

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/4RWENoS>

February 24, 2026

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 24th day of February 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

PUBLIC HEARING

At 9:00 A.M. Commissioner Reif opened the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING: Possible Expansion of Fire District No. 2 to Include Fairview, Grant and Wheatland Townships, and the City of Galatia, Barton County, Kansas:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will present details. Created in 2018, Fire District No. 2 consists of Albion, Eureka, North Homestead, South Homestead, Union Townships and the Cities of Hoisington, Olmitz and Susank. It has been proposed that the District be expanded to include Fairview, Grant and Wheatland Townships, and the City of Galatia. The Commission will hear public comment at this time.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details about the expansion.

Judy Goreham asked what the reason for the proposed expansion was, whether it was because of insurance rates or the need for fire department coverage.

Commissioner Reif said it was mainly for better coverage.

Goreham asked if there were enough personnel to cover the additional area.

Commissioner Reif said that Galatia Fire Department would remain open as well as coverage from Fire District No. 2.

Dale Hogg asked if the current departments would stay open.

Commissioner Reif said that was correct.

Dena Popp, Barton County Communications Director, said this would also expand Olmitz Fire Department into Grant Township and cover the area that Otis Fire Department used to cover.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to close the Public Hearing and enter into the Agenda Meeting. Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

AGENDA MEETING

Close of the Budget Hearing until Close

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I. OPENING BUSINESS:

Commissioner Reif called the meeting to order at 9:04 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 February 17, 2026, Regular Meeting.
Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

-There was no Old Business.

III. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS: 13th Month – 4th Batch:

-Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, will present details. An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period ending December 31, 2025. This is considered the fourth "13th Month" for 2025 expenditures.

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

Commissioner Schlessiger to approve the 13th Month – 4th Batch appropriations for the period ending December 31, 2025. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Schmeidler if this was the last 13th Month batch. Schmeidler said there would be a 5th batch.

IV. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:

-Ms. Schmeidler will present details. An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of February 10, 2026, and ending February 24, 2026.

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

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve appropriations for the period of February 10, 2026, to February 24, 2026 and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. RESOLUTION 2026-05: A Resolution Expanding Fire District No. 2, County of Barton, Kansas, to Include the Townships of Fairview, Grant and Wheatland, and the City of Galatia and Amending Resolution 2018-10, Same, Adopted May 14, 2018:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. At a Public Hearing held prior to this Commission meeting, it was detailed that Fire District No. 2 consists of Albion, Eureka, North Homestead, South Homestead, Union Townships and the Cities of Hoisington, Olmitz and Susank. Through the adoption of this proposed Resolution, the District would be expanded to include Fairview, Grant and Wheatland Townships, and the City of Galatia. In keeping with the original Resolution, the Board of Trustees would be expanded to include representatives from the expansion zone.

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Matt Patzner, County Administrator, asked the commission to consider adopting Resolution 2026-05, a Resolution expanding Fire District No. 2 to include the townships of Fairview, Grant and Wheatland and the city of Galatia, amending Resolution 2018-10.

Commissioner Reif said he had received questions about if the stations would stay in place in Galatia, Hoisington and Olmitz.

Commissioner Zimmerman said they received letters from the governing bodies of each of the proposed additions requesting to join Fire District No. 2.

Commissioner Reif said each of them would have representation on the board.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to adopt Resolution 2026-05, A Resolution Expanding Fire District No. 2, County of Barton, Kansas, to Include the Townships of Fairview, Grant and Wheatland, and the City of Galatia and Amending Resolution 2018-10, Same, Adopted May 14, 2018.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. PROGRAM UPDATED: K-State Extension, Cottonwood District:

-Jay Harris, District Director, K-State Extension, Cottonwood District, will present an annual overview. The Cottonwood District proudly serves Barton and Ellis Counties. With offices in Great Bend and Hays, district personnel provide relevant, reliable information related to Agriculture and Natural Resources, Family and Consumer Sciences, Horticulture, 4-H and Youth Development, Family Life, Healthy Living, and more.

Harris, District Director, K-State Extension, Cottonwood District, said he appreciated the opportunity to visit. Harris shared a slideshow presentation about the history and services offered by the Cottonwood Extension.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Harris what ages the Clover Buds were. Harris said it was 5–7 year-olds and they meet at least once a month in Barton County and do different projects.

Commissioner Schlessiger said she had attended canning classes at the Extension Office in the past.

Commissioner Esfeld wanted to note that 4-H was not only for kids that lived in the country, but anyone could also participate.

Commissioner Reif thanked Harris for the information and awareness to their programs.

C. RESOLUTION 2026-06: Placement of Stop Signs at the Intersection of NE 220 Road and NE 10 Avenue, Union Township:

-Josh Beckman, County Engineer, will provide details. The proposed Resolution calls for the placement of stop signs at the intersection of NE 220 Road and NE 10 Avenue, Union Township. Safety and engineering personnel find that there is a sight obstruction in the southwest quadrant of the intersection. It is recommended that all vehicles traveling on NE 10 Avenue are to stop for all vehicles traveling on NE 220 Road at said intersection, that stop signs be installed for northbound and southbound traffic traveling on NE 10 Avenue.

Josh Beckman, County Engineer, said a request was made by the township to evaluate adding stop signs to the intersection of NE 220 Road and NE 10 Avenue. There were some sight obstructions, trees and a wetery in one quadrant and some lower terrain. He was recommending stop signs to stop the traffic on NE 10 Avenue and asked the commission to adopt the resolution.

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Commissioner Reif said he visited the site and it was somewhat open, but he noticed the issues and said it was better to be safe. Beckman said there was an accident there that spurred the request.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to adopt Resolution 2026-06, Placement of Stop Signs at the Intersection of NE 220 Road and NE 10 Avenue, Union Township.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. NOXIOUS WEED: Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report and Management Plan:

-Chris Schartz, County Works Director, will provide details. The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) is responsible for laws aiding in the control and management of noxious and invasive weeds in Kansas. The KDA requires Kansas counties to submit an annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report as well as a Management Plan.

Chris Schartz, County Works Director, presented details and asked for approval of the 2025 Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report and the 2026 Management Plan.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the 2025 Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report as well as the 2026 Management Plan. Direct Mr. Schartz to submit both to the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. JUVENILE SERVICES: Fiscal Year 2027 Funding:

Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, will provide details. The Juvenile Services Department requests approval of the fiscal year 2027 budget. The budget has been prepared based on figures provided by the Kansas Department of Corrections – Juvenile Services.

Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, said she was presenting their 2027 Comprehensive Plan. Woodmansee said this was for the State Block Grant funding, which was inclusive to prevention, intake and assessment, their immediate intervention, intensive probation and case management funds. Woodmansee said this was specific to the State Block Grant, statutorily required programs their district must operate. She said they had 436 youth come through last year with 307 of those being specific to Barton County. They averaged 50 a month for intake and assessment. Woodmansee said they did not meet the mark for intensive probation successful closures. We always try to do better. We look at those that we missed the mark on and were able to quickly identify what could be done to change that to be successful. She said they would make some of those changes internally in FY27. She said they would continue on the same path and trajectory. Woodmansee said she wished KDOC would give them better data tracking measures than her expansive spreadsheets.

Commissioner Zimmerman said you get your evidence-based program funding every two years, correct. Woodmansee said yes, it was part of a two-year grant cycle. Woodmansee also spoke about concerns with some of the House Bills and Senate Bills in legislation, she continued to try to reach local legislators.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget as presented and authorize its submission to the Kansas Department of Corrections – Juvenile Services.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

F CENTRAL KANSAS COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: Fiscal Year 2027 Funding:

Jojo Haulmark, CKCC Director, will provide details. Funding for CKCC is provided through a Kansas Department of Corrections grant. For Fiscal Year 2027, CKCC is allocated \$808,438.94 in funding to support seven positions and operational and programming costs. It is noted that the funding serves the

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entirety of the 20th Judicial District, a five-County area covering 4,015 square miles with staff supervising an average of 237 active clients.

Brooke Haulmark, CKCC Director, said the funding this year was almost the same as last year, they were looking at \$808,438.94. That was to cover the felony intensive supervision. Haulmark said they typically supervise the higher risk individuals. She said of that money, they had some formula changes. Haulmark said they had \$739,377.14 going towards personnel costs. They had an increase in the formula in regard to the error they found so they had \$51,000 for operations. That would cover all of the drug testing, any building maintenance, utilities, new computers, cell phones and fuel to travel to the five counties multiple times a month and field visits. Haulmark said they had \$27,720.53 for behavioral health including mental health evaluations, substance abuse evaluations, treatment, housing and transportation. She said of the \$27,000, 10% of that would be taken out for wages for one of the ISO's to teach cognitive behavioral classes in the coming fiscal year. Overall, this was an increase of \$500 from last year.

