

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/49jaQev>

January 12, 2026

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 12th day of January, 2026, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1st District, *(Chairman Pro-Tem)*
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District
Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4th District, Chairman
Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5th District
Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk
Matt Patzner, County Administrator
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

Commissioner Schlessiger 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 Reif moved to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2026, Regular Meeting.
Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

III. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS: 13th Month:

-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 first "13th Month" for 2025 expenditures.

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

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve 13th Month appropriations for the period ending December 31, 2025. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:

-Ms. Schmeidler will present details. An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of January 1, 2026, and ending January 13, 2026.

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

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve appropriations for the period of January 1, 2026, to January 13, 2026. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.
Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

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NEW BUSINESS:

A. ELECTION FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. Nominations are in order for the 2026 Commission Chairman as is allowed under Kansas Statute 19-219. The Board of County Commissioners consists of Commissioners Barb Esfeld, Shawn Hutchinson, Duane Reif, Tricia Schlessiger and Donna Zimmerman.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and asked for an appointment to Chairman.

Commissioner Hutchinson presented Commissioner Schlessiger with a plaque from the commissioners.

Commissioner Reif thanked Commissioner Schlessiger for her exceptional leadership and vision this past year. He said it was clear that she had passion for Barton County.

Commissioner Esfeld echoed the sentiments and said she was proud of Travel 389.

Commissioner Zimmerman echoed the other commissioners and said she appreciated Commissioner Schlessiger's leadership. She said it was a busy year but also had been a fun year.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to appoint Duane Reif as Chairman of the Barton County Commission for 2026.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

B. ELECTION FOR CHAIRMAN PRO TEM OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. Nominations are in order for the 2026 Commission Chairman Pro Tem as is allowed under Kansas Statute 19-219.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, asked the commissioners to consider appointing a Chairman Pro-Tem for 2026.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to appoint Commissioner Zimmerman as Chairman Pro Tem of the Barton County Commission for 2026.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. RESOLUTION 2026-01: Designation of the Official County Newspaper:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. This Resolution calls for the designation of the official County newspaper. The newspaper selected must meet the qualifications as prescribed by K.S.A. 64-101. To meet this statute, and to best reach the citizens of Barton County, the Commission shall consider the designation of The Tribune.

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Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details.

Commissioner Reif said The Tribune did a good job and reached the majority of the county.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Patzner if the resolution named The Tribune as the official newspaper. Patzner said that it did as it was written.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to adopt Resolution 2026-01, Designation of the Official County Newspaper. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. RESOLUTION 2026-02: Requesting a Waiver Under K.S.A. 75-1120a:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. It is standard procedure to request a waiver of the requirements of K.S.A. 75-1120a relating to the preparation of financial statements and financial reports each year. The basis is that statements prepared in conformity with this statute are of no significant value to Barton County nor to the general public.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said K.S.A. 75-1120a required municipalities to use generally accepted accounting principles in the preparation of their financial statements and reports. The governing body may choose to waive the statutory GAAP requirement and present the financial statements and reports on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements. Patzner asked the commission to consider adopting the resolution requesting a waiver.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to adopt Resolution 2026-02, Requesting a Waiver under KSA 75-1120a.

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

E. BOARD APPOINTMENT: The Center for Counseling and Consultation:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. The County solicited applicants for The Center for Counseling and Consultation Governing Board. This Board reviews and makes recommendations on mental health services in Barton County and the surrounding area. Tammy Sturn has applied for re-appointment.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, asked that the commission consider reappointment of Tammy Sturn.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to appoint Tammy Sturn to The Center for Counseling and Consultation Governing Board. The unexpired position, terming December 31, 2028, is uncompensated. Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

F. APPRAISER'S OFFICE: Bulk Mailing – Valuation Notices:

-Wendy Prosser, County Appraiser, will provide details on this item. The Appraiser's Office invited Request for Proposals for the 2026 real estate valuation notices. Work involves the creation of valuation notices, mailing labels and envelopes.

Wendy Prosser, County Appraiser, said the Appraiser's Office sends out annual notices with the property values as of January 1, 2026. She said the statutory deadline was March 1 each year but since that fell on a Sunday, they would be mailing them by Friday, February 27th. Prosser said they received eight bids and at this time was asking that the commissioners award the bid to Peregrine Services this year. This would be a different company than in the past, but it was one of the lower bids. Prosser said that she learned during study session, the county had worked with Peregrine in the past.

