

# Barton County Commission Special Meeting Minutes

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February 9, 2026

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026, at the Barton County Courthouse.

*Members present:*

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1<sup>st</sup> District, Chairman  
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Zimmerman moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **II. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. SHERIFF'S OFFICE: Plumbing Issues:**

-Sheriff Brian Bellendir will present details. Following the failure of a water softener at the Detention Facility, the plumbing in the building has been compromised by the release of resin beads. The Commission will hear an update.

Sheriff Brian Bellendir said that two new water softeners were recently installed in the Detention Facility. On Saturday, serious plumbing issues occurred and it was discovered that one of the newly installed water softeners had failed. This caused rock, sand and resin to spread throughout the pipes. The plumbing system was purposely set up with highly sensitive end points so inmates could not cause disruptions. Sheriff Bellendir said plumbers had been at the facility since Saturday working on the problems. He hoped they could find a resolution without having to reduce the population in the jail. Sheriff Bellendir would keep the commissioners apprised of the developing situation.

## **III. ADJOURN:**

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to adjourn at 11:58 A.M.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

  
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Bev Schmeidler  
Barton County Clerk

  
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Duane Reif, Chairman