Commissioner Reif said it was unfair that they were underfunded.

Haulmark echoed Woodmansee's thoughts about the data tracking issues. They were unable to pull reports from the current KDOC system.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked if there was any talk about upgrading the system. Haulmark said KDOC thought they were updating the system but every time they made changes, something else stopped working as it should.

There was discussion about the roles of CKCC and Juvenile Services along with the lack of funding and challenges they faced.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget as presented and authorize its submission to the Kansas Department of Corrections.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

G. CENTRAL KANSAS COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: Replacement of Fleet Vehicle:

-Ms. Haulmark will present. CKCC is in need of an all-wheel drive vehicle capable of traveling through all areas of the Twentieth Judicial District. There were no comparable vehicles located at local dealerships. It is suggested that the department purchase a 2020 Dodge Durango AWD from the Great Bend Police Department. The vehicle, with just under 33,000 miles, is priced at \$20,000.00. Monies are available in the CKCC budget for this planned purchase.

Brooke Haulmark, CKCC Director, said they were in need of an all-wheel drive vehicle that would be capable of the terrain they encounter. Haulmark said she checked with local dealers and found no comparable vehicles. The Great Bend Police Department offered to sell them a 2020 Dodge Durango that was no longer being used by the agency for \$20,000.00, below book value.

Commissioner Reif commended Haulmark for checking locally and finding a vehicle they could depend on.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the purchase of a 2020 Dodge Durango AWD from the Great Bend Police Department. Total cost, \$20,000.00, to be paid from the Central Kansas Community Corrections Fund, Vehicular Equipment Line, 095-70-6205.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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n. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: Formal Extension of the Annual Review of a Conditional Land Use Permit under Resolution 2025-07:

-Judy Goreham, Environmental Manager, will provide details. A request is made to extend the deadline for the annual review of certain property as outlined in Resolution 2025-07, adopted on March 4, 2025. It is suggested that the deadline be extended until March 10, 2026, to accommodate the agenda schedule and provide Larry and Sheree Marshall, dba Marshall Towing, time to submit required documentation to assure compliance for the property located at 514 SW 20 Road, said property being in the SE/4, Section 4, Township 20 South, Range 14 West. The property is conditionally approved for the operation of a Salvage Storage Yard.

Judy Goreham, Environmental Manager, said because the commissioners would not be meeting next week, she was requesting an extension for Marshall's to provide the appropriate documents. She said if they had been able to obtain it early, she would have had it today, but it was not available today.

Commissioner Reif asked Goreham if she had received any complaints from neighbors. Goreham said there had not been any issues. She said Mark Cooper goes out there regularly. There was a slight issue in the summer of 2024 when Marshall lost a lot in Great Bend and had to move vehicles to that location. It was very wet at the time, and he had to leave them on the outside of the fence. He moved them inside the fence as soon as it was possible. Goreham said even then, he was transparent about it and there were no complaints.

Goreham said this was the first time that Marshall was having to redo the water and soil testing. She said Cooper went out on February 2nd and witnessed the collection which were then driven to Salina for testing. The first time they did this took about four weeks for the results so she thought they would be back by March 10th. Goreham said she reviewed the results from four years ago and they were not even on the radar for any pollution concerns and she did not anticipate any change.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he wondered if they should remove the requirement for testing and should they extend this until the end of March. Goreham said that was a decision they could make but as far as eliminating this part of the conditional use requirement, she felt that it should go back to a public hearing with the Planning Commission, so concerned people had a chance to weigh in on the matter. She said if the general consensus was that there was no need for it, she was in favor of it.

Commissioner Schlessiger said if it was taken back to the Planning Commission to remove the requirement, it would just stir things up, soil testing was inexpensive. She felt it better to leave as is and extend the deadline.

Goreham said she could take it to the Marshall's and see if they wanted to go through the process again, but she did not anticipate any complaints. The reason for the laundry list of conditions was due to the concerns and public input.

Commissioner Reif asked if it should be extended more than two weeks. Goreham said she hoped the results would be back then.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if the water and soil test results were the only things they were waiting on. Goreham said that was all, the licensing and bonding was all good.

Commissioner Hutchinson said they should extend it to the end of the month.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to extend the deadline required under Resolution 2025-07 to March 31,

6.
Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

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No Executive Session Held

I. 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.

VI. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business.

VIII. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Hutchinson made a motion to adjourn at 10:16 A.M.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Duane Reif, Chairman