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Commissioner Reif said he used to question why it was not done in house, but Prosser had explained why it was cheaper to outsource. Prosser said the bulk mailing companies could get lower postal rates as well as get the ink, paper and envelopes at discounted prices. She added that she would love to do it in house as a taxpayer service, but it was much cheaper to hire it out.

Commissioner Zimmerman pointed out that of the \$10,491.00 bid from Peregrine, \$8,429 of that was for postage. Prosser said Peregrine's main services were for municipalities and government bulk mailings.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to award the bid for bulk mailing valuation notices to Peregrine Services Inc for \$10,491.75. Said amount to be paid from the General Fund, Appraiser's Account, Professional Service Fees Line – 001-14-5475. Authorize the Commission Chair to sign the Vendor Agreement on behalf of the County.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

G. HEALTH DEPARTMENT: Champ Software – KS Nightingale Notes Subscription:

-Karen Winkelman, Health Director, will provide details. In December, 2017, the Commission approved the purchase of Nightingale Notes Electronic Health Records. The Health Department has received a billing of \$31,636.00 from Champ Software for the 2026 - 2027 subscription of 21 named licenses.

Karen Winkelman, Health Director, said the renewal would be from March 1, 2026, to February 28, 2027. Winkelman said they first purchased the system in December 2017 and to date had over 33,000 clients in the system. She said it had worked very well for them. They had 23 licenses in 2024 but were able to pare that down to 21 licenses. Winkelman said the cost did increase \$921.00 that was planned for in the budget. They use it for scheduling, documentation, charting, and data reports for grants and completed lab interface with KDHE.

Commissioner Reif said the software did a lot of different things. Winkelman said there were 52 health departments with electronic medical records. Of those, 18 had Nightengale Notes and 18 had Patagonia with the remainder being varied.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the subscription charge of \$31,636.00 from Champ Software, Inc, for 21 named licenses for the KS Nightingale Notes subscription. Cost to be paid from the Health Fund, EMR Maintenance Line, 006-52-5661.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

H. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: Septic System Agreement, Easement and Consent – Rugan 3 Farms:

-Judy Goreham, Environmental Manager, will provide details. The Barton County Environmental and Sanitary Code requires a minimum separation of 25' between a landowner's property line and the closest portion of a water well and/or septic system. However, if the adjoining landowner consents to a variance, the minimum separation distance is waived. Richard Rugan, Rugan 3 Farms, will request that the Commission authorize a septic system agreement, easement and consent allowing for a system to be placed within 25' of the north property line of his property. The adjoining landowner is Barton County as the boundary line is SE 50 Road.

Judy Goreham, Environmental Manager, said this was an unusual request. She started working on enforcement of the environmental code in April 1994, this was only the fourth time this had come up. The only way around the setback was if the adjoining landowner agreed to sign and notarize a document that they were consenting to a person coming within 25 feet. Goreham said that actually happened frequently. She said this was unique because the adjoining landowner was SE 50 Rd, which was controlled by the

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County. Goreham said Richard Rugan had two huge shops south of Great Bend. He wanted to install a bathroom and shower in one of the shops for safety reasons, dealing with chemicals. Goreham said Rugan had two options for him to be able to have a waste system. He either had to install a septic tank right outside the building on the northeast corner, going north and then west with lateral lines which would put him between the building and the ditch of the county blacktop. It was well within 25 feet but well outside the road right of way and the ditch, on Rugan's land. If that would not work, which was pending due to a gas line, he would have to put the tank in the same place but run underneath his driveway. Goreham asked that the commissioners sign the agreement and consent document allowing Rugan to encroach the boundary.

Commissioner Reif said Goreham explained it well and it just happened that the county was the adjacent landowner.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the Agreement, Easement and Consent allowing Richard Rugan, Rugan 3 Farms, to construct his septic system within the 25' boundary of his north property line as requested. The subject property is in the NW/4, Section 27–T20S–R13W, Barton County, Kansas. Said property is located south of Great Bend, slightly east of South US Highway 281 and SE 50 Road, at 153 SE 50 Road, Great Bend, Kansas.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

No Executive Session Held

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chairman Tricia Schlessiger will present. Any Commissioner may make a motion for the board to recess 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 moved to adjourn at 9:28 A.M.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk


Duane Reif, Chairman

RESOLUTION 2026-01

Designation of the Official County Newspaper

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, shall designate by resolution a newspaper to be the official County newspaper per K.S.A. 64-101(b); and

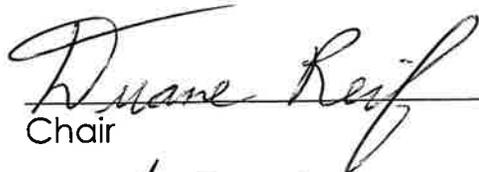
WHEREAS, the newspaper selected must meet the requirements of K.S.A. 64-101(b)(1) through (4), et. seq.; and

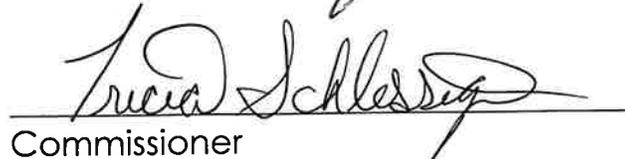
WHEREAS, the Commission believes that the citizens of Barton County will best be served by designating the newspaper with the largest circulation in the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that The Tribune, circulating from Great Bend, Kansas, is designated as the official County newspaper.

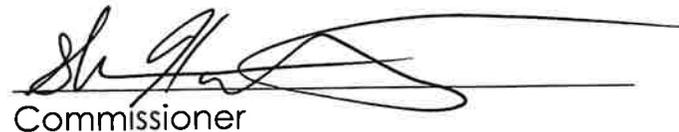
MOTION MADE, SECONDED and unanimously approved on this 12th day of January, 2026.

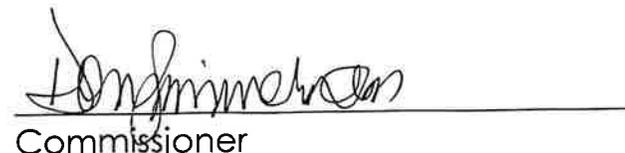
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Chair


Commissioner

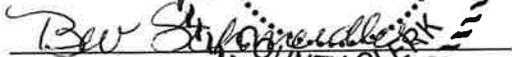

Commissioner


Commissioner


Commissioner

ATTEST:




Bev Schmeidler
County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Patrick Hoffman
County Counselor

RESOLUTION 2026-02

REQUESTING A WAIVER UNDER K.S.A. 75-1120a

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, has determined that the financial statements and financial reports for the year ended December 31, 2026, to be prepared in conformity with the requirements of K.S.A. 75-1120a(a) are not relevant to the requirements of the cash basis and budget laws of this State and are of no significant value to the Commission or the members of the general public of Barton County; and

WHEREAS, there are no revenue bond ordinances or resolutions or other ordinances or resolutions of the County which require financial statements and financial reports to be prepared in conformity with K.S.A. 75-1120a(a) for the year ended December 31, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, in regular meeting, that the Commission waived the requirements of K.S.A. 75-1120a(a) as they apply to Barton County for the year ended December 31, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission shall cause the financial statements and financial reports of Barton County to be prepared on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements as adjusted to show compliance with the cash basis and budget laws of this State.

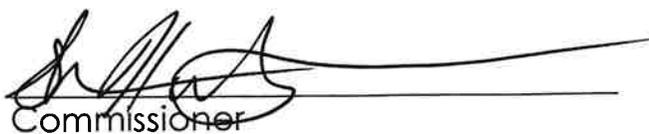
MOTION MADE, SECONDED and unanimously approved on this 12th day of January, 2026.

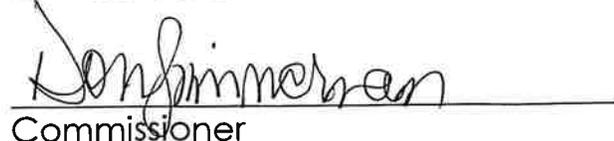
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Chairman

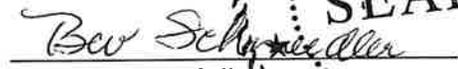

Commissioner


Commissioner


Commissioner


Commissioner

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler
County Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Patrick Hoffman, Counselor

BARTON COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA MEETING ATTENDANCE LOG

DATE: January 20, 2026

	Name:	Title/Association:		Name:	Title/Association:
1	<u>Dale Hogg</u>	<u>-Hogg Street / Hazards</u>			
2	<u>Mike Gilmore</u>	<u>Tribune</u>	22		
3	<u>Elle Hutchinson</u>		23		
4	<u>Sean Kelly</u>		24		
5	<u>Colin Reynolds</u>		25		
6	<u>Ryan DeYoung</u>		26		
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