-Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk; Chris Saenz, Deputy Clerk; and Dereck Hollingshead, Information Technology Director, will provide details. Per KSA 19-2687, each County officer and head of a department shall make an inventory of the personal property owned by the County and located in such office or department. The inventory, which shall be taken during the month of December of each year, shall be filed with the County Clerk on or before December 31 of each year. The inventory shall not include books, records, files, stationery, writing materials and blank legal papers. The information will be presented to the Commission during February of each year. Per Resolution 2005-22, the mandated duties have been assigned to the Information Technology Department.

Chris Saenz, Deputy County Clerk, said he sends an inventory report to each department every year and they submit any changes to him. IT Department does all the computer-related items. Saenz asked for approval.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Saenz if CIC software was still being used and if it was working well. Saenz said yes, they were still using CIC, and it was working well.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked if each department entered themselves. Saenz said Solid Waste entered theirs and IT did all the computer-related items.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to accept the 2025 Inventory Listing.

Commissioner Efeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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SHERIFF'S OFFICE: Replacement of Certain Fleet Vehicles:

-Sheriff Brian Bellendir will present. The Sheriff's Office regularly replaces certain vehicles. Some are replaced following accidents while others are replaced due to high mileage and / or mechanical issues. The Sheriff's Office personnel have identified four units available through the Kansas Highway Patrol that meet current operational needs. These include three 2023 and one 2022 Dodge Durango Pursuits AWD. Total cost of the vehicles is \$152,650.00.

Sheriff Brian Bellendir said he held off replacing vehicles last year while the county researched the possibility of leasing vehicles. He said that did not come to fruition. He did not spend hardly anything from his vehicle line and at the end of the year, his budget went back to the commissioners. Sheriff said as discussed previously, the commissioners had agreed to apply those funds for vehicle purchases this year. He said they had good luck in the past ordering vehicles from the Kansas Highway Patrol. KHP either trades in or removes vehicles from service at 49,000 miles, they ordered four Durango's with the total bill being \$152,650.00. Sheriff said he would like to apply the \$116,000.00 from last year's budget and pay the remainder from his current budget. He said an advantage of getting them from KHP was they were already set up with necessary equipment; they only had to install radios.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he appreciated the Sheriff being frugal last year, holding on to the funds in the event the county went with a lease program.

Sheriff Bellendir said they were getting tight on vehicles right now, with some being shared. Patrol cars have a hard life, normal wear and tear. That was one of the reasons they wanted to go with the KHP vehicles, substantial savings not only in the initial price of the vehicle but also with the equipment.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the purchase of three 2023 and one 2022 Dodge Durango Pursuits AWD from the Kansas Highway Patrol Car Fund. Total cost, \$152,650.00, to be paid as follows – \$116,750.00 from the Equipment Replacement Fund, General Line, 072-00-6380 and \$35,900.00 from the Sheriff's Office account of the General Fund, Vehicular Equipment Line, 001-12-6205.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Sheriff Bellendir gave an update on the plumbing issues from last week and said they were back to 95%, were fortunate that it was not worse.

Sheriff Bellendir said George N. Moses was the first Sheriff of Barton County, appointed in 1872. He had located Sheriff Moses model 1860 Colt revolver in New Jersey. The provenance on it was excellent and it had remained in the family all these years. Bellendir would like to get the gun back in Barton County and prominently display it in the courthouse. It will be coming up for sale, and he will not use tax dollars but would like to get donations to purchase it. He said that was a piece of local history that should be in Barton County.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she had been working with Matt Patzner and Diana Watson for some time, trying to get at least two of the original courthouse doors back to create a display area for historical items such as the gun. Bellendir said they would be happy to donate some of the items they had at the Sheriff's Office for that, where more people could see them.

C. COUNTY WEBSITE: SOCS – Simplified Online Communication System:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. For several years, Barton County's website, www.bartoncounty.org, has been hosted by the Foundation for Educational Services (FES / SOCS). It is suggested that the Commission approve the one-year hosting fee of \$5,225.00.

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Mr. Patzner, County Administrator, said in 2019, county personnel undertook a site update. In the past, they had a three-year commitment ending January 2026. It was suggested to renew it for one year, allowing for a search of options (for updates) to the website. Patzner asked the commissioners to consider approval of one more year.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the \$5,225.00 annual cost of web hosting as submitted by the Foundation for Educational Services (FES / SOCS). Cost is to be paid from the General Finance Account of the General Fund, Economic Development Line, 001-26-6880.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. CDBG GRANT NO. 94-HR-196: Release of Certain Liens:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. In the mid-1990's, the then-Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing awarded CDBG Grant No. 94-HR-196, a housing rehabilitation grant, to Barton County. With funding allocated to low to moderate income persons, work included the rehabilitation of 24 homes and the demolition of another four. As a condition of financing, Barton County filed a passive lien on subject properties. The \$300,000.00 grant, that included a County match of \$11,500.00, was closed out in December, 1998. It is believed that all the conditions of the grant were completed, but the liens were inadvertently not released. As such it is suggested that the Commission release any remaining liens filed as a result of this grant.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and asked the commission to release the liens.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to release certain passive liens filed in favor of Barton County relative to CDBG Grant No. 94-HR-196. Authorize the Commission Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission for the releases to include the properties listed below:

BARTON COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS			
Certain Liens Relative to CDBG Grant No. 94-HR-196 in Favor of Barton County, Kansas			
Book / Page	Recorded	Name	Partially Described As
M278-11	6/13/1997	Wilbert W and Gwendolyn M Boese	Tract in the N/2, SE/4, Sec 20-16-13, Susank
M278-40	6/19/1997	Bonnie L Broce	Tract in the SE/4, Sec 30-18-15
M278-112	7/7/1997	Darlene M Creacy	Tract in the SW/4, Sec 4-20-13
M279-28	7/24/1997	Karen S Naw	Lot 1, Block 1, Woodside Subdivision
M280-11	8/22/1997	Judy M Cregger	Lot 8, Block 2, Frontier Acres Subdivision
M280-12	8/22/1997	Leo L Herrman	N/2, Lot 11, Comanche Estates Subdivision
M288-35	6/1/1998	Rodney D and Eunice N Sherwood	N/2, SE/4, Sec 34-20-13
579-676	11/16/1998	Todd and Dawn Klein	Tract in the SW/4, SE/4 Sec 16-19-13
581-622	3/10/1999	Joan Demel, through the Power of Attorney of Francis H Kuhlman	600 Main, Albert, Kansas
581-623	3/10/1999	Joan Demel, through the Power of Attorney of Francis H Kuhlman	600 Main, Albert, Kansas

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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No Executive Session Held

E. 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:

There was no other business.

VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adjourn at 9:31 A.M.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Duane Reif, Chairman

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (Done in Study Session)

County Clerk not present

Commissioner Zimmerman moved the Commission enter into Executive Session for a period of twenty (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 and County Administrator are to be included in said meeting with the County Counselor attending via phone. The Open Meeting will resume in this room at 1:00 p.m.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye.

At 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Zimmerman moved the Commission close the executive session and return to study session.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye.